

although some roads in the extreme north of the country may be impassable during November and March owing to frost damage.

There are adequate bus services connecting most of the main towns. In northern Finland buses are the principal form of transportation. Within the town areas of Helsinki, a flat rate of FIM 4.20 is charged on trams and buses, and a 10-journey ticket is available for FIM 38. There are more than 300 express bus services departing daily from Helsinki to various parts of Finland. Rental cars are available in most cities.

Visitors bringing their own cars or renting cars will find that the roads are generally in good condition all year round. Winter tires should be used from mid-October to mid-April. Every foreign driver in Finland must have his own driving licence. Drivers should be aware of the very strict law which is enforced forbidding anyone from driving a car after drinking alcohol. There is no exception to this law and severe punishment is handed out to drivers convicted of motoring offences, even though in comparison with the standards of other Western European countries, the amount of alcohol consumed may be very little. The use of seat belts is compulsory. There are parking meters in the cities which are in operation from 0800 to 1700 hours Monday to Saturday.

As in Canada, traffic travels on the right.

Taxis are easy to hire by telephone or from taxi stands. The basic fare in Helsinki is FIM 9.00. Charge per kilometre for 1 or 2 persons is FIM 2.68, for 3 or 4 persons FIM 3.22. There is an extra night charge of FIM 3.00 (from 1800 to 0600 hrs). The waiting charge is FIM 75.30 per hour. Rates outside Helsinki are slightly lower.

Accommodation

There is a shortage of hotel facilities in Finland and in the Helsinki area in particular. Therefore it is to your own advantage to book hotels well in advance. If you find yourself stranded in Helsinki try the central hotel booking office (tel: 171 133) at the railway station.

If your travel plans change you should remember to cancel your hotel reservations as otherwise you will be charged for the room(s).