



# Tourist Guide Book 2024



## Table of contents

<b>I. HOW TO PREPARE ONESELF FOR TRAVELLING ABROAD</b>	<b>3</b>
• Documents required to travel abroad	3
• Borders and customs control	4
• Travelling through a road border	4
• Travelling by plane	5
• Luggage and airport security check	7
• Additional useful information	8
<b>II. CHILD IN TRAVEL</b>	<b>9</b>
• Documents entitling minors to cross the border	9
• Child travelling with a parent or legal guardian	9
• Travelling by a minor alone or accompanied by third persons other than parents or legal guardians	10
<b>III. QUANTITATIVE AND VALUE LIMITS FOR GOODS EXEMPT FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>IV. QUANTITATIVE AND VALUE LIMITS FOR GOODS EXEMPT FROM VAT</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>V. QUANTITATIVE AND VALUE LIMITS FOR GOODS EXEMPT FROM EXCISE DUTY</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>VI. FOREIGN EXCHANGE LIMITS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>VII. IMPORT AND EXPORT RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b>17</b>
• Food of non-animal origin	18
• Food of animal origin	18
• Medicinal products	18
• Narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors	18
• Pet animals	19
• Species threatened with extinction (CITES)	19
• Cultural goods	21
• Arms and ammunition	24
<b>VIII. HOW TO NOT BECOME A VICTIM OF DRUG SMUGGLERS</b>	<b>25</b>

## I. HOW TO PREPARE ONESELF FOR TRAVELLING ABROAD



### Documents required to travel abroad

Before a travel involving crossing the state border of the Republic of Poland (constituting both the "external border" and the "internal EU border"), **check whether you have the documents required for this purpose, which prove your identity and nationality i.e. a valid passport or ID card, respectively.**

**Remember that the Polish ID card entitles only to cross the following borders:**

- **European Union (EU) Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Germany, (Poland), Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Hungary and Italy;
- **countries of the European Economic Area (EEA):** Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (included in the Schengen area);
- **Swiss Confederation/Switzerland** – belonging neither to the EU nor the EEA,
- however included in the Schengen area and respecting the provisions of one of the sectoral agreements made with the EU in terms of freedom of movement of persons;
- **third countries which have decided to exempt the nationals of the Republic of Poland from the obligation of presenting passports when crossing their borders:** i.e. to: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye and to the Great Britain until 31 December 2025, provided that this applies only to the persons having the settler status in this country!

If you travel to a third country i.e. outside the EU territories and to the Schengen area, you should be ascertained at a diplomatic representation or a consular post of this state, what travel documents and with what validity date will be required to cross the border, whether you will need any visa and where you can get it, as well as what are the other conditions for entry and stay you must meet.

When crossing the state border with a vehicle, **the driver must carry a driving licence, vehicle registration card and a proof of mandatory vehicle insurance.**

If the vehicle is not owned by the traveller, the traveller must make sure that the destination and transit countries require no special written authorisation of the vehicle owner.

**When travelling by car outside the EU, you should additionally obtain so called Green Card, i.e. international civil liability insurance, or purchase so called border insurance. When travelling to EU Member States, it is worth getting the [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#), entitling to primary medical care in the EU territory. Regardless of whether you hold such card, whether not, it is recommended to conclude an additional insurance agreement covering the individual treatment costs.**

When planning a travel to other countries, especially exotic ones, you should also learn about any local sanitary/health requirements (special preventive vaccinations, the need to carry an international health card).



## Border and customs control

Border control and clearance of the individuals crossing the external borders of the EU are performed by the Border Guard (BG) officers, while a customs control regarding the rules/restrictions/customs duties – covering the goods transported through these borders, including the excise goods, animals (including protected species - CITES), arms and ammunition, medicinal products, foreign currencies, etc., is the competence of the Customs and Tax Control Service (National Revenue Administration – NRA) officers.



## Travelling through a road border crossing

When approaching a road border crossing, you should choose the appropriate lane, adequate to your situation. Depending on the mean of transport, you should take the lane intended for passenger traffic, HDV traffic or buses.

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### NOTE!

#### There may be the following separated lanes at the border crossings:

- for the EU, EEA and CH (Swiss) nationals – “EU, EEA, CH”;
- for third-country nationals – “all passports”;
- for the visa-exempt individuals – “visa not required”;
- **for the individuals enjoying the privileges and immunities specified in separate provisions.**

While at border control, you should observe the officers’ instructions and follow the road signs and traffic lights at the border crossing. Do not leave the checkpoint without the officers’ consent. Leaving the border crossing area is allowed upon completion of the border and customs clearance.



## Travelling by plane

Arrive at the airport about 2-3 hours before the planned departure of the plane, remembering that you have to check in (unless you have done it online) and undergo the security control and border clearance procedures (when travelling outside the Schengen area).

Please remember that the infrastructure of each airport is different and finding the right gate sometimes takes time - especially if you are travelling from a given airport for the first time

The provisions of EU law impose an obligation of:

- careful verification of the details of all travellers, including the EU/EEA/CH nationals by the BG officers while crossing the "EU external border";
- need to control the authenticity of data stored in biometric passport chips.

Therefore, we recommend considering the above in order to avoid any potential inconvenience.

In addition, certain hours of the day and seasons of the year (e.g. public holidays, summer and winter holidays) may result in an increased number of travellers and extend the waiting time for security check and border clearance.

Using a quick control procedure, so-called "self check-in", via the "ABC" (Automated Border Control) gates is worth considering (applies only to the EU, EEA and CH nationals). Such gates are available at some airports (Warsaw – Okęcie, Warsaw – Modlin, Wrocław – Strachowice, Poznań – Ławica, Kraków – Balice and Gdańsk – Rębiechowo).

The ABC gates are used for self check-in of passengers travelling to and from states outside the Schengen area (Rzeszów - Jasionka for arrivals only), which significantly reduces the check-in duration (only of EU, EEA or Swiss Confederation nationals) and increases the throughput of air border crossing points.

The ABC gates are also available to children, who:

- are at least 12 years old (however subject to individual restrictions, requirements on special controls applicable to this category of individuals);
- are at least 140 cm tall;
- hold biometric travel documents (passports or ID cards).

**A responsible approach of travellers to the abovementioned recommendations reduces the number of stressful situations.**

## **RULES FOR CROSSING THE BORDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND by the individuals holding Polish nationality and nationality of another state at the same time**

The status of an individual holding Polish nationality and nationality of another state at the same time is explicitly governed by the provisions of the Act of 2 April 2009 on the Polish nationality (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1989), which state as follows:

"Article 3.

1. A Polish national holding the nationality of another state at the same time shall have the same rights and obligations to the Republic of Poland as an individual, who holds only the Polish nationality;
2. A Polish national cannot rely on holding the nationality of another state at the same time and the resulting rights and obligations before the authorities of the Republic of Poland with legal effect".

These provisions, without excluding the possibility of holding by a Polish national of a nationality of another state at the same time, **establish the principle of exclusivity and primacy of the Polish nationality in the Republic of Poland** and therefore oblige the Polish nationals, i.e. all individuals **having the assigned Personal ID (PESEL) number in the country with confirmation of holding a Polish nationality** – to use in Poland, including at the border crossings both when entering and leaving the Republic of Poland – **only the Polish documents confirming the identity and Polish nationality of their holder and entitling such person to cross the border.**

These documents include primarily: a valid Polish passport, temporary passport or, alternatively, an ID card.

In exceptional circumstances, when these individuals have lost the Polish documents during the stay outside the Republic of Poland or the temporary validity date in these documents has already expired and obtaining of a new Polish document entitling to cross the border was impossible, a Polish national may obtain consent for crossing our border **in order to return to the country** on the basis of invalid Polish document, or even when such individual holds no such document at all. It needs to be remembered however that in the case of a subsequent travel from Poland, such individuals can neither use the invalid Polish document, nor the passport of another state, which they hold at the same time, but are obliged to apply for a new valid Polish document entitling to cross the border i.e. a passport, temporary passport or, alternatively, even an ID card (provided that the ID card **entitles its holder only and exclusively to cross the border in order to leave the Republic of Poland to the EU MS, EEA (Norway, Island and Lichtenstein) and Swiss Confederation – or to these third countries, which by virtue of their own decisions agreed on such leaves i.e. as of this date to: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Moldavia, Serbia and Turkey).**

Detailed information on the rules of obtaining the Polish documents entitling to cross the border: including the passports, ID cards, temporary passports (see also "Point at the Chopin Airport in Warsaw"), formal requirements/necessary administrative proceedings, etc. is available at:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/gov/uslugi-dla-obywatela/#dokumenty-i-dane-osobowe>

<https://www.gov.pl/web/mswia/uzyskaj-paszport-tymczasowy-w-punkcie-na-lotnisku-chopina-w-warszawie>



## Luggage and airport security check

**Luggage is subject to restrictions in terms of weight, size and content.** The carrier has the right to establish its own limits regarding, for example, the number or size of luggage to be carried by air. **Not all items can be transported by air.** Some items should only be carried in hold luggage, as they may not be brought on board the aircraft in cabin luggage. **The list of items prohibited** for transport by air can be found **on the website of [Civil Aviation Authority](#)**

During a cabin luggage security check, the prohibited items are removed and placed in dedicated containers. If there is any doubt as to whether an item can be taken on board, it is better to leave it at home or place it in hold luggage.

All passengers are subject to the security check at the airport in order to ensure an adequate level of security and safety in air transport. The security check aims at preventing any dangerous items that may pose a threat to air traffic from being brought on board the aircraft.

A passenger undergoes a security check after presenting the boarding pass and in some cases also, depending on the requirements of the companies performing such check, an identity document: ID card or passport.

### **When preparing for a security check, you should:**

- put all metal items into containers placed on the conveyor belt (e.g. a belt with a metal buckle, keys, coins, a watch, jewellery),
- take from your cabin luggage all liquid and semi-liquid substances in the form of pastes, gels and liquid-like substances (e.g. shampoo, shaving foam, perfume, toothpaste) with a capacity of up to 100 ml or its equivalent, placed in a re-sealable transparent bag with a capacity of up to one litre, and put them into the container,
- take all electrical and electronic devices (e.g. a laptop, tablet, telephone, camera, game console, music player) from your cabin luggage,
- take off your outer clothing (a coat, jacket, suit jacket) and headwear,
- take off your shoes, if you are asked to do so by the security check staff.

Then your luggage, i.e. suitcases, handbags and the removed items referred to above, "pass" through the scanning device. If the passenger holds any items that are not allowed to be taken on board the aircraft, such individual is informed by the security check staff about further procedures.

Once your luggage has been scanned, the security check staff asks you to go through a metal detector. If the gate signals that the traveller carries any metal objects, such individual is subject to further checks, including a manual check and/or a check using an explosives detector.

It is worth remembering that the security check procedures are carried out by the staff of companies specially trained for this purpose, acting for the benefit of passengers and seeking to ensure their security. Keeping calm, controlled and following the staff's instructions allows a smooth security check. Occasionally, a passenger may be required to present the checked-in hold luggage.

In this case the passenger is obliged to follow the security check staff to the dedicated place and present the luggage content.

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### NOTE!

Remember to never leave your luggage unattended. Any luggage that is not visibly attended is treated by the airport services as a potential threat. This may trigger the relevant security procedures such as airport evacuation or the need for handling the luggage by the bomb disposal experts. **These procedures are time-consuming and may result in flight delays.**

If you notice any unattended luggage or other object/package, you must immediately notify the relevant security and public order services at the airport. **Remember that leaving your luggage unattended may result in criminal sanctions.**

In addition, do not accept any packages and luggage with unknown contents from the strangers. **Requests to "carry something" should be refused.** If you suspicious offer is made to you, notify the airport services immediately.



### Additional useful information

Before your travel, it is recommended to take care of your safety and security and obtain the addresses and telephone numbers of the Polish diplomatic representations as well as consular offices in the destination country and in the countries of the planned transit.

If there is no Polish diplomatic representation in a given country, you may contact the embassy or consulate office of any other EU Member State.

**It is recommended to leave information about the place of your planned stay to a close person, who stays in Poland.**

When planning a travel abroad, it is recommended to read information/warnings published on the websites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.gov.pl/web/dyplomacja/informacje-dla-podrozujacych>



## II. CHILD IN TRAVEL



### Documents entitling minors to cross the border

#### NOTE!

A child's birth certificate, certificate confirming applying for a passport or ID card, school ID card, health insurance card, etc. - do not entitle a minor to cross the border of the Republic of Poland and travel to other countries.

In the Polish legislation, a document entitling a minor to cross the border is primarily a valid **"passport document"**. By virtue of an act, this document entitles its holder to cross the border and stay abroad, as well as certifies the Polish nationality and the identity of the person indicated in it.

**"ID card"** – a document confirming the identity and Polish nationality of an individual in the territory of the Republic of Poland and other EU Member States, non-EU EEA countries, and countries being no parties to the EEA Agreement. Under this document, each national may benefit from the freedom of movement of persons under the agreements concluded by these states with the European Community and its Member States, as well as under the unilateral decisions of the other states recognising this document as sufficient to cross their borders.



### Child travelling with a parent or legal guardian

The Polish legislator provides for no obligation to hold any additional documents other than these listed above for the minors. The requirement to obtain consent of the parents or legal guardians for a child to travel abroad is established at the stage of applying for a document entitling to cross the border (especially a passport).

The Border Guard requires no additional consents/letters of attorney from the other parent, if a minor is travelling accompanied by only one of the parents or legal guardians exercising a parental authority and holds a valid document/document entitling to cross the border

The persons granting no consent to the child's travel and willing to prevent from taking a child from the territory of the Republic of Poland must submit an appropriate application to the guardianship court for the establishment (by a final decision) of protection of the minor that prohibits them from being taken outside the Republic of Poland, and order its enforcement by the Border Guard.

## Travelling by a minor alone or accompanied by third persons other than parents or legal guardians

The applicable Polish regulations provide for no obligation to have any special, standardised template forms, including authorisations or notarial letters of attorney, or a catalogue of information that must be included in such documents and presented to the Border Guard officers. This applies both to minors travelling outside the Republic of Poland accompanied by only one of their parents, alone, or with third persons other than their parents or legal guardians, i.e. persons having custody of them.

Taking the **“best interest of the child”** into account, the Border Guard is obliged to carry out detailed checks before granting consent for the child to cross the border **in order to confirm whether a minor travelling alone or third persons accompanying the minors hold the consent/letter of attorney of the persons exercising legal parental care over those minors, so that they know about and approve such travel**. To avoid any extended control procedures, misunderstandings, complaints, **and even refusal to grant consent to cross the border(!)** – it should be remembered that documenting and authenticating such facts rests upon the individuals concerned.

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### NOTE!

Both the third countries and some EU Member States may require special consents permitting the child's travel with a third person or even with only one of the parents!

This may involve various procedures requiring, for example, to obtain the notarial letters of attorney/authorisations/permits translated into the language of a given state by a sworn translator. Therefore, you should always check such requirements by contacting, for example:

- the diplomatic representation or consular office of the destination country;
- an agent/representative of the airline/road/air carrier;
- the tour-operator.

### REMEMBER!

**The Border Guard officers are obliged to pay special attention to minors (children), regardless of whether they travel accompanied by the adults or alone. BG has also the right to check in detail whether the minor is travelling with the knowledge and consent of their parents or legal guardians at any time!**

### USEFUL INFORMATION on:

- rules and administrative procedures in place in the Republic of Poland for obtaining, among others, for minors – of Polish passport documents, ID cards – is available at:  
<https://www.gov.pl/web/gov/uslugi-dla-obywatela>
- rules for entry, stay, holding the documents necessary to travel in other countries of destination (e.g. passport, visa or ID card), including compliance with special requirements in the case of travelling by minors – should be checked at:  
<https://www.gov.pl/web/dyplomacja/informacje-dla-podrozuujacych>

### III QUANTITATIVE AND VALUE LIMITS FOR GOODS IMPORTED IN THE PERSONAL LUGGAGE OF TRAVELLERS ARRIVING FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (I.E. FROM OUTSIDE THE EU) THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES

Goods carried in the personal luggage of travellers arriving from third countries are exempt from import duties under the following limits in force in transport:

- a) other than air or sea transport (e.g. land) – up to the equivalent of EUR 300;
- b) air and sea transport – up to the equivalent of EUR 430.

#### These limit values do not include:

- the value of medicinal products necessary to the traveller,
- the value of personal luggage temporarily imported or imported after its temporary export,
- the value of fuel contained in the standard tank of any motor vehicle and fuel contained in a portable canister, volume of which does not exceed 10 litres (this fuel is also the traveller's luggage),
- the value of tobacco and tobacco products as well as alcoholic beverages imported by a traveller aged 17 or above under the standards referred to below.



#### Quantitative limits for exemption of tobacco products as well as alcohol and alcoholic beverages imported by a traveller aged 17 or above:

##### 1) tobacco products, if imported by air or sea transport:

- a) cigarettes - 200 pieces or
- b) cigarillos (cigars weighing not more than 3 grams/piece) – 100 pieces, or
- c) cigars – 50 pieces, or
- d) smoking tobacco – 250 grams.

The exemption may be applied to any combination of the tobacco products referred to above, provided that the total of percentage values for the individual limits does not exceed 100%.

#### Example:

You can import a maximum of 100 cigarettes (100 cigarettes are 1/2 of the limit) and 25 cigars (25 cigars are the other 1/2 of the limit).

##### 2) tobacco products, if imported otherwise than by air or sea transport:

- a) cigarettes – 40 pieces, or
- b) cigarillos (cigars weighing not more than 3 grams/piece) – 20 pieces, or
- c) cigars – 10 pieces, or
- d) smoking tobacco – 50 grams.

The exemption may be applied to any combination of the tobacco products referred to above, provided that the total of percentage values for the individual limits does not exceed 100%.

**Example:**

You can import a maximum of 20 cigarettes (20 cigarettes are 1/2 of the limit) and 5 cigars (5 cigars are the other 1/2 of the limit).



### 3) alcoholic beverages:

- a) beverages obtained from distillation and spirits of an alcoholic strength by volume of more than 22%, undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% and higher (e.g. vodka) – 1 litre, or
- b) alcohol and alcoholic beverages of an alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 22% – 2 litres (e.g. liqueurs), and
- c) still wines – 4 litres, and
- d) beer – 16 litres.

The exemption may be applied to any combination of the alcoholic beverages referred to in a) and b), provided that the total of percentage values for the individual limits does not exceed 100%.

**Example:**

You may import a maximum of 0.5 litre of vodka (0.5 litre of vodka is 1/2 of the limit under a) and 1 litre of liqueur of a strength of up to 22% (1 litre of liqueur is 1/2 of the limit under b) and 4 litres of wine and 16 litres of beer.

### 4) alcoholic beverages, if imported by a traveller having a place of residence in the frontier zone or is an employee working in the frontier zone (<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20240000388/O/D20240388.pdf>), or is a member of the crew of means of transport used to travel from the territory of a third country to the territory of the country:

- a) beverages obtained from distillation and spirits of an alcoholic strength by volume of more than 22%, undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% and higher – 0.5 litre, or
- b) alcohol and alcoholic beverages of an alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 22% – 0.5 litre and
- c) still wines – 0.5 litre, and
- d) beer – 2 litres.

The exemption may be applied to any combination of the alcoholic beverages referred to in a) and b), provided that the total of percentage values for the individual limits does not exceed 100%.

Example:

You may import a maximum of 0.5 litre of vodka, 0.5 litre of wine and 2 litres of beer.

#### **NOTE!**

Exemptions from import duties within the above limits are applied provided that the quantity and type of the imported goods are of a non-commercial nature, i.e. such import:

- is occasional;
- covers only goods for the personal use of travellers or their families or goods intended for gifts.

## **IV. QUANTITATIVE AND VALUE LIMITS FOR GOODS IMPORTED IN THE PERSONAL LUGGAGE OF TRAVELLERS ARRIVING FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (I.E. FROM OUTSIDE THE EU) THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM VAT**

Import of goods carried in the personal luggage of travellers arriving from third countries is exempt from VAT, provided that the quantity and type of these goods indicate a non-commercial nature of import, under the following limits in force in transport:

- a) other than air or sea transport (e.g. land) – up to the equivalent of EUR 300;
- b) air and sea transport – up to the equivalent of EUR 430.

These limit values **do not include the value of:**

- medicinal products necessary for personal needs of the traveller,
- personal luggage temporarily imported or imported after its temporary export,
- the value of fuel contained in the standard tank of any motor vehicle and fuel contained in a portable canister, volume of which does not exceed 10 litres,
- tobacco and tobacco products as well as alcoholic beverages imported by a traveller aged 17 or above under the standards referred to below.



### **Quantitative limits for exemption of tobacco products as well as alcohol and alcoholic beverages imported by a traveller aged 17 or above:**

#### **1) tobacco products, if imported by air or sea transport:**

- a) cigarettes - 200 pieces or
- b) cigarillos (cigars weighing not more than 3 grams/piece) – 100 pieces, or
- c) cigars – 50 pieces, or
- d) smoking tobacco – 250 grams.

The exemption may be applied to any combination of the tobacco products referred to above, provided that the total of percentage values for the individual limits does not exceed 100%.

**Example:**

You can import **120 cigarettes** (120 cigarettes are 3/5 of the limit), **10 cigars** (10 cigars are 1/5 of the limit) and **50 grams of smoking tobacco** (50 grams of smoking tobacco are 1/5 of the limit).

**2) tobacco products, if imported otherwise than by air or sea transport:**

- a) cigarettes – 40 pieces, or
- b) cigarillos (cigars weighing not more than 3 grams/piece) – 20 pieces, or
- c) cigars – 10 pieces, or
- d) smoking tobacco – 50 grams.

The exemption may be applied to any combination of the tobacco products referred to above, provided that the total of percentage values for the individual limits does not exceed 100%.

**Example:**

You can import a maximum of **20 cigarettes** (20 cigarettes are 1/2 of the limit) and **5 cigars** (5 cigars are the other 1/2 of the limit).

**3) alcoholic beverages:**

- a) beverages obtained from distillation and spirits of an alcoholic strength by volume of more than 22%, undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% and higher – 1 litre, or
- b) alcohol and alcoholic beverages of an alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 22% – 2 litres, and
- c) still wines – 4 litres, and
- d) beer – 16 litres.

The exemption may be applied to any combination of the alcoholic beverages referred to in a) and b), provided that the total of percentage values for the individual limits does not exceed 100%.

**Example:**

You may import a maximum of **0.5 litre of vodka** (0.5 litre of vodka is 1/2 of the limit under 3(a) and **1 litre of liqueur of a strength of up to 22%** (1 litre of liqueur is 1/2 of the limit under 3(b) and **4 litres of wine and 16 litres of beer**.

**4) alcoholic beverages, if imported by a traveller having a place of residence in the frontier zone or is an employee working in the frontier zone, or is a member of the crew of means of transport used to travel from the territory of a third country to the territory of the country:**

- a) beverages obtained from distillation and spirits of an alcoholic strength by volume of more than 22%, undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% and higher – 0.5 litre, or
- b) alcohol and alcoholic beverages of an alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 22% – 0.5 litre and
- c) still wines – 0.5 litre, and
- d) beer – 2 litres.

The exemption may be applied to any combination of the alcoholic beverages referred to in a) and b), provided that the total of percentage values for the individual limits does not exceed 100%.

**Example:**

You may import a maximum of 0.5 litre of vodka, 0.5 litre of wine and 2 litres of beer.

## **V. QUANTITATIVE AND VALUE LIMITS FOR GOODS IMPORTED IN THE PERSONAL LUGGAGE OF TRAVELLERS ARRIVING FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (I.E. FROM OUTSIDE THE EU) THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM EXCISE DUTY**

Tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, electronic cigarette liquid or innovative products imported in the personal luggage of a traveller aged 17 or above, are exempt from excise duty.



### **Quantitative limits for the exemption of tobacco products, electronic cigarette liquid, and innovative products imported by a traveller aged 17 or above:**

#### **1) products transported by air or sea:**

- a) cigarettes - 200 pieces or
- b) cigarillos (cigars weighing not more than 3 grams/piece) – 100 pieces, or
- c) cigars – 50 pieces, or
- d) smoking tobacco – 250 grams, or
- e) a combination of products referred to in a) – d) provided that the total of the percentage values of the limits established for the individual products does not exceed 100%;
- f) electronic cigarette liquid – 50 millilitres;
- g) innovative products – 0.04 kilogram;
- h) a combination of excise products referred to in f) and g) provided that the total of the percentage values of the limits established for the individual products does not exceed 100%.

## 2) products transported otherwise than by air or sea

- a) cigarettes – 40 pieces, or
- b) cigarillos (cigars weighing not more than 3 grams/piece) – 20 pieces, or
- c) cigars – 10 pieces, or
- d) smoking tobacco – 50 grams, or
- e) a combination of products referred to in a) – d) provided that the total of the percentage values of the limits established for the individual products does not exceed 100%;
- f) electronic cigarette liquid – 10 millilitres;
- g) innovative products – 0.008 kilogram;
- h) a combination of excise products referred to in f) and g) provided that the total of the percentage values of the limits established for the individual products does not exceed 100%.



### **Quantitative limits for the exemption of alcohol and alcoholic beverages imported by a traveller aged 17 or above:**

- a) undenatured ethyl alcohol of an actual alcoholic strength by volume exceeding 22% - 1 litre, or
- b) ethyl alcohol, fermented beverages, sparkling wines and intermediate products of an actual alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 22% - 2 litres in total, or
- c) a combination of products referred to in a) – d) provided that the total of the percentage values of the limits established for the individual products does not exceed 100%;
- d) still wines – 4 litres in total;
- e) beer – 16 litres.

### **Tobacco products, alcohol beverages, electronic cigarettes liquid or innovative products, imported in the personal luggage of the crew of means of transport used to travel from the territory of a third country to the territory of the country are exempt from excise duty under the following limits:**

- a) undenatured ethyl alcohol of an actual alcoholic strength by volume exceeding 22% - 0.5 litre;
- b) ethyl alcohol, fermented beverages, sparkling wines and intermediate products of an actual alcoholic strength by volume not exceeding 22% - 0.5 litre;
- c) still wines – 0.5 litre;
- d) beer – 2 litres;
- e) combination of products referred to in a) – d) provided that the total of the percentage values of the limits established for the individual products does not exceed 100%.



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**NOTE!**

Excise duty exemptions under the limits referred to above are applied provided that:

1. the nature or quantity of the imported excise products does not indicate import for commercial purposes;
2. import of these products is occasional;
3. these products are intended only for the personal use of the traveller or the traveller's family or are intended for gifts.

**Excise duty exemption for motor fuels transported in standard tanks of motor vehicles and canisters under the following limits:**

- a) standard tanks of motor vehicles – up to 600 litres per vehicle;
- b) canister – 10 litres per vehicle.

**VI. FOREIGN EXCHANGE LIMITS**

The individuals entering or leaving the European Union are required to report in writing the import and export of cash to the customs authorities, if its value is equal to or exceeds the equivalent of EUR 10 thousand.

**VII. IMPORT AND EXPORT RESTRICTIONS**

**The import of many goods from third countries into the customs territory of the European Community depends on the fulfilment – apart from customs procedures – of additional requirements of a non-fiscal nature.** Such requirement includes, for example, the obligation to carry out a border control by specialist services (among others the sanitary, veterinary or phytosanitary control) and the need to hold the documents specified by law (permits, licences, certificates).

Only 5 fruit species are permitted for import to Poland with no restrictions related to the border phytosanitary control: bananas, coconuts, durians, pineapples and dates.



**Food of non-animal origin** is exempt from the obligation to carry out a border sanitary control, provided that it is imported in quantities indicating a non-commercial nature of import (i.e. for own needs).



**Food of animal origin** (for example meat products and milk-containing products) is subject to specific restrictions. Import of such food is prohibited in the event of movement of travellers. The travellers carrying meat and milk products are required to place them in dedicated containers available at the border crossings.



Import of a **medicinal products for own medical needs** from the abroad is permitted in quantity not exceeding **5 smallest packaging**.



Export or import of **narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors** is prohibited, with the exception of transport performed by licensed entities under appropriate permits. Import of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances for own needs is permitted, provided that the person concerned presents a certificate specified in the separate provisions, containing the details of the patient, physician, medicinal product and the issuing/ authenticating authority.

More information available at: <https://www.gov.pl/web/gis/glowny-inspektorat-sanitarny>  
[www.gif.gov.pl](http://www.gif.gov.pl) / [www.piorin.gov.pl](http://www.piorin.gov.pl)



**Pet animals** accompanying the travellers (dogs, cats, ferrets, in the number not exceeding 5 animals) may be carried to Poland, transported between the EU Member States and moved outside the EU, provided that these animals:

- have an electronic ID,
- are vaccinated against rabies,
- must have documents confirming the fact of vaccination (animal passport or veterinary certificate).

In the case of **import**, depending on from which third country and to which EU Member State the pet animals are carried, these requirements may be extended by the obligation to perform the vaccination effectiveness test or quarantine.

In the case of **export** of pet animals from Poland to a third country, you should familiarise with the requirements established in that third country. The pet animal should have an animal passport (which is important when returning to the country) and meet the terms and conditions established in the third country concerned.

Animals of **protected species** covered by the Washington Convention (CITES) should be accompanied by appropriate documents.

Detailed information on the terms and conditions for the movement of pet animals is available on the website of the Chief Veterinary Inspectorate: [www.wetgiw.gov.pl](http://www.wetgiw.gov.pl)



### **Species threatened with extinction (CITES)**

Almost all people travelling to parts of the country or the world, brings souvenirs for themselves or for their close ones. However, not everyone knows that buying souvenirs offered in different parts of the world may contribute to the extinction of rare and protected species of plants and animals, of which souvenirs are made. The complete list of protected plant and animal species is available in the annex to <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:01997R0338-20130810&from=ES>

Both **import** from third countries to the EU and **export** from the EU of plant and animal specimens being or made of species threatened with extinction (listed in the provisions of the Washington Convention – CITES) are possible under appropriate CITES permits and certificates issued in advance

The documents (CITES permits and certificates confirming the legality of origin of plants and animals transported across the state border, classified as the species protected due to the threat of extinction, as well as their recognisable parts and derivative products) are issued by the competent administrative authorities of the countries from which these specimens are exported or to which they are imported.

In Poland, this authority is the <https://www.gov.pl/web/klimat/konwencja-waszyngtonska-cites>  
Detailed information regarding the permits and other documents is laid down in Articles 4 and 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996, as amended.

**Do not purchase and carry across the border among others:**

- caviar,
- skins or products made of wild cat, bear and wolf skins,
- stuffed birds of prey,
- products made of snake, crocodile or monitor lizard skins,
- natural medicines and medicinal products (ointments, balms, etc.) containing derivatives of bears, medicinal leeches and other animals,
- corals, shells, any tourist souvenirs, such as cobra or other snake tinctures.

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**NOTE!**

In the provisions of the European Union, the species threatened with extinction are listed in the annexes. Detailed explanation of the European Union annexes (A, B, C and D) is provided in Article 3 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 338/1997 of 9 December 1996 as amended.

**Annex A** covers the plant and animal species that, due to their value and unique occurrence, are under special protection. Trade in specimens of these species is strictly regulated and may only be authorised in exceptional circumstances (scientific purposes) and never for commercial purposes.

**Annex B** covers the species, international trade in which is subject to control and maintained at the level not imperilling the survival of the species.

**Annex C** covers the species international trade in which subject to control at the request of the country from which export takes place.

**Annex D** covers the species that are imported into the European Union in such numbers as to warrant their monitoring.

**Regions (countries) of high probability of importing the CITES specimens according to the risk analysis of the customs services:**

**USA, CANADA** – products made of crocodile skins, live reptiles, products made of marine mammals (cetaceans, walruses), feathers of wild birds, clam shells, products made of bears;

**South America** – primarily **MEXICO, ARGENTINA** – parrots, wild birds, crocodile skin products, sea turtle products, tarantulas, cacti, tropical wood and tropical wood products;

**CARIBBEAN, CUBA** – sea turtle products, corals, clam shells and queen conch (Latin: Strombus gigas) shells;

**Asia** – primarily **CHINA, INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA, VIETNAM, THAILAND and INDIA** – ivory products, sea turtle products, clam shells, crocodile and snake skins and products, corals, butterflies, live and prepared birds, orchids (Thailand), traditional Chinese medicine products, hippopotamus bone, Tibetan antelope wool products, tropical wood and tropical wood products;

**RUSSIA** – caviar (up to 125 grams without permit), skins of wolves, lynxes, bears, live animals – snakes, turtles, lizards, parrots;

**Africa** – the whole continent – ivory and ivory products, products made of crocodile skins and constrictor snake skins, rhino horns and rhino horn products, succulents, corals, clam shells, sea turtle products, live reptiles, skins of zebras, wild cats, antelopes;

**AUSTRALIA** – clam and snail shells, wild birds, corals;

**GREENLAND** – souvenirs made of whales, live and prepared sea eagles, gyrfalcons, polar bear skins and products, narwhal teeth.

Any live specimens may be transported, stored during any period of transit or transshipment to, from or within the Community, provided that they are prepared, handled and cared in a way to reduce the risk of injury, loss of health or cruel treatment, and in the case of animals – in accordance with Community legislation on the protection of animals during transport.

More information available at: [www.gov.pl/web/klimat](http://www.gov.pl/web/klimat)

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## NOTE!

Whoever fails to comply with the conditions related to international transport of CITES specimens shall be subject to imprisonment from 3 months to 5 years (Article 128(1) and (2) in connection with the penalty under Article 61(1) of the Act of 16 May 2004 on nature conservation, Journal of Laws No. 92, item 880).



## Cultural goods

### Import

The introduction of cultural goods, which were removed from the territory of the country where they were created or discovered in breach of the statutory and implementing laws and regulations of that country, shall be prohibited.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32019R0880>.

Breaching this prohibition is subject to a fine, restriction of liberty or imprisonment of up to 2 years under Article 108a of the Act on the protection and care of monuments.

It needs to be remembered that in the case of import of collector's items and works of art from the non-EU states, these must be declared to the competent customs authorities to be released into free circulation or to cover them with another customs procedure, if their value exceeds the value limit for goods carried in the personal luggage of the travellers.

**The following rates apply to imports of works of art and collectors' items (within the meaning of customs regulations):**

- customs – 0%;
- VAT – 8% of the declared customs value of a good.

**NOTE!**

Prohibition to trade in cultural goods from Syria and Iraq (Council Regulations (EC) No 1210/2003 and (EU) No 1332/2013).

**Export**

Permanent export of monuments from Poland requires a permit issued by the

<https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura/rodzaje-pozwolen>,

while for temporary export by the competent Provincial Conservator of Monuments.

All types of export permits for the library materials are issued by the **Director General of the National Library**.

**Export permit for a monument is required for:**

MONUMENT CATEGORY	AGE	VALUE
1. Archaeological artefacts forming a part of archaeological collections or obtained as a result of archaeological research or accidental discoveries	more than 100 years	any
2. Elements forming an integral part of monuments of architecture, interior design, monuments, statues and works of artistic craft	more than 100 years	any
3. Paintings made with any technique and on any material, not covered by the categories specified in points 4 and 5	more than 50 years	greater than PLN 40,000
4. Watercolour paintings, gouache paintings and pastel paintings made on any material	more than 50 years	greater than PLN 16,000
5. Mosaics not covered by the categories specified in points 1 and 2 and drawings made with any technique and on any material	more than 50 years	greater than PLN 12,000
6. Original works of graphics and matrices for their production and original posters	more than 50 years	greater than PLN 16,000
7. Original sculptures, statues or their copies made with the same technique as the original, not covered by the category specified in point 1	more than 50 years	greater than PLN 20,000
8. Individual photographs, films and their negatives	more than 50 years	greater than PLN 6,000
9. Individual manuscripts or manuscripts in collections	more than 50 years	greater than PLN 4,000

10. Individual books or books in collection	more than 100 years	greater than PLN 6,000
11. Individual printed maps and scores	more than 150 years	greater than PLN 6,000
12. Zoological, botanical, mineral or anatomical collections and items from such collections	any	greater than PLN 16,000
13. Collections of historical, paleontological, ethnographic or numismatic significance	any	greater than PLN 16,000
14. Means of transport	more than 50 years	greater than PLN 32,000
15. Other categories, not listed in points 1-14	more than 50 years	greater than PLN 16,000

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## NOTES!

Items that meet jointly the three criteria referred to above require an export permit.

### The following monuments cannot be exported permanently:

1. entered into the register,
2. entered into the List of Heritage Treasures,
3. forming a part of public collections constituting the property of the State Treasury, local government units or other organisational units included in the public finance sector,
4. entered into a museum's inventory or included in the national library resource.

**The export permits do not apply for among others the works of living artists.**

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## NOTE!

The customs authority or the Border Guard may request an individual exporting a monument to present a document confirming that the exported monument requires no permit. These include among others:

### List of documents:

- an assessment specifying the time of creation of the monument performed by a cultural institution specialising in the care of monuments, an expert of the minister competent for culture and protection of national heritage, a business entity specialised in the trade in monuments in the territory of the Republic of Poland or a public administration authority,
- a valuation of the monument performed by a cultural institution specialising in the care of monuments, an expert of the minister competent for culture and protection of national heritage or a business entity specialised in the trade in monuments in the territory of the Republic of Poland,

- an invoice containing data enabling identification of the item, issued by a business entity specialised in the trade in monuments in the territory of the Republic of Poland,
- a confirmation of import of the monument to the territory of the Republic of Poland, containing a photo of the monument, issued at the border crossings by the customs authority, and in the absence thereof – by the Border Guard authority,
- insurance for transport of the monument from abroad to the territory of the Republic of Poland,
- permit for export of the monument from the territory of another EU Member State.

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## NOTE!

Export of a monument requiring a permit without the applicable document is subject to imprisonment of between 3 months and 5 years, and if the perpetrator acts unintentionally, to a fine, restriction of liberty or imprisonment of up to 2 years.

More information available at:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/kultura/wywoz-zabytkow-i-dobr-kultury-za-granice>

<https://nid.pl/pozwolenie-na-wywoz-zabytkow-za-granice/>



## Arms and ammunition

Transit through the territory of the Republic of Poland and import of arms and ammunition are permitted under:

- a) a certificate issued by the competent consul of the Republic of Poland,
- b) an European firearms pass (by foreigners who are EU citizens) issued by an EU Member State.

Any individuals crossing the external border of the EU are obliged to notify the competent customs authority in writing of import of arms and ammunition.

The individuals having no firearms licence are obliged to immediately deposit the imported arms and ammunition at the competent customs authority's, and, within 14 days from the date of import of arms to the territory of the Republic of Poland, apply to the competent Police authority for a firearms licence.

Import and export of arms and ammunition and transit thereof through the territory of the Republic of Poland, as well as the rules for holding arms and ammunition by the foreigners are laid down in the Act of 21 May 1999 on arms and ammunition (Journal of Laws No. 53, item 549, as amended).

## Arms can be imported by:

1. staff members of the diplomatic missions and consular posts as well as the individuals enjoying an equivalent status under the international agreements may hold arms and ammunition under the international agreements or on a reciprocal basis for the purposes of:
  - a) personal protection,
  - b) hunting,



- c) sports,
  - d) collections,
  - e) as memorabilia,
2. the persons performing the activities associated with the protection of diplomatic missions and consular offices of foreign countries, representative offices of international organisations, members of the official foreign delegations, etc.,
  3. 3. the foreigners being not the members of diplomatic missions or consular offices arriving in the territory of the Republic of Poland may import and export:
    - a) arms suitable for hunting purposes as well as matching ammunition in a total number up to 100 pieces, provided that the arms and ammunition are to be used for hunting organised under the separate regulations,
    - b) arms suitable for sports or historical reenactment purposes as well as matching ammunition in the numbers specified in the invitation extended by the organisers of the sports events or historical reenactments, if such foreigners arrive to take part in the sports events, regulations of which require the use of arms, or to take part in a historical re-enactment, as well as in preparations for such events,
    - c) signal weapons, if such weapons form a permanent equipment of vessels and aircrafts.

## VIII. HOW NOT TO BECOME A VICTIM OF DRUG SMUGGLERS



In recent years, a high number of Poles have been arrested for being so called drug couriers. This results from the activities of drug gangs, whose victims include an increasing number of the Polish tourists. The smugglers choose their victims in restaurants and hotels. They befriend with them and then ask for transporting a package across the border or plant drugs in the luggage. In this way, at least half a thousand Poles become the victims of drug gangs each year.

### **Criminal penalties for drug smuggling**

Pursuant to Article 55(1) of the Act on counteracting drug addiction, whoever, in contrary to the provisions of the Act, imports, exports, makes an intra-Community acquisition or intra-Community supply or transports narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or poppy straw through the territory of the Republic of Poland or the territory of another country, shall be subject to a fine and imprisonment of up to 5 years.

### **Exemplary penal consequences in the other countries**

The Colombian authorities have been systematically tightening the penalties for crimes related to drug smuggling. Pursuant to the provisions of the existing Penal Code, smuggling of cocaine in quantities between 100 g and 2,000 g is subject to immediate imprisonment of 8-12 years and a fine of over USD 50,000. Leniency in the form of conditional release (without the permission to leave Colombia) is possible after having served 2/3 of the sentence.

Taking the harsh conditions in prisons into account, continuous financial and material support from the family is indispensable. Due to absence of any agreement on the mutual enforcement of sentences in criminal cases, the Polish citizens convicted of drug offences in Colombia cannot serve their sentences in Poland.

**Countries where tourists are sentenced to death for drug smuggling:** Thailand, China, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. These countries have been also visited by an increasing number of Poles. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs warns against very severe penalties for the foreigners caught with drugs.

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## NOTE!

### Some advices on how to not to become a victim of smugglers:

- always pack your luggage by yourself;
- make sure that your luggage is properly secured (e.g.: combination locks, key, wrapping luggage in foil);
- do not leave your luggage unattended in a public place and when crossing the border;
- do not carry any belongings of people you do not know in order to transfer them to any third persons;
- during border control, put particular attention to your luggage to avoid its intentional substitution;
- report any alarming signals of any attempts to use luggage to carry suspicious packages to the Customs and Tax Control Service, the Police or the Border Guard officers.

#### **National Revenue Information Centre** – Tax and customs information:

phone: 22 330 03 30 (mobile phones) / phone: 801 055 055 (fixed telephones)

phone: +48 22 330 03 30 (abroad)

from Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm

#### **Regional Offices of the National Revenue Information Centre:**

Regional Office of the National Revenue Information Centre in Bielsko-Biała, phone: 33 485 34 00

Regional Office of the National Revenue Information Centre in Leszno, phone: 65 619 89 00

Regional Office of the National Revenue Information Centre in Piotrków Trybunalski, phone: 44 645 01 51

Regional Office of the National Revenue Information Centre in Płock, phone: 24 361 62 63

Regional Office of the National Revenue Information Centre in Toruń, phone: 56 669 57 00

#### **Border Guard:**

Information on crossing the border, phone: +48 22 500 43 76 and +48 22 500 41 49 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

Information on stay of the foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Poland, phone: +48 22 500 43 76 from 8.15 am to 4.15 pm

Additional information on border control available at: [www.strazgraniczna.pl](http://www.strazgraniczna.pl)