



# Driving in Iceland

**Welcome to Iceland!**  
Your rental car can bring you to many interesting and beautiful places in our country. Please stay safe and take the time to familiarize yourself with special Icelandic conditions by reading this card.

Off-road driving is forbidden. Violators are subject to substantial fines.  
Turn for more information.



**Headlights**  
While driving in Iceland, headlights are required to be on at all times, all year round.



**Speed limits**  
Gravel roads: 80 km/h (50 mph)  
Paved roads: 90 km/h (56 mph)  
Urban: 50 km/h (31 mph)



**Seat belts for all**  
According to Icelandic law everyone must wear a seat belt regardless of where they are seated in the car.



**Photo locations**  
It is extremely dangerous to stop your car on or by the road to take pictures. Choose your photo locations with safety in mind.



**Gravel roads**  
There are many gravel roads in Iceland. Take great caution and slow down.



Area where passenger cars are not allowed to drive (Subject to fines)

112

The emergency number in Iceland is 112



**Mobile phones**  
All use of mobile phones is prohibited while driving.

## Get to know the special Icelandic traffic signs!



**Single lane bridge**  
Please approach with caution.



**Blind crest**  
Please keep to the far right side of the road.



**Pavement changes to gravel**  
Gravel road ahead. Please exercise caution and slow down.



**Roundabouts**  
In roundabouts, the inner lane has the right of way.



**Unbridged river**  
Crossing a river is forbidden in this car.



**Gravel road**  
Please drive slowly as tires can lose grip.



**Difficult road**  
Using this road is forbidden in this car.



**Possibility of animals on the road**



**Attention!**  
If you drive beyond this sign and a problem occurs, a substantial fee may be charged for assistance.



**IMPASSABLE**



**CLOSED**

**Off-road driving is prohibited in Iceland! Violators are subject to substantial fines!**

Travel with safety

**112** safe travel.is

www.safetravel.is

Download the app to have your GPS tool.



Call 1777 for road information.  
Visit [www.road.is](http://www.road.is) for road information.  
Visit [www.drive.is](http://www.drive.is) for information on safe driving.  
Visit [www.safetravel.is](http://www.safetravel.is) for alerts and information for your travel.  
All use of mobile phones is prohibited while driving.



**All passengers must wear seat belts!**











## New Traffic Regulations in Iceland have Raised Penalties Substantially

Below are some examples of traffic offences and penalties:

Traffic Violation	Before*	Now*
Driving where speed limit is 50 km/h but speed is 88 km/h	€ 328	€ 533
Driving where speed limit is 90 km/h but speed is 160 km/h	€ 1,230	€ 1,967
Use of mobile phone without handsfree equipment	€ 41	€ 328
Fine for not using seatbelts (per passenger)	€ 82	€ 164
Fine for driving with headlights turned off	€ 41	€ 328
Fine for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (up to)	€ 1,967	€ 2,623
Fine for overtaking without due caution	€ 41	€ 164

Remember also to slow down for nature protection (around nesting areas for example) and beware of the sheeps 😊

### Useful links:

Roads conditions: <https://safetravel.is/conditions> or <http://www.road.is/>

Weather forecast (also usually available on road.is): <https://en.vedur.is/>

### Advices and useful hints:

- Check the pressure of the tyres every time you go through a N1 station, especially when going to the Highlands where you will need to lower the pressure of the tyres
- The correct pressure for a car's tyres is usually written inside the fuel cap cover or in the frame of the driver's door

*Tyre pressure equivalents:*

BAR	PSI
2.25 bar	33 psi
2.30 bar	34 psi
2.40 bar	35 psi
2.50 bar	36 psi

1 bar = 14.5 pounds per square inch.



- If you get a flat tyre, replace it with a tyre you have in the car with the jack and spanner. The spare tyre can be under the car in case of pick up for example. In any case, call the coordinator who will direct you to the right place for tyre repair. You can also ask the local ranger if needed.

### Driving in specific areas/conditions:

- **Thought tunnels:**

If you drive through the tunnel near Akureyri, never mind of the payment, your car has been registered 😊

**Vaðlaheiði Tunnel in Northern Iceland**

Register your vehicle through [www.tunnel.is](http://www.tunnel.is)

The recently opened tunnel in northern Iceland on Road number one through Vaðlaheiði between Akureyri and Lake Mývatn has camera operated Road-Tolls. Register your vehicle licence plate and credit card and the toll will be charged automatically to your card every time you drive through the tunnel.

Payment Status	Vehicles under 3.5 tons	Vehicles 3.5 tons and over
<b>Paid within 3 hours</b> If a trip is paid up to three hours before or no later than three hours after travelling through the tunnel.	Price: 1500 ISK	Price: 6000 ISK
<b>Paid after 3 hours</b> If a trip has not been paid three hours after travelling through the tunnel, the toll bill will be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle with an added collection fee of 1000 ISK. Europcar will invoice its customers accordingly with the addition of handling fee of 500 ISK.	Price: 3000 ISK	Price: 7500 ISK

- **Highlands**

- Read the specific document about how to drive and cross rivers – in any case, it's always useful to check and double check weather and road conditions before driving to the highlands. A contact with the local ranger is recommended.
- In the Highlands, most roads are bumpy/gravel/sandy roads. Before you drive to the highlands, it could be useful to lower the pressure of the tyres. Sometimes, you won't be able to drive faster than 20km/h: it's never a problem, take your time 😊
- In the Highlands, there are not a lot of gas stations. Make sure to fill the gasoline tank before driving out of the main road. Tight the gasoline tank as much as possible so it doesn't leak.



- Crazy weather

- The weather in Iceland is unpredictable even during the summer. Coordinators and local rangers will always warn you about the weather conditions when needed, especially when entering some well-known areas (southern Iceland, the highlands...)
- Many road signs will also warn you about the weather like the wind speeds - **never underestimate the power of the wind in Iceland** 😊 // side wind can be unpredictable and really dangerous

The photograph shows a blue road sign with three rows of digital displays. The top row shows 'A 11' (east) and '+5° 24'. The middle row shows 'A 14' (east) and '+3° 25'. The bottom row shows 'A 16' (east) and '0° 31'. Below the displays are icons for a car, a person, and a phone. Red boxes highlight the 'A' direction indicators, the temperature and speed values, and the gust values. Red arrows point from these boxes to three text boxes below.

Wind is coming from :

A : austur => east  
V : vestur => west  
N : norður => north  
S : suður => south

Wind speed in m/s :

10 m/s = 36 km/h  
20 m/s = 72 km/h  
30 m/s = 108 km/h

Wind gust in m/s

Remember to slow down when approaching to glacier where gusts can be worse than expected

😊 PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY 😊