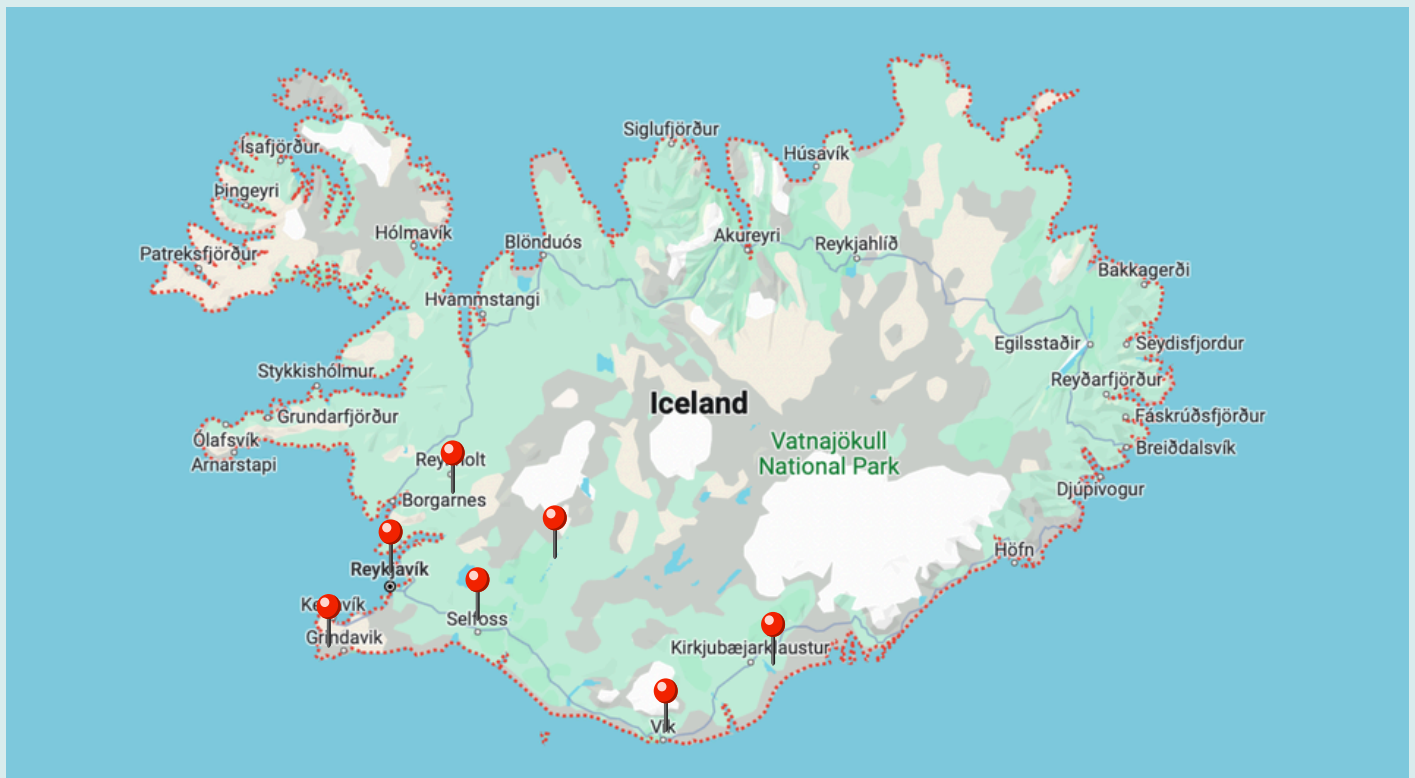


ICELAND ITINERARY



Reykjavik:

Fly into Reykjavik and stay the night before commencing your road trip.



Reykjavik Grand 170€



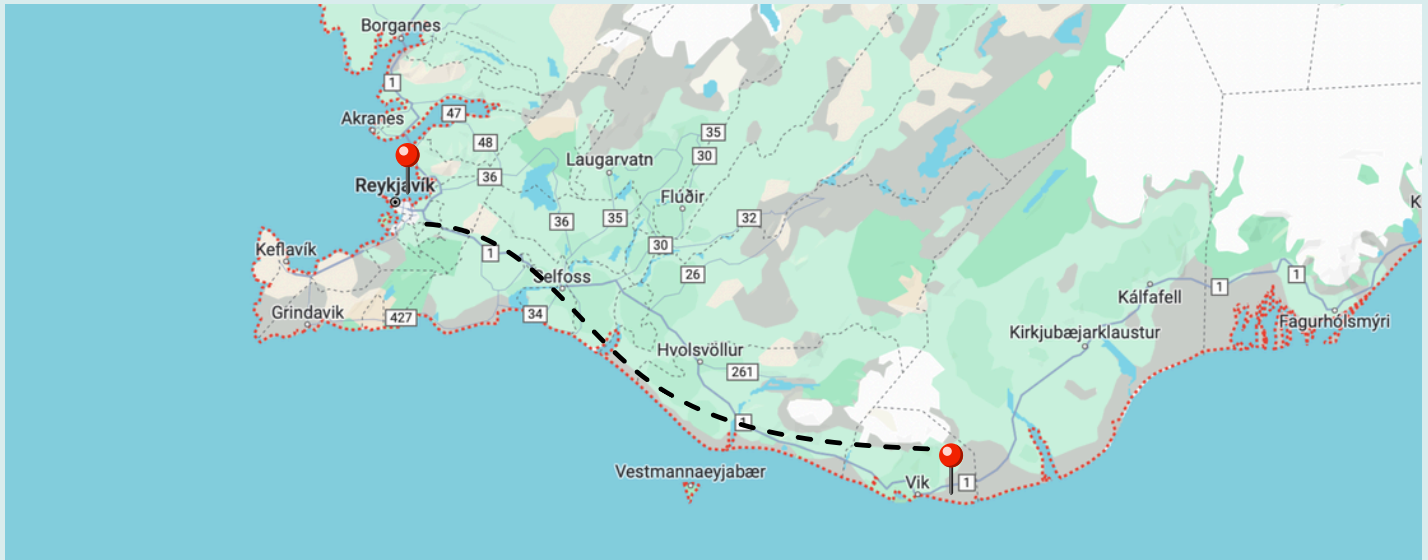
782€ for 1 week (including full insurance)

Rent a car for the length of your stay, it is the easiest and cheapest way to get around. We compared all the different companies on 'Discover Car' and found that the cheapest was 'Wheego'

Things to do in Reykjavik:

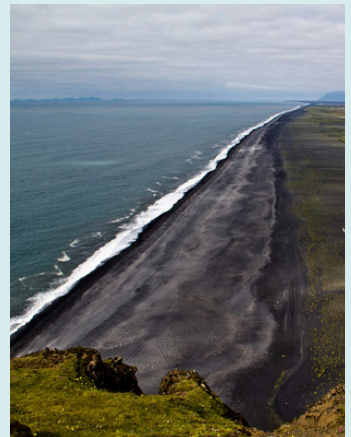
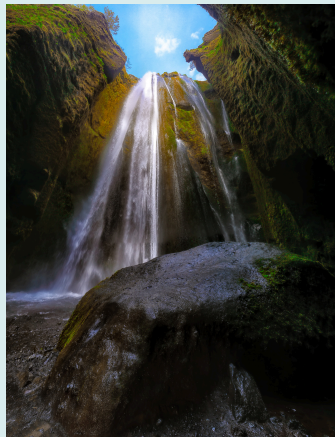
- Hallgrímskirkja (church)
- Sky Lagoon
- Rainbow street

First step: Reykjavik - Vik (188kms / 2.5hrs)



On your way to Vik stop at the following:

- Seljalandsfoss (waterfall)
- Gljúfrabúi (waterfall)
- Irafoss (waterfall)
- Skogafoss (waterfall)
- Reynisfjara (black sand beach)
- Dyrhólaey (viewpoint of the black sand beach)
- Solheimasandur (plane wreck)



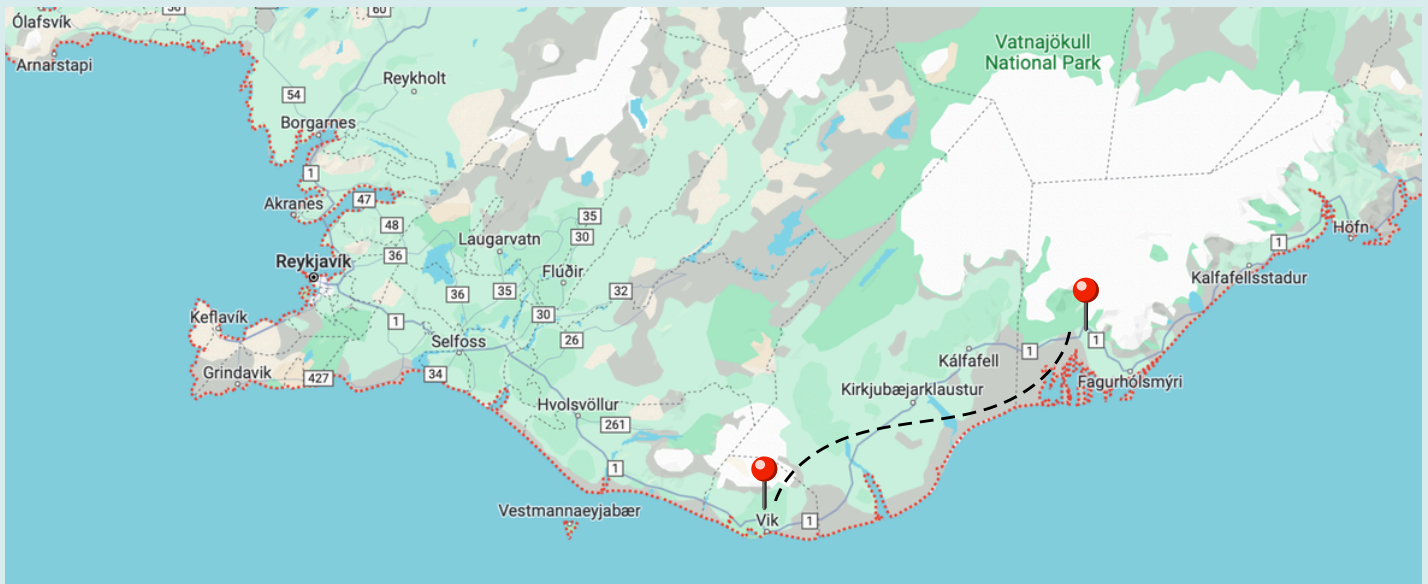
Vik:

Stay 1 night in Vik



Farmhouse Lodge 150€

Second step: Vik - Skatafell (140kms -2hrs)



On your way to Skatafell stop at the following:

- Fjadrargljufur (canyon)
- Fjallsarlon (glacier)
- Jokulsarlon (glacier)
- Diamond beach



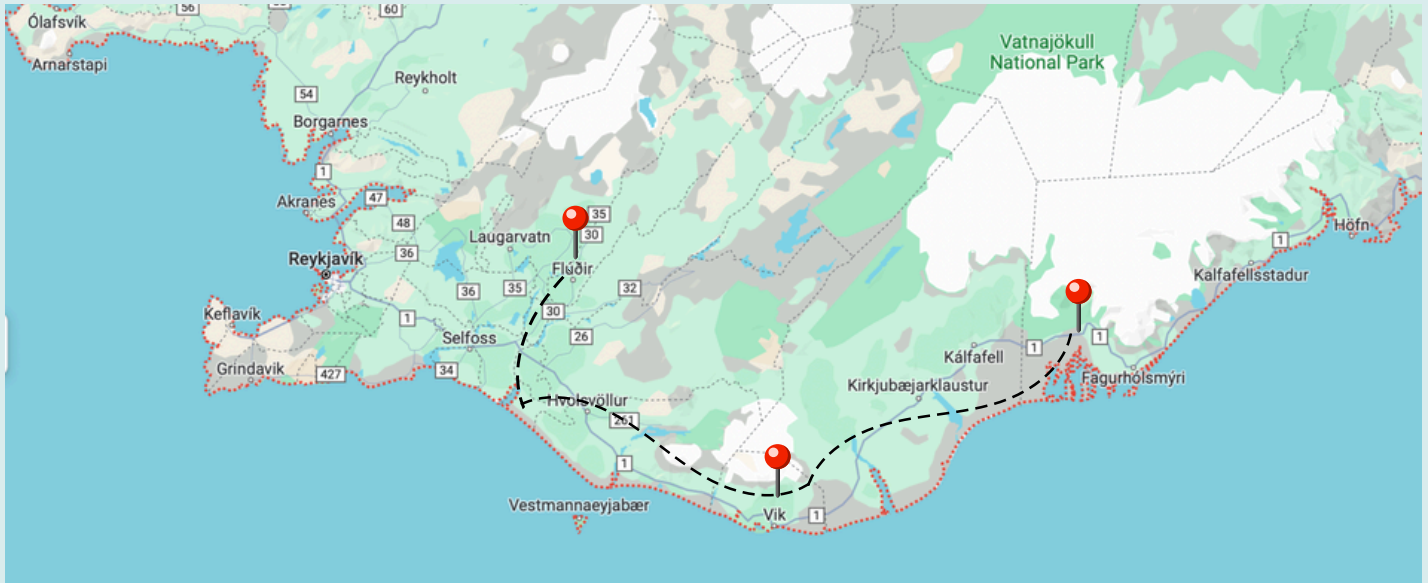
Skatafell:
Stay 1 night in Skatafell



Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon 210€

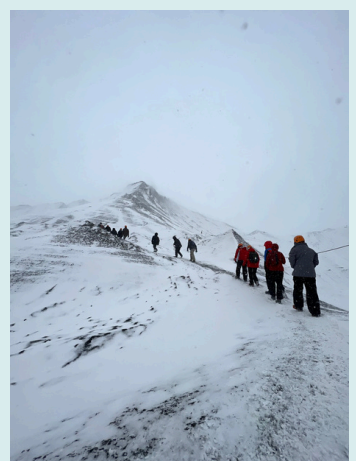
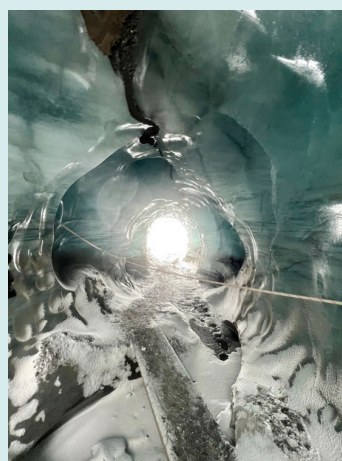


Third step: Skatafell - Fludir (283kms -3.5hrs) / start your way back to the capital



On your way to Fludir stop at Vik to do the Katla Cave

- You can do this tour starting from Vik or Reykjavik. We decided to do it in Vik on our way back to the Capital so we wouldn't be driving for 3.5hrs straight and had a break in the middle.
- We booked through GetYourGuide and paid 188€ per person. This was one of my favorite activity in Iceland.



Fludir:
Stay 1 or 2 nights in Fludir



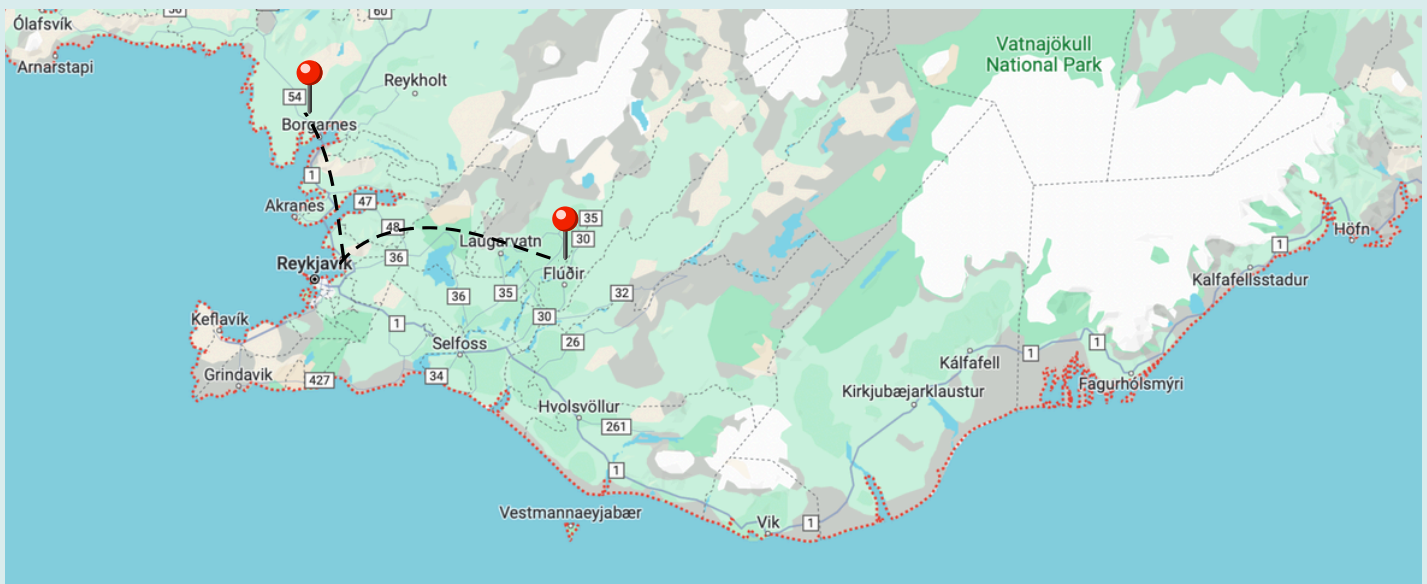
Guest House Fludir Grund 140€ per night



Things to do while you're in Fludir:

- Kerid crater
- Hrunalaug (hot spring) - 17€ per person
- Secret Lagoon (geothermal pool) - 25€ per person

Fourth step: Fludir - Borgarnes (152kms - 2hrs)



On your way to Borgarnes stop at the following:

- Gullfoss (waterfall)
- Haukadalur (geysers)
- Laugarvatn Fontana (geothermal bath) - 33€ per person
- Thingvellir National Park
- Silfra fissure (snorkeling) - 130€ per person

This was one of my most unique experiences. It's the only place in the world where you can swim between 2 tectonic plates (Eurasian plate & North American plate). The water there is 2C all year round but they provide you with dry suits so it's not cold. We booked on GetYourGuide

- Barnafoss



Borgarnes

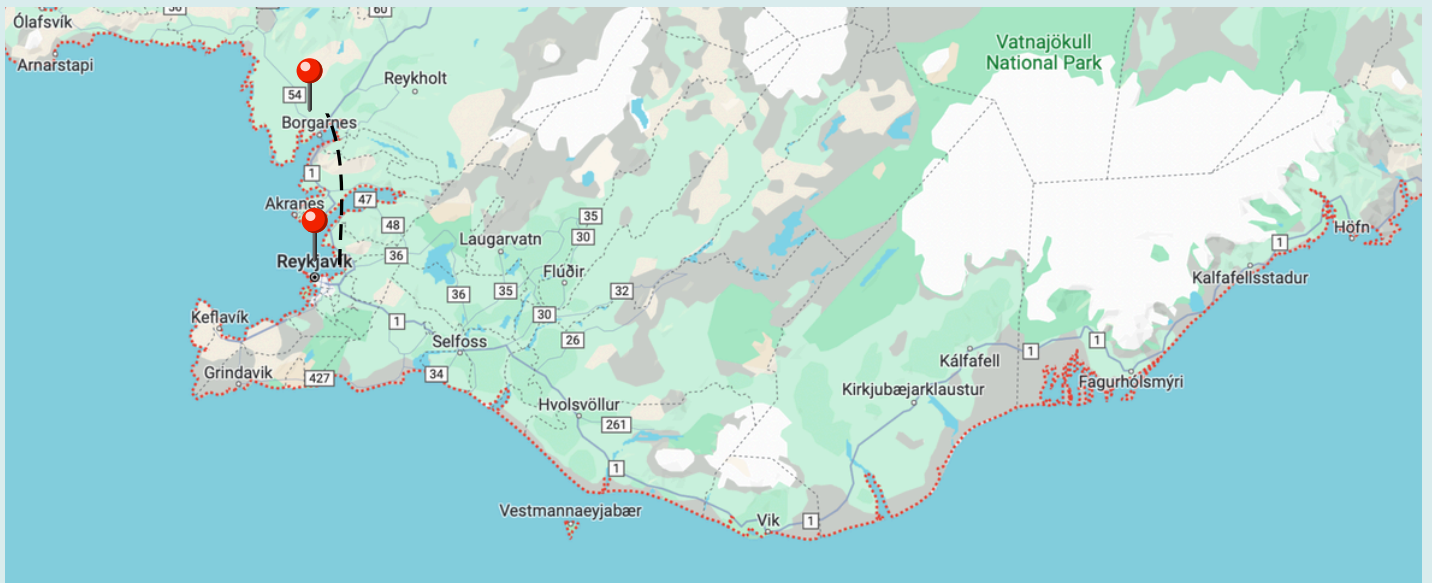
Stay 1 or 2 nights in Borgarnes



Private and peaceful one room apartments - 105€



Fifth & Final step: Borgarnes - Reykjavik (72kms - 1hr)



Reykjavik

Stay 1 to 3 nights in Reykjavik



Reykjavik Marina - 125€ per night



Things to do & see in and around Reykjavik:

- Sky Lagoon (geothermal bath) - 45€ which will give you access to the Lagoon only or 65€ for the 7 steps ritual (in my opinion the upgrade is definitely worth it).
- Blue Lagoon (geothermal bath) - 66€ which includes entrance, silica mud mask + 1 drink of your choice
- Gunnuhver Fumarole (hot springs)
- Bridge between continents
- Kleifarvatn (lake)
- Ice Bar - entrance fee is 28€
- Perlan (museum) - 36€
- Flyover (fly over the landscapes of Iceland in a moving chair) - 40€ per person
- Sun Voyager (piece of art)
- Laugavegur (colourful street/shopping area)
- Book a Northern Light tour (from September to April) If you have a car you can also try to spot them on your own, I recommend going to Grotta lighthouse - around 50€
- Whale watching - around 85€

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Car Rental
782€

Parking
50€

Accommodation
900€
For Two

Fuel
235€

Flights
370€
From Europe

Activities
436€

Will depend what activities you
decide to book

Total per person
1,789€

Excluding spending money (food,
dining out, souvenirs etc)

TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1 - Be prepared for unpredictable weather

The weather in Iceland can change rapidly with little warning. You may start the day in glorious sunshine, get soaking wet in a torrential downpour or blown by the indescribable wind an hour later, and end up driving in a mist with zero visibility another couple of hours later.

2 - Pack layers and a waterproof jacket & footwear

Dress in layers and always have a waterproof outer layer at hand, A good waterproof jacket is essential. So are good waterproof boots and waterproof rain pants. You should also always have a scarf, gloves, and a beanie with you.

3 - Keep an eye on weather alerts and road closures

In winter, many roads in Iceland are closed. And even sections of the major roads might get closed due to snowfall. You can download these apps to check: safetravel.is or road.is

4. Know how much to budget for your trip

Iceland is very expensive. I recommend paying for all your accommodation and activities in advance (the best price/quality hotels are the first ones to get fully booked). Dining out is also not cheap, if you're on a budget I recommend buying food from petrol station or grocery store. Most hotels we booked also included a breakfast buffet which kept us full for most of the day

5. Make a road trip

Renting a car and road-tripping is the best way to explore Iceland. Public transport options are very limited and day tours are quite expensive.

Staying in Reykjavik and visiting all the nicest places by taking tours isn't ideal and I really recommend exploring Iceland by taking a road trip.

6 - Get an eSIM

There is really good network coverage in Iceland. We had 4G mobile network coverage almost everywhere. It will be very handy to have it on your road trip for directions, checking the weather and paying parking

If you have a SIM card from any of the EU countries, you won't be charged any roaming fees in Iceland.

I got mine on AloSIM - you can use my code 'TRAVELWITHEVA' for \$\$ off

TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

7 - Parking

Most tourist destination such as waterfalls, national parks, glaciers etc are free to visit but you will need to pay for parking. It's around 5 to 6.5€ everywhere.

Download the app 'Parka' to pay. Most parking areas have cameras so don't forget to pay!

8 - Driving tips

Driving in Iceland is on the RIGHT side of the road and overtake on the LEFT. The steering wheel is on the same side too!

No, you do not need an international driver's license to drive in Iceland or rent a car there. Just bring your passport, credit card, and your driver's license from your home country.

If you see someone flash their headlights at you in Iceland, it's probably because yours are turned off. Iceland has a unique law that requires headlights to be on at all times, even during the day.

If you want to save money on hotels, you can rent a campervan in Iceland, it will cost between 130€ – 230€ per day

Driving in Iceland can result in some pretty harsh conditions that many people aren't prepared for — so I always recommend getting the extra car insurance option.

The speed limit in Iceland is 90km/h (55mph) on paved roads, 80km/h (50mph) per hour on dirt roads, and 50km/h (30mph) per hour in cities. There's a lot of speed cameras in Iceland so make sure to stick to the speed limit.

Weather can get severe in Iceland from time to time, especially in the winter. So severe, that 70mph wind can blow open car doors backward, bending the hinges or ripping them off completely! To prevent wind damage try to park your car facing the wind, pushing the door closed, not open.

Fuel in Iceland is expensive, it cost about 2.2€ per liter

8 - Adaptator

Iceland uses standard European plug sockets with two round prongs (50Hz / 220 volts)

NORTHERN LIGHTS GUIDE

When is the best time to see them?

You can see Northern Lights in Iceland from the (very) end of August until mid-April. However, the best time to see auroras in Iceland is between September and March. You need darkness in order to see the Northern Lights and for that, the end of August is often too early and by mid-April, the nights don't get dark enough anymore.

Where can you see them?

You need three factors in order to see auroras: darkness, (relatively) clear skies, and aurora activity. If the conditions are right, you can see the Northern Lights anywhere in Iceland. There is no place that's better than another and you really cannot predict this in advance! Your chances to see auroras are always higher outside the cities where there is little to no light pollution.

Go outside and wait!

Most of the time, you really have to make an effort. And yes, it's not going to be easy to stay up and spend hours outside every night. But if the aurora forecast is good and there are no clouds, you really should go outside and just wait.

Download forecast apps

MyAuroraForecast shows you the KP index and percentage of chance seeing them where you are. There is also an aurora map which shows if there is aurora activity near you. You can also go on the Icelandic Meteorological office website.

I also recommend joining Facebook groups 'Northern Lights Iceland', 'Aurora Alerts Iceland' or 'Aurora Hunters Iceland'

Group member post messages when they see Northern Lights to alert the other members.

Northern Light tour

While staying in Reykjavik, I would recommend joining a professional tour. That way you can escape the city lights to enjoy the show to its fullest. The guides study the weather and aurora forecast and provide tips on how to capture the light display. Tours cost roughly around 50€ and you can book on the following websites: Reykjavik Excursion, Adventure.is or GetYourGuide. If you don't see them, they will let you re book for free. So make sure you don't book a tour on your last day

