

Six **important** things you should **consider** when **driving** in Iceland



Strong winds

Be aware of strong winds and don't underestimate their power! Strong winds can rip a car door out of your hands and damages to a car door can be a very costly repair.



Road conditions

Loose gravel or ice on road has caused a great number of accidents. Please drive accordingly.



Reduce speed

The appropriate speed can be much lower than speed limits. Choose the safe speed and drive accordingly.



Seat belts

Accord to Icelandic law the driver and all passangers must wear seat-belts in the car.



Photo Location

It is extremely dangerous to stop the car in the middle of the road to take pictures. Choose your photo location with safety in mind.



Head lights

While driving in Iceland, headlights and taillights are required to be on all times, all year round.

It's very important to look at these websites:

Safe adventure in Iceland
safetravel.is

The Icelandic Road Administration
road.is

Icelandic Met Office
en.vedur.is

A GUIDE TO **DRIVING** IN ICELAND



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Dear driver

Icelandic nature can be wild and dangerous, especially for those unfamiliar with it and unused to travelling in uninhabited areas and rough country. Travellers should prepare well for each trip and know its trail and route conditions. Read about conditions in the area you will be traversing and talk to people with local knowledge, such as rangers. Let somebody know about your planned trip.

We advise you to stick to the speed limits for yours and other driver's safety. Speed cameras are all over Iceland and fines for speeding are extremely high. Driving in Iceland requires drivers to always stay alert to his surroundings. Avoid driving when tired, especially during summer time when 24 hour sunlight can confuse many people. Take care when opening doors during strong winds or in open areas, as the wind can catch the door and blow it into the body panel causing severe damage. Also remember Icelandic law requires that vehicle headlights be on at all times, day and night, when driving.

This is the best way to prevent accidents and ensure a pleasant and safe journey.

Best regards,
Staff members of Lotus Car Rental.

Speed Limit

These are the maximum legal limits, but it does not mean that it is always the right speed. The right speed is the one that allows you to have control of the vehicle under certain circumstances. It is adapted to the road and weather conditions.

Urban and residential areas



Gravel roads in rural areas



Paved hard surfaced roads



Weather

The weather in Iceland can be unpredictable. Check the forecast at least once a day (en.vedur.is) and stay up to date for storm warnings. A harsh storm can be dangerous for those trapped on the road.



Passenger cars on highlands

F-roads are mountain roads in the highland of Iceland (marked as F-roads on most maps). Only 4X4 and larger cars are insured to drive on F-roads, found mainly in the highlands. Passenger cars are not allowed to drive on them and are also forbidden to drive on **Kjalvegur (route 35)** and through the **Kaldidalur valley (route 550)**. If you are seen driving on these roads in a passenger car, you will be charged a fine for violating the terms of your rental agreement.



Single lane bridges

The number of single-lane bridges. low down and look very carefully for traffic coming towards the bridge. The actual rule is that the car closer to the bridge has the right-of-way. However, it is wise to stop and assess the situation every time. The speed limit for all single lane bridges is 50 km.



Blind crest

Blind crests/hill/summits are common in Iceland especially in the highlands. They are marked with this sign (*Blindhæð*). Slow down and keep to the right as you will not see the oncoming traffic until very late.



Livestock on the road

Sometimes a sheep is on one side of the road and her lambs on the other side. Under these conditions - which are common - it is a good rule to expect the lambs or the sheep to run to the other side. If a car hits such an animal, the driver can expect to be held liable for it. No insurance covers damages caused by animals so please be aware of this.



Unbridged Rivers

There are numerous unbridged rivers in the Highlands which should always be crossed with extreme care. Before crossing make sure that water levels are not too deep for the vehicle and that the water stream is ok for crossing. Note that insurances does not cover damages caused by water when crossing rivers/lakes.



Ice roads

Driving in snow and/or ice is difficult, drive slowly and you breaks with care. Quick turns on the steering wheel and fast breaking can cause accidents.



Gravel roads

There are many gravel roads, and often they come straight after a nice asphalt road with a small sign that is easy to miss. If you drive too fast onto a gravel road and the car starts to turn, do not brake hard, slow down gently and don't panic. In the best conditions, the maximum speed limit on gravel roads is 80 km per hour.



Off road driving

Driving off marked roads is prohibited in Iceland. If results in irreparable damage to the land the plats which many remain visible for centuries. This can result in fines and claims for compensation. Stay on marked roads.

Make sure you are buying the right petrol



Diesel pumps have black handles



Gasoline pumps have green handles

