

ROAD TRIP ESSENTIALS

ICELAND DRIVING GUIDE 119

Driving Licence & Documents.....	119
Insurance	119
Maps	119
Hiring a Car	120
Roads & Conditions	121
Road Rules	122
Fuel	122

ICELAND TRAVEL GUIDE124

Getting There & Away	124
Air.....	124
Sea	124
Directory A–Z	124
Accommodation	124
Electricity	127
Food	127
Gay & Lesbian Travellers.....	127
Internet Access	127
Money.....	128
Opening Hours.....	128
Public Holidays	129
Safe Travel	129
Telephone	130
Tourist Information.....	131
Travellers with Disabilities	131
Visas	131

LANGUAGE132



Iceland Driving Guide

Driving in Iceland gives you unparalleled freedom to discover the country and, thanks to (relatively) good roads and (relatively) light traffic, it's all fairly straightforward.

Fast Facts: Driving

Right or left? Drive on the right

Manual or automatic? Most rental agencies offer both

Legal driving age 17 (20 or 21 for rentals)

Top speed limit 90km/h (rural paved roads)

Headlights On at all times

Signature car High-clearance 4WD

check the excess (the initial amount you will be liable to pay in the event of an accident), as this can be surprisingly high.

Hire vehicles are not covered for damage to tyres, headlights and windscreens, or damage caused to the car's underside by driving on dirt roads, through water or in ash- or sandstorms. Many companies will try to sell you additional insurance to cover these possibilities. You need to consider whether this is appropriate for you and your plans, and how prepared you are to cough up in the event of such occurrences (and the cost of the insurance versus factors such as the length of your rental and what regions you plan to visit). There is no way of predicting what climatic conditions you might meet on your trip.

Be aware that rental companies push insurance hard, as this is a major earner for them.

DRIVING LICENCE & DOCUMENTS

You can drive in Iceland with a driving licence from the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and most European countries. If your licence is not in Roman script, you need an International Driving Permit (normally issued by your home country's automobile association).

If you're bringing your own car on the ferry, you'll also need the vehicle's registration documents and proof of valid insurance (a 'green card' if your car isn't registered in a Nordic or EU-member country).

MAPS

In recent years Iceland has been busy building new roads and tunnels, and sealing gravel stretches. We recommend you purchase a recently updated country map.

Tourist information centres have useful free maps of their town and region. They also stock the free tourist booklet *Around Iceland*, which has information and town plans.

Tourist info centres, petrol stations and bookshops all sell road atlases and maps.

Map publisher Ferðakort (www.ferdakort.is) sells online and has a dedicated map department at **Íðnú** (☎517 7200; Brautarholt 8; ☀10am-5pm Mon-Thu, to 4pm

INSURANCE

When hiring a car, check the small print; most vehicles come with third-party insurance and collision damage waiver (CDW) to cover you for damage to the car. Also