



ICELAND: Fire & Ice Supplemental Travel Information

CREDIT CARDS & ATMs

Credit and debit cards are very common forms of payment for people who travel to Iceland. In fact, locals rarely use cash since most merchants accept credit and debit cards even for small purchases. Travelers checks, though less common, are also accepted at banks and major hotels or tourist centers.

Credit cards - VISA and MasterCard are the major credit cards in Iceland: both are serviced by all banks in the country. Please note that there might be a difference between the official currency exchange rate in Iceland and the exchange rate that the credit card companies use for transactions.

VISITORS FROM USA - Iceland uses cards with the chip-and-PIN system, which requires a 4-digit PIN for purchases. If you have a traditional "swipe and sign" card, you may wish to inquire about getting a chip-card from your bank or a major credit card issuer before traveling.

Cash advance services for cardholders are available as follows:

VISA – at all banks and ATMs

MasterCard – at all banks and ATMs

Debit cards - Electron and Maestro cards are commonly accepted.

ATMs - ATMs are widely available in Iceland and require a PIN. Cash can be obtained for Electron and Maestro cards at all ATMs and banks, as well as for Cirrus and Euro check ATM-only cards.

INTERNET & WI-FI ACCESS IN ICELAND

Don't let Iceland's remote location fool you! Tech-savvy Icelanders rank among the top Internet users in the world, so you should not encounter many problems with finding an internet connection for your smartphone,



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laptop or other web-enabled devices. Also, tourist information centers often provide many types of services, including mailing or Internet access.

Internet access in Reykjavik - There are several ways to go online in Reykjavík. You will find Wi-Fi access throughout the city center, usually with free connection, in all kinds of places, including hotels, cafés, coffee houses, bookstores and more.

Internet access in smaller towns and countryside - Many hotels and guesthouses outside of the capital area offer Internet connection, either free of charge or for a small additional fee. Some also have computers for guest use in the reception or lounge areas. Major petrol stations also offer Wi-Fi connection in locations across the country.

WHAT TO PACK? LAYERS, LAYERS, LAYERS! COME PREPARED FOR ALL TYPES OF WEATHER

Iceland's weather is as varied as its incredible landscape. Make sure to pack smart and stay warm and dry with the quick tips below.

ALL-SEASON ESSENTIALS - Here's a sample packing list of items you should bring with you regardless of the time of year you're travelling:

- Fleece jacket or lightweight wool sweater
- Rainproof/windproof jacket
- Sturdy walking shoes with a good tread/grip
- Gloves, scarf & warm hat
- Swimsuit
- Waterproof hiking boots
- Warm socks

SUMMER PACKING TIPS - Some visitors find it difficult to sleep with the light of the midnight sun, so eye shades may be helpful. It is also recommended to bring **sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent**. There are few insects in Iceland, but small midges do thrive in the summertime, especially by lakes and streams.

WINTER PACKING TIPS - Temperatures do not often drop below freezing during the Icelandic winter, but an insulated jacket is recommended due to the cool northerly winds. And as sidewalks can get icy and slippery, you may want to bring shoes with anti-slip soles to give your shoes better traction.

- Thermal underwear (specifically for highland travel/activities)

FORGOT SOMETHING? - Several apparel stores and thrift shops can be found in downtown Reykjavík. Among them is Flying Tiger, a budget variety store with inexpensive accessories like sunglasses, gloves, ear plugs, batteries and more; perfect to get you through a visit to Iceland. For inexpensive swimsuits, socks or undergarments, there is an H&M store at Austurbakki 2 in downtown Reykjavik with men's, women's and children's clothing. The Kringlan shopping mall, located just a few kilometers from the city center, also has numerous international high street brands.

FOR LIGHTER LOADS - We recommend bringing a rucksack or small backpack for your daily essentials (e.g. camera, wallet, medications, extra clothing layers, water bottle, etc.) since you may not have easy access to your suitcase during the day as you travel between activities.



AVERAGE TEMPERATURES – Fahrenheit is shown in (parentheses).

REYKJAVÍK	
January	-0.6 (30.9)
February	0.7 (33.3)
March	2.2 (36.0)
April	5.2 (41.4)
May	6.0 (42.8)
June	10.7 (51.3)
July	12.8 (55)
August	11.0 (51.8)
September	7.9 (46.2)
October	5.8 (42.4)
November	3.1 (37.6)
December	1.3 (34.3)

ELECTRICITY

Iceland uses Northern European electrical standards (50 Hz/220 volts) so converters may be required for small electrical appliances brought from home. Some appliances such as chargers for laptops, digital cameras or mobile phones, may already be compatible with multiple voltages and may just need a travel adapter. Iceland uses the standard Europlug socket with two round prongs.

For these plugs, you can use adapter types “C” or “F”. These are often labeled as a Northern Europe adapter. Make sure to check the voltage labels on your appliances or chargers to see if you need to bring an adapter or converter + adapter. If you are staying in Hotel Cabin, while the hotel does not have hair dryers in rooms, they do have a limited amount to borrow from reception.

Converters and adapters are available in Iceland at the duty-free store in Keflavik Airport as well as electronic stores, souvenir shops and bookstores and some major hotels.

