

Useful travel information

Safe travel in Iceland..... www.safetravel.is

Weather conditions change rapidly..... www.en.vedur.is

For road conditions call 1778 or visit..... www.road.is

Emergency Phone: 112

Breakdown Service: +354 824 4000

Rental locations in Iceland



Reykjavík
Domestic Airport
tel. +354 591 4000

Sauðárkrókur
Raftahlíð 49
tel. +354 825 3910

Keflavík
Arnarvellir 2
Return Center
Int. Airport,
Arrivals Hall
tel. +354 591 4000

Akureyri
Hvannavellir 14
Return Center
Airport
tel. +354 824 4010

Ísafjörður
Airport
tel. +354 660 0617

Egilsstaðir
Airport
tel. +354 660 0623

AVIS main Office and Reservation Office

Holtagarðar
104 Reykjavík
tel. +354 591 4000
fax. +354 591 4040

avis@avis.is
www.avis.is

BUDGET main Office and Reservation Office

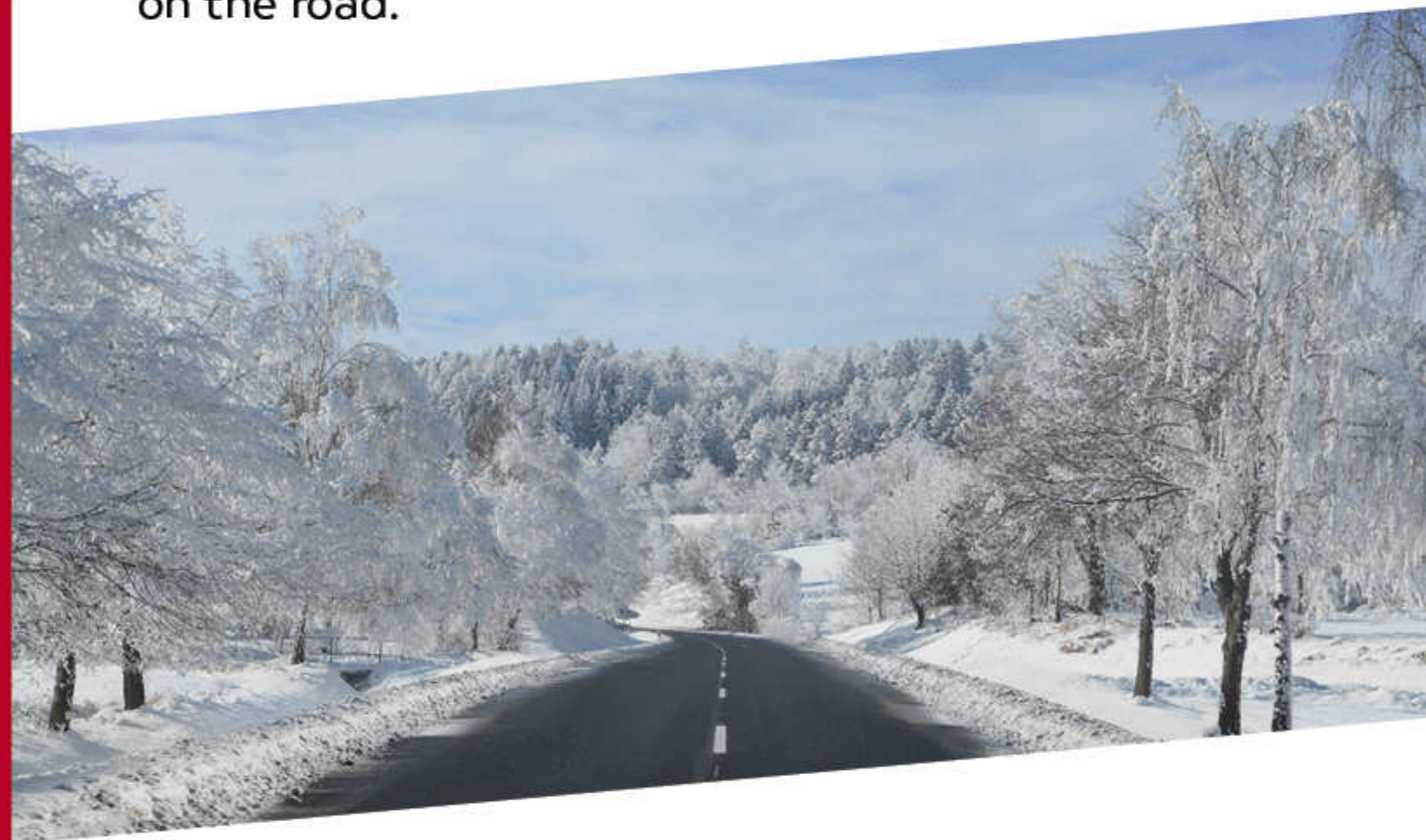
Holtagarðar
104 Reykjavík
tel. +354 562 6060
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budget@budget.is
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AVIS

Icy conditions

Ice and/or snow on the road can be dangerous. Drivers often react the wrong way in these conditions and accidents may occur. Ice on the road can be really tricky to recognize. Here, we will cover a few details that could help you notice if there might be ice on the road.



Landscape: The landscape can have its effects on the road. If the sky is clear at night it's more likely that the roads are icy, because it's much colder outside than if it was cloudy.

Near sea or water: In a few places in Iceland the road lies near the sea or water. When the road is so close to the sea or water, a sly ice can form on the road. The reason for this is that the humidity is higher than usual and if it's cold outside, ice can form on the road.

Shelter: If the road lies where it's hard for the wind to get to it, e.g. through woods, cliffs or other landscape that can provide shelter, you should drive carefully. When the winter is near or coming to an end places like these can have icy roads, especially late at nights.

Thermometer in the car: In most cars there is a thermometer that can give you a rough idea about the temperature outside. But this is only a rough idea, and it's not good to count on the thermometer because the road can be colder than the thermometer says. If the thermometer shows 4-5°C and the weather is still, it's a good reason to pay close attention to the conditions on the road, especially if the road is wet.

The higher you get the lower the temperature gets: If you are driving on the highway and there is no ice on the road, it's possible that the mountain roads have ice on them. Places like Öxnadalshéiði in the north, Hellisheiði between Reykjavík and Hveragerði or Holtavörðuhéiði in the south are known to have bad weather conditions even though the weather in town is good.

Wintertime in Iceland is mysterious. It can, in only one hour, change from a sunny day to a blistering storm. So drive carefully and have a great vacation in Iceland.

We would like to emphasise to you a few details regarding the temperature outside.

When the thermometer in the car tells you that the temperature outside is below 4-5°C you should know that **the road temperature is most likely lower**. This means that ice forms more easily on the road, especially if the road is wet.

There are 6 types of icy conditions and we will start with the first four types that are easily recognized;

1. Héluhálsa (White frost): When the temperature on the road goes below zero and the humidity in the air rises, white frost can form on the road.

2. Snjór (Snow): When there is snow on the road, the road is most likely icy, so drive carefully.

3. Flughálsa (Extreme slippery): When the road temperature is at freezing point and it rains, it gets extremely slippery, especially when it's windy outside.

4. Hrímpoka (Freezing Fog): When people talk about Freezing Fog they mean that when cold raindrops from the fog land on the road and freeze. It's even possible that the fog will freeze on your front window so make sure that there is an ice scraper in the car.

Then there are two types that are harder to recognize;

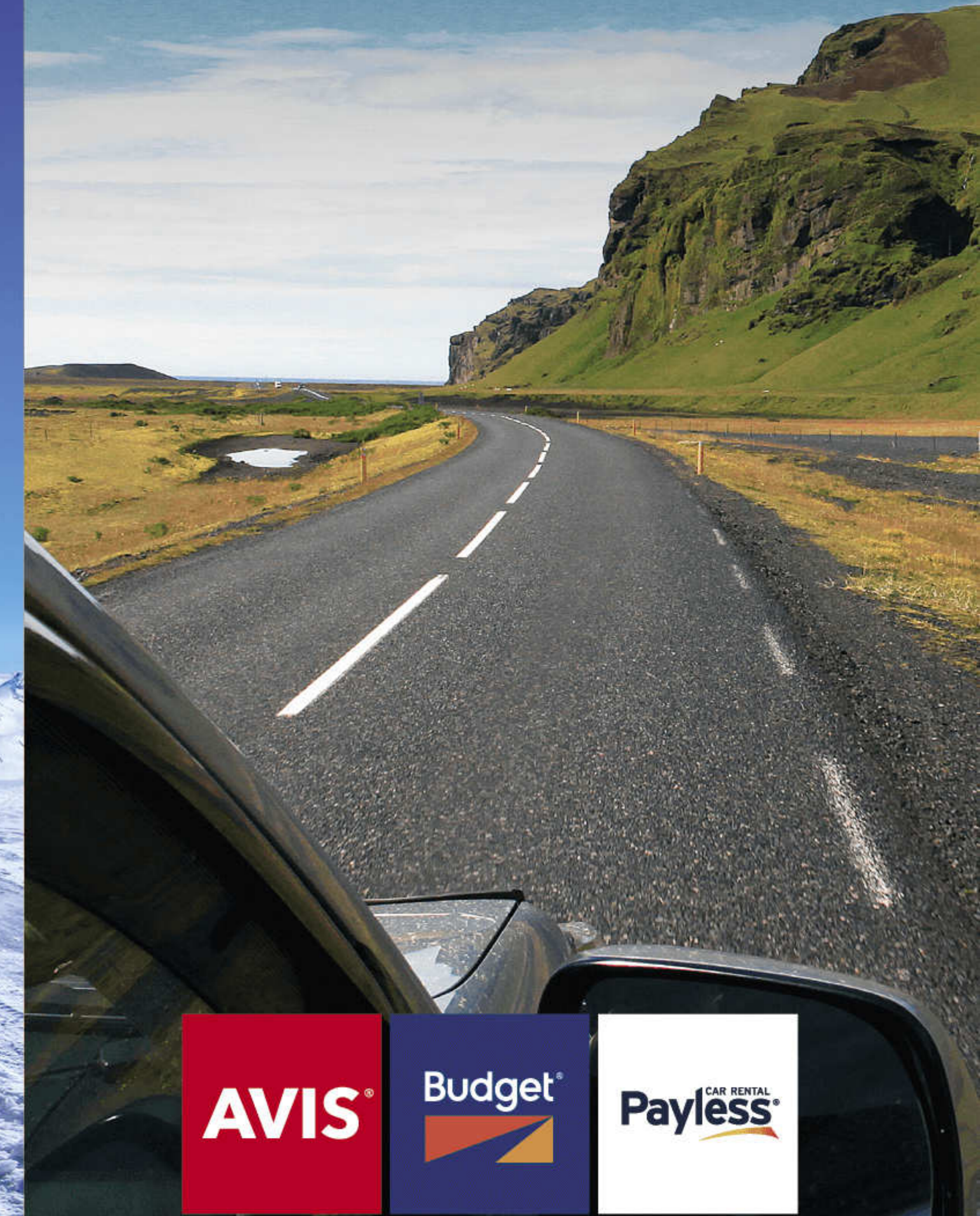
5. Glerhálsa (Black Ice): It can be hard to see when water freezes on the road, especially when the road's temperature goes below zero. In these conditions it's hard to see if the road is wet or icy because the road will glare in both conditions. When the temperature goes under below 4-5°C, it's more likely that ice will form on the road.

6. Frostrigning (Freeze Rain): This type of ice is hard to recognize. The rain will freeze when it hits the cold road. We usually don't know when the road temperature goes below zero degrees so when the temperature is 5°C or below, be careful.

DRIVING IN ICELAND

We would like to emphasise the importance of driving carefully on the Icelandic roads.

Conditions in Iceland are in many ways unusual and often quite unlike what foreign drivers are accustomed to.





WIND AND DOORS

The most common damage to cars among travellers in Iceland is when strong winds blow up the doors of the car. To prevent this happening you need to:

- Open a window and check the direction and force of the wind before opening doors.
- Park the car so that the front part faces the wind.
- Always keep a firm grip on the door while it is open.



SNOW AND ICE

Driving in snow or ice can be difficult and during spring and autumn a thin layer of ice on the road is often almost invisible. Drive slowly, make no quick turns and use the brakes with care.



SANDSTORM

Please be aware that windy and dry conditions increase the possibility of damage to the car. Some areas of Iceland have lots of loose sand or ashes that easily carry in the wind. Avoid driving in such areas when it's windy. However, if you choose to, you can minimize the risk of damage by driving slowly.

- Please note that you can buy a specific insurance to lower the excess in case of such damage.



MEETING AN ONCOMING CAR ON A NARROW ROAD

Highland roads are often very narrow, which makes it difficult to meet oncoming cars. Take special care when you meet oncoming cars, since often there are big rocks at the edge of the roads that can easily damage your car.

- Please note that renters are fully responsible for all underbody damage.



LIGHTS

In Iceland, it is required that vehicle headlights be on at all times, day and night, when driving.

BLIND HILLS

There are many blind hills on our roads, some of them without any markings at all. Many of them, however, are marked with the warning sign "OTHER DANGER" above the word "BLINDHÆÐ". When approaching a blind hill, make sure to stay on the right side of the road and slow down, because you might meet a car without seeing it coming.



OFF-ROAD

We care very deeply for our beautiful landscape, so please show the highest respect for the Icelandic environment. It is strictly forbidden to drive off-road. Such driving results in serious damage to sensitive vegetation, which may take nature decades to repair.



UNBRIDGED RIVERS

Please be careful when crossing, the highland rivers can be dangerous. Drive in the lowest gear and drive slowly to prevent water from harming the engine.

- The renter is fully responsible for all damage caused in this situation



SPEED DRIVING

Icelandic roads are not made for driving fast.

The maximum allowed driving speed on Icelandic roads is 90 km/hour in the best of circumstances. The police is very active during the summer in measuring the speed of drivers and you should know that speeding tickets are very high.



GRAVEL ROADS

Driving on a gravel road can be similar to driving on an icy road. Please note that the maximum speed on gravel roads is 80 km/hour in the best of circumstances. When you pass another car, please slow down and pull out to the side of the road.

Take special care, the edges of these roads are more slippery because of loose gravel.



END OF PAVED ROAD

When you see this sign there is an unpaved road ahead: **PLEASE SLOW DOWN**. If you drive too fast onto a gravel road and the car starts to turn, don't panic and steer the car while braking.



ALWAYS WEAR SEATBELTS

In Iceland, drivers and passengers are required by law to wear seatbelts at all times. Seatbelts prevent serious injuries resulting from accidents.



SINGLE-LANE BRIDGES

A lot of bridges in Iceland only have a single lane so only one car can cross at a time. Please show special care for oncoming traffic when you are approaching these bridges.



HIGHLAND

Icelandic highland roads Kjalvegur and Kaldidalur, along with all roads marked as F-Roads, are not suitable for passenger cars. Only 4x4 jeeps are allowed on these roads. Drivers who are found to have traveled on these roads can expect very high fines.



ANIMALS

Sheep, horses and other animals roam free in many areas of Iceland. Please drive carefully where animals are close to the road as they could easily run in front of your car.



DRIVING IN ICELAND can be very dangerous for various reasons.

Please drive safely and maintain your attention on driving at all times.



HOLD THE DOORS

Please hold onto your door when opening. Due to strong winds, doors can often fly open and this is the most common cause for damage. Make sure to hold onto the door handle when entering and exiting the car.



ROUNDABOUTS

In Iceland the inner circle normally has all priority. If not leaving the roundabout in the first exit, stay on the inner (left) lane.



ICING ON ROADS

The roads can be icy on spots and need the full attention of the driver at all times. Please beware of the temperature outside and always drive slowly as it will help you stay in control.

SUDDEN WEATHER CHANGES

Weather in Iceland can change rapidly, from good to very poor. Always check road conditions and weather forecast you can see it on following websites: road.is & safetravel.is

SPEEDING

In Iceland we have country roads, gravel roads, mountain roads and many blind spots. The road system requires that drivers stay within the speed limits and are fully alert at all times. Speeding cameras in operation!

DISTANCE BETWEEN CARS

You can avoid many incidents by leaving enough space behind the next vehicle on the road.

ALWAYS WEAR SEATBELTS

Seatbelts prevent serious injuries resulting from accidents. You are required by law to wear your seatbelt at all times.



NEVER STOP THE CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD

If you want to stop the car on the road to take a photo or admire scenery - always make sure you pull over in a **SAFE** location.

NEVER STOP THE CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD.



BROKEN WINDSCREENS

Windscreens are broken due to small loose flying rocks/gravel cast up by vehicles in front or passing. Driving slowly will decrease the danger of your windscreen sustaining damage.

CROSSING RIVERS CAN BE DANGEROUS!

No insurance covers water damage.



HEADLIGHTS ON

It is a legal requirement that headlights are switched on whenever you are driving, even in the daytime! Cars driving with no lights have an increased risk of an accident.

I'M AWARE THAT...

- My insurance does not cover damages when driving off road or in water/rivers.
- My insurance does not cover damages to tires and underbody of the vehicle.
- I need special insurance to reduce excess liability in case of damages caused by ash/sandstorm.
- I need special insurance to cover damages to the front windshield.
- I need to use the right fuel type for the car I am renting.

