

## Road Trips in Iceland: Get Ready for an Epic Adventure

Iceland is known as the land of ice and fire: the country's dramatic landscapes are shaped by a constant duel between massive glaciers and active volcanoes, producing gushing geysers and geothermal lagoons. Road tripping is the ultimate way to take in the ever-changing landscapes and experience the power of Iceland's nature in all its glory. Self-driving your way through the country gives you complete freedom to explore all of its hidden corners, stopping along the way and taking detours at your leisure.

### Most Scenic Road Trips in Iceland

These are Iceland's most spectacular road trips. Remember that standard itineraries are just guidelines: make the most of your road trip by venturing off the main road, into the wilderness.

**The Ring Road** Iceland's quintessential road trip is 828 miles long and loops around the island. It leads through a wide range of awe-inspiring landscapes made up of green valleys, ice-capped peaks, desert-like plains, mossy lava fields, and roaring waterfalls.

**The Golden Circle** This road trip is within close proximity of Reykjavik and relatively short, but packed with extraordinary sights, such as the Gullfoss Waterfall and Geysir geothermal area—which explains why this is probably the most popular road trip of them all.

**The Snæfellsnes Peninsula** This magical peninsula is lovingly called 'Iceland in miniature', as it packs such a wide variety of landscapes. The glacier-topped Snæfellsjökull volcano is the crown jewel, but just one of many incredible sights along the way.

**The Westfjords** This is Iceland's ultimate off-the-beaten-track adventure. The Westfjords region is characterized by rugged landscapes and narrow roads, steep cliffs, multicolored beaches, waterfalls and hot springs, and plenty of hiking opportunities.

### Must-See Road Trip Attractions in Iceland

A road trip through Iceland is about the journey, not the destination—but there are some sights and activities you don't want to miss. These are the top attractions to look out for.

**Blue Lagoon** Take a soak in this hot geothermal lagoon, dramatically situated amidst wide moss-covered lava fields. The milky blue water of the pool, releasing a veil of steam, is rich in minerals and has healing qualities.

**Northern Lights** Catch a glimpse of the northern lights as they display their shimmering shades of green, white, violet, and red light. Some luck is involved—the conditions have to be just right—but Iceland's clear dark skies give you a good shot at seeing this unique phenomenon.

**Vatnajökull National Park** Iceland's largest national park covers 14 percent of the country's territory and is home to Europe's largest glacier. Explore the network of walking trails, go glacier hiking, or take a boat ride to remember on the glacier lagoon.

**Whales** Iceland's waters are home to over twenty species of whales, of which at least eight are frequently spotted—either from boats or from the shore. The town of Húsavík is nicknamed Europe's whale-watching capital.