

Traveling by Roads in Iceland

Iceland is no doubt one of the most charming destinations in the world. Nowadays, Iceland attracts almost 2,000,000 tourists a year, which is estimated to exceed the total resident population (about only 300,000), and contribute 10 percent to the Icelandic GDP.

Everyone who wants to travel in Iceland could easily find a suggestion online that tells you, public transportation network is not so convenient and, the best way to have an authentic Icelandic travel experience is a self-driving trip! It is amazing that, people from different countries, with diverse background knowledge of driving, can easily rent a car and drive abroad. The only thing you have to do is changing your local driver license into “international driver license,” and no additional driving test is needed. Not taking this for granted, under the consideration of a wider historical context, it is not until The 1949 Geneva Convention on Road Traffic that makes driving abroad possible. After the ratification of the Convention, citizens from the countries that recognize the International Driving Permit can apply for the international driver license in their own country.

Car driving regulation, as well as the traffic sign, are different from country to country. But it is interesting to note that there are pretty much identical regulation and traffic signs that make driving abroad much easier. What’s important for driving in Iceland is having the basic knowledge about the Icelandic Road System. There are four levels of the road in Iceland, and you can tell from its digital numbers. The ones with more digital numbers (for example, the road number with three digits) are the roads with worse road condition and more challenges. Fortunately, the most famous one, the Road No.1, (the so-called Ring Road) is the most accessible and safest one. Many must-see touristic spots are not far from the side of the Road No.1. But remember, in winter, the harsh weather condition lead every kind of roads the challenging ones, so be aware of the weather forecast every day during your trip to Iceland!