

Iceland

PACKING GUIDE

inside!

- COMPLETE PACKING LIST
- PACKING TIPS & HACKS
- ICELAND TRAVEL ADVICE

TWO Wandering SOLES 



welcome!

Packing for a trip to Iceland can be overwhelming. Weather can change drastically, so you will want to be prepared, but you don't want to over-pack. Trust us! Whether you're traveling in a campervan, in a tent, or staying at hotels, this will be a helpful guide for you!

We spent hours creating this packing list so you know exactly what to bring (and what to leave at home!).



essentials

■ PASSPORT

We like passport cases to keep airline tickets, baggage claim stickers & departure cards together.

■ CREDIT CARDS

Be sure to set a travel alert for your credit cards! Also, bring a few cards in case any of them has an issue overseas.

■ TRAVEL INSURANCE

[Read how to choose the best policy for your travels.](#)

WHAT ABOUT CASH?

We actually didn't use any cash in Iceland because it was so easy to use our credit cards everywhere! However, if you do plan to withdraw Icelandic króna, here's a tip:

As soon as we arrive at an airport in a new country, we withdraw currency from the ATM (as they have the best exchange rates). To avoid those pesky ATM fees, get a card that reimburses them! We love our debit card from Charles Schwab, which reimburses all ATM fees at home or abroad. Note: If you don't have Charles Schwab in your country, see if your local bank offers a card that reimburses international ATM fees because it is a huge money saver!

special note:

Find all our favorite gear (aka the exact items we actually use!) on this special [Amazon link](#). We've curated a list just for you!

BACKPACK OR SUITCASE

We like Osprey Backpacks and [Banana Backpacks](#)

PACKING CUBES

perfect for organizing your clothing in your campervan

COLLAPSIBLE DAY PACK

great for taking with you to explore during the day

clothing

MEN

- t-shirts
- zip-up/hoodie
- flannel
- dry-wick long sleeve
- athletic and/or hiking pants
- jeans
- underwear
- socks (lightweight & wool)
- swimsuit (for hot springs!)

WOMEN

- tops
variety of t-shirts, tank tops and long sleeves; cotton & athletic
- flannel shirt and/or zip-up
- sweater or hoodie
- jeans
- athletic pants
leggings and/or hiking pants
- underwear
- bras & sports bras
- socks (lightweight & wool)
- swimsuit (for hot springs!)

OUTERWEAR & ACCESSORIES

- rain coat
- packable down jacket
- sunglasses
- hiking poles (optional)
- winter hat & gloves
- rain pants
we didn't have these but wished we did, as we were caught in the rain on many hikes

SHOES

- waterproof hiking boots
- comfortable everyday shoes
- flip flops
If you're camping, you'll want a pair for taking showers in campgrounds. They're also handy for wearing at hot springs.

general clothing tips

- 1) Comfortable is better than cute.
- 2) Packing layers is essential.
- 3) If you're traveling during winter, be sure to bring extra warm gear, as it can get very cold!

toiletries

- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- dental floss
- bar soap*
- face wash bar*
- solid shampoo*
I've been using Lush solid shampoo bars for years and love them!
- solid conditioner*
- natural deodorant
brands we like: Piper Wei, Native, any crystal stick

- Korean scrubbing mitt
smaller than a loofah & dries faster than washcloths
- face lotion with SPF
- sunscreen
be sure you have a reef safe sunscreen if you plan to swim in the ocean
- cotton swabs
- nail clippers
- tweezers
- hand sanitizer
- chapstick

FOR GUYS

- razor or trimmer

FOR LADIES

- coconut oil
makeup remover, lotion, general fix-all! See Amazon for my favorite container
- makeup remover cloth
- hair ties & bobby pins
- menstrual cup
better alternative to tampons!
- razor
- solid lotion stick*
- small hair brush
- small mirror
- makeup
keep it minimal for Iceland: mascara, tinted chapstick, etc.
- leave-in conditioner
I like it's a 10 spray

*solid toiletries:

We use solid toiletries as often as possible, as they are lighter weight and they last longer. Plus, they don't count toward your TSA liquid allotment, so you can bring them in a carry-on bag

These items are lifesavers when you can't shower every day!

- baby wipes
- dry shampoo powder

campervan
lifesavers!

medicine cabinet

Pack any medication you typically take. Below is our go-to medicine kit for traveling:

- small first aid kit
including moleskin for blisters, band-aids & Neosporin
- Arnica pills
natural pain killer (pack stronger stuff if you'd prefer)
- Vitamin C boosters
we like to take these before, during and after flying
- anti-diarrheal & laxatives*
*good idea when traveling to unfamiliar places *We like charcoal pills (anti-diarrheal) and senna (laxative), as they are natural*
- antacid (like Tums)
- PSI bands
prevents motion sickness
- ginger pills/chews/tea
fight motion sickness & upset stomach
- peppermint essential oil
apply to temples when you have a headache; wrists for motion sickness; upper stomach when you feel ill

camping gear for Iceland



Iceland is a camper's paradise! You can wake up next to waterfalls and sheep (we did!). We think camping is the best way to experience Iceland's rugged beauty. This is a list of some essentials to pack if you plan to camp in Iceland. You can also rent some camping gear in Iceland if you don't want to pack it.

hot tip:

If you are renting a campervan, check to see what items are included in your rental.

general gear

- quick-dry towel
- sarong
Good hot springs, picnicking or hanging up to block gaps in your campervan curtains.
- laundry bag
Tip: Put a couple dryer sheets in your laundry bag and packing cubes to prevent your clothes from smelling up your campervan!
- natural odor remover
activated charcoal is natural & makes your van smell fresh!
- Tide pen
- duck tape
- travel sewing kit
- Dr. Bonner's soap
pack a small bottle of this concentrated soap for dishes, laundry, showering
- laundry detergent tabs
- deck of cards
- sleeping bag
pack it in a compression sack to take up less space
- Camelbak Hydration Pack
pack it in a compression sack to take up less space
- eye mask
- headlamp

discount alert!

We've partnered with [Happy Campers](#) to give our readers a 5% off their campervan rental when you use our coupon code: **TWS5** at checkout.

cooking gear

- garbage bags
- reusable bags
- rubber bands & chip clips
- multi-tool
- spices
[see what spices we packed](#)
- Jetboil (optional)
- backpacking mess kit
- AeroPress Go
If you are a coffee drinker, this is super handy!
- dehydrated meals (optional)

cooking in Iceland?

We've got you covered with our [guide to Iceland supermarkets](#) and some [easy camping meal ideas!](#)

what NOT to pack for Iceland

✗ umbrella

The winds in Iceland - especially when it's raining - are typically too strong for umbrellas. Instead, invest in some high-quality rain gear.

✗ fancy clothes

Prioritize comfort and function over style. Trust us, no one cares what you're wearing on your hike in the rain. That said, it is worth packing one smart outfit that can be worn for a nice dinner in Reykjavik. Nothing super fancy - a pair of nice jeans and a sweater or button up are just fine.

Packing these items will help you be able to [refuse single-use plastics!](#)

eco travel gear

- reusable straw
- reusable bag
- insulated water bottle
It's safe to fill up at the tap in Iceland! Drink up!
- reusable utensil set
- reusable coffee cup

electronics

cell service

Learn about cell providers and how to purchase an Iceland SIM card in our [Iceland Apps article](#).

- cell phone
- power adapter
- charging cords
- portable battery pack
- headphones
- Kindle

Rent an Iceland travel guide e-book from your local library. Lighter than carrying an actual guidebook; plus, it's FREE!

EXTRA ELECTRONICS for Travel Bloggers/Digital Nomads

- [Wifi Hotspot](#)
If a SIM card is not enough connectivity, you might want to consider bringing a portable hotspot like this one.
- laptop
- laptop case
Thule brand is extra durable!
- external hard drive
- power inverter

IMPORTANT: If you work online & need your laptop charged, see if your campervan comes with a vehicle power inverter. If not, pack your own, as they are significantly more expensive in Iceland. We made this mistake and had to buy one there. (And yes, you CAN fly with a power inverter!)

TRAVELING WITH VALUABLES?

- Pacsafe
portable safe

Consider packing a portable safe to give you peace of mind when traveling in a campervan. Put valuables, like your laptop and passports inside. Even if your vehicle is broken into, your valuables are safe. Some campervans come with a safe built in (ours did). Find out if yours does, as this item wouldn't be necessary in that case.

Plus, be sure your travel insurance covers your valuable items in case anything happens. And be sure you have receipts stored digitally on the cloud in case you need to file an insurance claim.

photography equipment

- DSLR camera
- drone
- lightweight tripod
- memory cards
- lens cleaning kit

Here are some tips to help you [improve your travel photography!](#)

- GoPro & accessories
selfie stick/tripod, waterproof housing, and floatie

IMPORTANT: Don't forget extra batteries and chargers for all of your photography equipment! The last thing you want is to frame a great shot and realize you're camera is dead!



note from Katie + Ben

We sincerely hope this packing list is a helpful resource to you as you plan your trip to Iceland. Plus, we have so many more articles and free resources that we created just for you! Please take a look at them and let us know what you think. We are always here to answer any questions you may have.

Iceland travel resources

THINGS TO DO

[Absolute Best Things to Do in Iceland](#)

[Perfect 1-Week Iceland Travel Itinerary](#)

[Golden Circle Iceland: The Ultimate Guide](#)

[Icelandic Food: What to Try & What to Skip](#)

[Fimmvörðuháls Hike: Guide to Iceland's Best Day Hike](#)

[Studlagil Canyon Iceland: Essential Guide + Insider Tips](#)

Coming soon:

[Things to Do in Reykjavík](#)

[How to Get to Iceland's Black Sand Beach](#)

[Best Hot Springs in Iceland](#)

[Iceland Waterfalls: Which to Visit & Which to Skip](#)

[Incredible Iceland Hikes You Don't Want to Miss](#)

PLANNING & LOGISTICS GUIDES

[Iceland Trip Cost + Surprising Budget Tips](#)

[Iceland Camping Guide: Essential Tips + Best Campsites](#)

[Iceland Campervan Rental Guide \(+ Exclusive Discount!\)](#)

[Iceland Camping Rental: Gear for an Unforgettable Adventure](#)

[Essential Tips for Renting a Car in Iceland](#)

[Best Airbnbs in Iceland \(+ Top-Rated Experiences!\)](#)

[The Best Time to Visit Iceland: When to Go & When to Avoid](#)

[Groceries in Iceland: Money-Saving Guide to Icelandic Supermarkets](#)

[Essential Iceland Travel Apps](#)

still have questions?

shoot us an email (subject: Iceland packing guide)

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