

# Iceland Facts - Surprising Things About Iceland Country

## Fun Facts About Iceland

Iceland is considered one of the most beautiful countries in the entire world. It's an island isolated from the other parts of [Europe](#), famous from the amazing nature, awesome landscapes and (since recently) a place where the *Game of Thrones* was filmed. In this post we have gathered interesting Iceland facts to give you some insights about this amazing country.

These pieces of information about Iceland country are mainly connected with the culture and geography of Iceland. Hopefully, they will be useful not only for the travellers visiting Iceland but also for everyone who is interested in getting to know new facts about the world. We'll also make sure to point out some of the best points of interest in Iceland. If you're traveling to Iceland with kids, we'll add a few interesting things for you too!

Iceland interesting facts #1

### **Iceland should be named Greenland...**

... and [Greenland should be named Iceland](#). Due to the strong influence of the Atlantic Ocean, the climate in Iceland is quite mild. Only about 11% of its total area is covered in ice.

Interesting Iceland facts #2

### **Iceland has one of the most beautiful nature in the world**

It's very easy to find a [travel guide](#) to Iceland on the internet. No wonder why: this country is considered one of the most beautiful in the world. It's called *the land of ice and fire*. With so many points of interest in Iceland, the scenery is

absolutely breathtaking.

You already know about the ice, so let's talk about the fire! Iceland has many volcanos: [Grímsvötn](#) is the most active of them. The other result of the heat inside the earth are the hot springs. The most famous geothermal spa (and also the most often visited points of interest in Iceland) is a [Blue Lagoon](#).

What's interesting about Iceland country, there are almost no forests over there!

The most beautiful natural phenomenon that you can see in this country is Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). It can be seen in the sky for almost 75% time of the year!

If you're heading to Iceland with kids, make sure they are ready to play outside while experiencing something unique!

Iceland interesting facts #3

## **It was the first country in the world that elected the woman president**

The first female president in the world was elected in Iceland in 1980. Even though women were the leaders of some countries (Argentina, Bolivia and [China](#)) in the past, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir was the first one that won in the democratic elections.

She is more than 80 years old now but she still serves the people as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

Interesting Iceland facts #4

## **There's a story behind Iceland's flag**

Everything that you need to know about Icelandic nature is hidden in the flag of this country. Red color symbolises the active volcanos, white: the snow and ice, blue: Atlantic Ocean on which the island is located.

Iceland interesting facts #5

# Reykjavik is the northernmost capital of the world

There are no other capitals north of Reykjavik. This relatively small city located in Western Iceland is home to almost 40% of the Icelandic population.

What's interesting about Iceland country, it's one of the few European capitals that has NO Starbucks or McDonald's!

Interesting Iceland facts #6

## Icelandic food is very unique

Iceland is an island, so the main ingredients of the country's cuisine are fish and seafood.

Some of the traditional Icelandic food is very shocking for the foreigners. Let's take *Hákarl* as an example: it's a fermented shark that (supposedly) taste the best if you bury it in the ground and then urinate on it. Sounds pretty disgusting, huh? If you're traveling in Iceland with kids, you might have to prepare them for these unusual meals.

If you want to get snacks from all over the world directly to your home—> click [here](#).

See also: [Eating fried insects in Thailand](#)

Iceland interesting facts #7

## Icelanders don't have surnames

That's probably the craziest fact about Iceland- people don't have family names in this country!

The last name of every boy is the name of his father + son. The last name of every girl is the name of his father + dottir.

Let's take *Jon* as an example. His son's surname would be *Jonsson* and his

daughter name would be *Jonsdottir*.

If you want to read more about Icelandic names, check out [this post](#).

Interesting Iceland facts #8

## **There is no army in Iceland**

Iceland is among 22 countries in the world that don't have armed forces. It has, however, non-police military force and is a member of NATO. It also has an agreement with [United States](#) that is supposed to support Iceland when needed.

Iceland interesting facts #9

## **There are no trains in Iceland**

Iceland is a very small land with great road infrastructure. Most people travel there by cars, that is why there are no trains in this country!

What's interesting, there are more countries in the world with no railway. Some of them are Malta, Cyprus, Qatar, Yemen and Mauritius.

Interesting Iceland facts #10

## **Poles are the largest minority group in Iceland**

Last but not least- the minority groups. The second biggest population in Iceland is Polish. We were born and raised in [Poland](#), that's why this fact is the most interesting for us.

Iceland currently has 325,000 residents. 302,000 are Icelanders and 23,000 are citizens of other countries including [Poland](#) (~10,000), [Lithuania](#) (~1,700), Denmark (~900), Germany (~900), [Latvia](#) (~700), UK (~600), [US](#) (~600), [Philippines](#) (~550), [Thailand](#) (~550), [Portugal](#) (~500).

Iceland Interesting Facts #11

# The weather fluctuates a lot in Iceland

Traveling in Iceland is always a different experience depending on the season/month you're going. Let's see how it can fluctuate in terms of sunshine and weather.

- Iceland in January is cold but not as cold as we could imagine. You can expect a temperature of around -10 degrees. Going in January guarantees the highest possibilities to admire the northern lights.
- Iceland in February is a great option to see the northern lights, but you can expect temperature around -2 degrees.
- Iceland in March is also a good timing to admire the northern lights.
- In April, Iceland offers a spring weather which is better for outdoor activities. You could also be lucky enough to spot the northern lights if you're planning to visit Iceland in April.
- Iceland in May means cheaper travels! It's not too cold, not too warm and is a wise choice if you're traveling on a budget.
- Iceland in June means that it's the beginning of the summer, but it's not at its warmest point yet.
- Iceland in August is a good idea when you decide to visit Iceland. Did you know that in August, Iceland weather is considered warm? You can expect an average of 20 degrees, but a short sunshine period during the day (5-6 hours).
- Iceland in September is the beginning of the northern lights season. Not too cold, it's a great period to see the magical sky.
- Iceland in October is also a great timing to see the northern lights.
- Iceland in November promises to be a lot colder with an average of 4 degrees.
- Iceland in December is really cold but still great to visit, especially during Christmas time.

Interesting Iceland facts #12

## Iceland is known for its famous and

## unique hotels

The most dreamy and famous place to stay in Iceland is [the five million star hotel](#). We've all seen them on social media at some points and it promises a unique northern light experience. Check out the latest prices for—> [Buubble](#).

If you're after a luxurious experience with a modern twist, you could stay at Ion Luxury Adventure Hotel which guarantees epic lake views. Check out the latest prices for—> [Ion Luxury Adventure Hotel](#).

If you'd rather experience something a bit different, check out the Viking Village Hotel. Elegant and rustic at the same time, this village promises fun experiences! Check out the latest prices for—> [Viking Village Hotel](#).

***Did you know these facts about Iceland?  
Do you know one interesting fact about  
Iceland that you'd like to share? Let us  
know in the comments!***