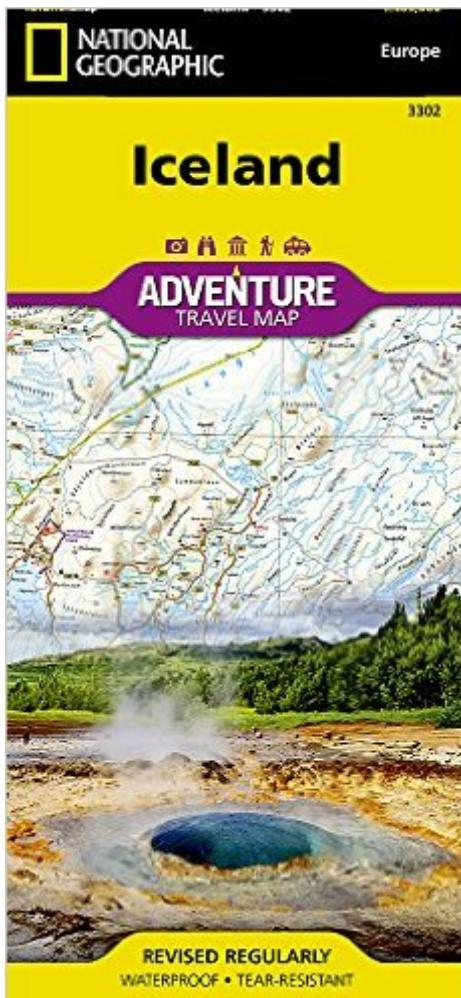


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# Iceland (National Geographic Adventure Map)



## Synopsis

Waterproof Tear-Resistant Travel MapLet National Geographic's Iceland Adventure Map guide you as you discover the pristine nature and unique scenery on this Nordic island. The expertly researched map, with its accurate and detailed information, is designed to meet the needs of adventure travelers. In addition to a clearly marked road network, with distances and destinations of both major and main roads, the map also delivers an abundance of specialized content not found in traditional road maps. An index of cities and towns will help you arrive at your destination quickly. Recreational, ecological, cultural, and historic points of interest as well as secondary roads, remote tracks, secluded paths and ferry routes will aid in your exploration both on and off the beaten path. Among the pinpointed points of interest are hot springs, geysers, waterfalls, caves, museums, lighthouses, swimming pools, golf courses, campsites and scenic viewpoints. Also labeled are the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Thingvellir National Park and the volcanic island of Surtsey. The shaded relief map details the entire island, contour lines are drawn, peaks and summits are labeled with elevations, forested areas are shaded, water features are shown and boundaries of National Parks and nature reserves are color-coded, making it the perfect companion to any guidebook. Every Adventure Map is printed on durable synthetic paper, making them waterproof, tear-resistant and tough capable of withstanding the rigors of international travel. Map Scale = 1:465,000 Sheet Size = 25.5" x 37.75" Folded Size = 4.25" x 9.25"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

On two occasions while driving in Iceland this map cost me hours. Route 52 immediately North of Thingvellir National Park is not a "surfaced main road", it's a very rough dirt road that was closed when I got to it. Neither is route 54 East of Stykkisholmur a "surfaced main road". It's an even worse dirt road pockmarked with holes, and is dangerous on the part where it ascends around a fjord. I'm really disappointed with NatGeo on how shoddy this map is, and I have no choice but to avoid the brand for map purchases. Supposed I was running out of gas, or was trying to avoid a snowstorm? Errors like this can be fatal. By comparison the International Travel Maps brand for Iceland accurately portrays both of those roads as 'unpaved'. The sponsored hotel maps you pick at reception desks also portrayed those roads as unpaved. I made the mistake of putting too much stock in the NatGeo brand and assumed their version was the most up to date and accurate. I won't make that mistake again.

I just got back from a week long trip to Iceland that involved quite a bit of driving. We drove extensively through the southern part of the country (to Vik), through the Reykjavík-Keflavík area and also the western part of the country north of the Reykjavík area (to Snæfellsjökull). I read the reviews of this map (obviously not closely enough) before I purchased it and thought that the negative reviews were perhaps due to folks needing more detail on minor roads and the like. We would be sticking to well established roads so I thought there would be no problems for us. After all if it's a NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC map, they're experts in adventure right? And this is called an ADVENTURE MAP so I didn't expect major flaws in the map when it came to the main roads. I was wrong. On several occasions we were disappointed with the lack of detail in the map, that's a small headache and a problem but when driving in a country like Iceland you should expect some flaws as roads do change etc.. the minor stuff we didn't have a problem with and we figured things out as we went. What is unacceptable is that there are main roads on this map that are listed COMPLETELY OFF THE MARK from where they really are located. The inaccuracies cost us dearly one day as we wasted nearly half the day trying to get back on track after being thrown off course because of the map. If you are planning a trip to Iceland that involves driving do yourself a favor and purchase a different map.

I am currently using this map while bicycling around the island. Here are my issues with the map: 1) I consistently find the distances listed do not agree with those listed on the road signs. The signed distances are accurate, the distances listed on the map are usually inflated. 2) The visual or spatial depictions are often wrong. A road intersection that is depicted as being very close to an earlier

intersection is sometimes several kilometers distant.3) The bigger towns seemed to be listed correctly on the map. For smaller features and landmarks, the places listed on the map are just not there. Conversely, things and places I find on the ground are not listed on the map.Caveat emptor.

For years I worked in a map and travel store so I was very familiar with NG maps and have generally had a lot of trust in them. That said, there are some things about this map that were lacking. First of all, there was not inset of Reykjavic which would have been helpful. Also, more information on elevations would be helpful. We went in the spring and encountered heavy snow and white out conditions driving at higher elevations that we were unprepared for. Also, a better explanation in the legend about types of roads would prepare the driver better. That said, I encountered so many understatements in both maps and guidebooks that left us unprepared for the landscape so I know NG isn't alone in miscalculating the environs. Things that were great about the map was the scale as well as the durability of the map. It's made of tear proof, water proof material so it will certainly stand up to all sorts of use. The temptation when driving Iceland might be to get a small, fuel efficient car (gas is terribly expensive) but depending on when and where you are traveling, you may want to upgrade to a sturdy 4 wheel drive vehicle due to the fact that many roads are pocked with pot holes or made of dirt or gravel, or generally very "rustic".

We used this map on a 9-day self-guided tour of Iceland. It was great to have. Some people might think that in the age of GPS, printed maps have become obsolete. These are people that haven't visited Iceland, or later became lost and were never seen again. Once you get outside of Reykjavik, the addresses become a bit insane. There's no such thing as "22A Laugavegur Street, Reykjavik Iceland", instead it's something like "Hof Guesthouse Blonduos 541." Have fun putting that in your GPS! Here are some pro's and con's.

**Pro's:** The map is water resistant. This is important in Iceland. It's fold resistant. That is, it withstood a lot of folding without tearing or fading. Almost every farm, village, and attraction is listed. The map delineates between paved and unpaved roads, and also Icelandic "F" roads. This is important if you are travelling in a vehicle that does not have all-wheel-drive, because a lot of roads that the Icelanders consider to be for "passenger vehicles" are actually only passable during two months of the year.

**Con's:** You can't see the entire country on one side. This requires annoying flopping around of the map as you cross over. This happens more than you might think because none of the roads in Iceland go in straight lines. It's not clear what units some of the measurements are in. I eventually concluded that elevation markings were in meters. There were a few places (okay, maybe two) where the way that the roads intersected was

not consistent with how they were drawn on the map.

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