

# ICELAND RISK ASSESSMENT



## City & Country

Iceland, Reykjavik

## Prepared by

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### Before you go –

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides travel advice by country. It covers safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements, health and natural disasters along with a host of other useful information. We strongly recommend that students read the section related to their destination prior to departure and before undertaking any trip to another part of the county/region.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

### VISA REGULATIONS

If you have a UK passport endorsed British Citizen, British National Overseas or British Overseas Territory Citizen you do not need a visa for stays of up to 3 months. Other types of British national and those with other nationalities should consult the Icelandic Embassy in London. Your passport should be valid for the duration of your stay. \*\*\*Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website\*\*\*

### HEALTH

If you're visiting Iceland you should get a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Icelandic nationals. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation. \*\*\*Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website\*\*\*

## TERRORISM

Attacks in Iceland can't be ruled out. You should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks which could be in public areas, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.

There is a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals, from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.

Find out more about the [global threat from terrorism](#), how to minimise your risk and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

Type	Nature of the Hazard	Procedures to Minimise Risk
<b>CRIME</b>	Petty theft and anti-social behaviour can occur, particularly around bars where people gather late at night in downtown Reykjavik.	Take sensible precautions and avoid leaving valuables lying around.
<b>NATURAL DISASTERS</b>	<p>Iceland is volcanically and seismically active.</p> <p>A large volcanic eruption took place in the area around the Bárðarbunga volcano on the Vatnajökull glacier in the east of Iceland in August 2014. Eyjafjallajökull and Grimsvötn volcanoes erupted in 2010 and 2011 respectively causing disruption to Icelandic and European airspace.</p>	<p>If you have existing respiratory conditions, take particular care and monitor the advice of the <a href="#">Icelandic authorities</a>.</p> <p>Up to date information on seismic activity and the effects of volcanic eruptions in Iceland can be found on the following websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Icelandic Meteorological Office</a></li></ul>

	<p>Further volcanic eruptions are possible and there is the potential for sulphur dioxide and other volcanic gases to be emitted during eruptions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Icelandic Civil Protection and Emergency Management Authority</a> - This also includes health advice.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Institute of Earth Science</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">UK Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>HIKING AND ADVENTURE TOURISM</b></p>	<p>Hiking, mountaineering and other adventure sports are increasingly popular activities in Iceland. Unfortunately each year there are incidents with visitors getting into difficulty and needing the help of the emergency services.</p>	<p>Follow the guidance of the Icelandic emergency services as detailed on the <a href="#">Safe Travel website</a>. Leave travel plans and contact details with your hotel, or directly on the safe travel website, and take a mobile phone with you.</p> <p>When hiking, choose a trail suited for you and your level of experience. Conditions in Iceland will be different to what you're used to.</p> <p>Take sufficient food, equipment, clothing and emergency rations, plus an appropriate means of communication, for the worst-case scenario. A map, compass, GPS and telecommunication equipment should always be used when travelling outside urban areas.</p>

		Going too close to the ocean, cliff edges and hot springs is a common cause for accidents in Iceland.
<b>DRUGS</b>	Possession of even small quantities or soft drugs can lead to heavy fines and/or imprisonment. Using or importing khat/qat is prohibited in Iceland.	Don't become involved with drugs of any kind.

**Please also note and be sensitive to the following:**

- You don't have to carry your passport with you, but it is sensible to keep some form of ID on you.
- Iceland is expensive. Credit cards are widely used. Icelandic Kronur are available through banks and cash machines in Iceland although some UK banks require advance notice before allowing debit or credit cards to be used in Iceland.
- **Arctic travel:** Large numbers of British nationals travel successfully and safely in and around the Arctic each year. The Arctic is, however, a vast region, comprising the northerly areas of Canada, Finland, Greenland (Denmark), Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Alaska (United States). In addition to reading the specific travel advice for each of these countries, prospective visitors to the Arctic should also consider carefully the potential remoteness of certain destinations from search and rescue, evacuation and medical facilities. Independent travellers are particularly advised to develop contingency arrangements for emergency back-up.