



# Iceland a shade greener

Is Greenland a Winter Wonderland?

Even with Erik the Red's sun-soaked sales pitch, Greenland is a winter wonderland. Why is Iceland Green? Venturing to Iceland, the land of the people, we encounter a stark contrast. Despite its icy name, this island is predominantly green, thanks to the moderating influence of the Gulf Stream.

Why did Erik the Red settle in Greenland?

However, there's a legend that tells a different story. Legend has it that Erik the Red, in 985 C.E., discovered and settled in Greenland after he faced exile from Iceland for committing murders. Erik named his new home Greenland to paint a picture of greener pastures and warmer temperatures compared to Iceland and hopefully attract more settlers.

When did the Norse settle in Greenland?

The Norse established their settlement in Greenland during what is called the Medieval Warm Period (circa 950-1250 AD), a time when temperatures were relatively mild. At this time, Greenland's climate supported agriculture and livestock farming. Around the mid-14th century, however, the climate began to cool during the Little Ice Age.

Is Greenland a Scandinavian country?

Let's start with the basics. Greenland and Iceland are both a part of the "Nordic" region, though they're not always classified as being Scandinavian countries. Both destinations are an excellent place to visit if you're interested in seeing the Northern Lights, hearing about Viking culture, or just exploring some incredible outdoor environments.

Does Greenland have home rule?

In 1979, Greenland was granted Home Rule, giving it control over most internal matters while defense and foreign policy remained under Danish jurisdiction. In 2009, this arrangement was expanded with the Self-Rule Act, granting Greenland even more powers.

Is Greenland a sovereign state?

Iceland is a sovereign state with its own parliament, a president, currency, language, and laws. Greenland is an autonomous territory within the kingdom of Denmark. They do have some autonomy and, in addition to Danish, also speak Greenlandic, which is Eskimo - Aleut language spoken in Greenland, Alaska, and several other Arctic regions.

Based on the names alone, you'd probably assume the main difference between Iceland and Greenland is Iceland is colder than Greenland. However, the reality is Greenland is the much colder location -- with far more ice and snow to traverse.



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Iceland, the greenest country in the world, is well known for their renewable energy program that supplies nearly every resident with clean electricity and hot water. Many argue that Iceland's renewable energy programs were inspired by economics rather than environmental concerns, though the EPI index does not take that into consideration.

As a result, Iceland's sea surface temperatures can be approximately 10°F (6°C) warmer than its neighboring Greenland. This milder climate has a profound effect on Iceland's vegetation, creating optimal conditions for vigorous growth.

Iceland has been unofficially dubbed "poster child" of Nationwide sustainability, finding greener ways of life, and producing more renewable energy than anywhere else in the world. Iceland can thank their incredible geological features for allowing them access to plentiful hydro and geothermal resources.

Iceland vs Greenland: The initial differences. Let's start with the basics. Greenland and Iceland are both a part of the "Nordic" region, though they're not always classified as being Scandinavian countries.. Both destinations are an ...

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I contacted A Shade Greener, they explained everything I needed to know in a clear, simple, professional manner. They were quick to respond to email enquiries when I needed clarification. All my concerns were dealt with promptly, a huge ...

There are some parts of Iceland that can in some periods appear intensely green, partly because the areas have a lot of grass and few other plants, so they are very "monotone" green. The green color comes at different times depending on the location and altitude.

Venturing to Iceland, the land of the people, we encounter a stark contrast. Despite its icy name, this island is predominantly green, thanks to the moderating influence of the Gulf Stream. This warm ocean current prevents the country from completely freezing over, allowing it to live up to the "green" in Greenland ironically.



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With intertwined histories and spectacular nature, there are plenty of similarities between the two. But what is the difference between Iceland and Greenland? Located in the North Atlantic, Iceland and Greenland are neighboring countries that often draw attention on the world map due to their somewhat similar sounding names.



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