

--- Day 23: A Long Walk ---

The Elves resume water filtering operations! Clean water starts flowing over the edge of Island Island.

They offer to help **you** go over the edge of Island Island, too! Just hold on tight to one end of this impossibly long rope and they'll lower you down a safe distance from the massive waterfall you just created.

As you finally reach Snow Island, you see that the water isn't really reaching the ground: it's being **absorbed by the air** itself. It looks like you'll finally have a little downtime while the moisture builds up to snow-producing levels. Snow Island is pretty scenic, even without any snow; why not take a walk?

There's a map of nearby hiking trails (your puzzle input) that indicates **paths** (`.`), **forest** (`#`), and steep **slopes** (`^`, `>`, `v`, and `<`).

For example:

```
#.#####  
#.....#####...##  
#####.#####.#.##  
###.....#.>.>###.###  
###v#####.#v#.###.###  
###.>...#.#.###.###  
###v###.#.#.#####.#  
###...#.#.#.....#...#  
#####.#.#.#####.#.##  
#.....#.#.#.....#...#  
#.#####.#.#.#####v#  
#.#...#...#...###...>.#  
#.#.#v#####v###.##v#  
#...#.>.#...>.>.#.###.#  
#####v#.#.##v#.#.###.#  
#.....#...#...#.#...#  
#.#####.###.#.#.##  
#...##...#...#...#...#  
###.###.#.##v#####v##  
#...#...#.#.>.>.#.>###  
#.###.###.#.###.#v##  
#.....##...###...#...#  
#####.###.#
```

You're currently on the single path tile in the top row; your goal is to reach the single path tile in the bottom row. Because of all the mist from the waterfall, the slopes are probably quite **icy**; if you step onto a slope tile, your next step must be **downhill** (in the direction the arrow is pointing). To make sure you have the most scenic hike possible, **never step onto the same tile twice**. What is the longest hike you can take?

In the example above, the longest hike you can take is marked with `0`, and your starting position is marked `S`:

```
#S#####  
#0000000#####...##  
#####0#####.#.##  
###00000#000>.###.###  
###0#####0#0#.#.###.###  
###00000#0#0#.....#...#  
###v###0#0#0#####.#  
###...#0#0#0000000#...#  
#####.#0#0#####0#.#.##  
#.....#0#0#0000000#...#  
#.#####0#0#0#####v#  
#.#...#000#000###00000#  
#.#.#v#####0###0##0#  
#...#.>.#...>000#0##0#  
#####v#.#.##v#0#0##0#  
#.....#...#...#0#0#000#  
#.#####.###0#0#0##  
#...##...#...#000#0##  
###.###.#.##v#####0##  
#...#...#.#.>.>.#.>0##  
#.###.###.#.###.#0##  
#.....##...###...#000#  
#####0#
```

This hike contains `94` steps. (The other possible hikes you could have taken were `90`, `86`, `82`, `82`, and `74` steps long.)

Find the longest hike you can take through the hiking trails listed on your map. **How many steps long is the longest hike?**

To begin, [get your puzzle input](#).

Answer: [\[Submit\]](#)

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