

--- 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#0000000#...#  
####.#0#0#####0#...###  
#....#0#0000000#...#  
#.#####0#0#0#####v#  
#.#...#00#000##00000#  
#.#.#v#####0##0##0#  
#...#.>.#...>00#0##0#  
####v#.#.##v#0#0##0#  
#....#...#...#0#0#00#  
#####.##0#0#0###  
#...###...#...#00#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?**

Your puzzle answer was 2250.

--- Part Two ---

As you reach the trailhead, you realize that the ground isn't as slippery as you expected; you'll have **no problem** climbing up the steep slopes.

Now, treat all **slopes** as if they were normal **paths** (.). You still want to make sure you have the most scenic hike possible, so continue to ensure that you **never step onto the same tile twice**. What is the longest hike you can take?

In the example above, this increases the longest hike to 154 steps:

```
#S#####  
#0000000#####000###  
#####0#####0#0###  
##00000#.>000##0#0###  
##0#####.#0#0##0#0###  
##0>...#.#0#0000#000#  
##0####.#.#0#####0#  
##000#.#.#000000#000#  
####0#.#.#####0#0###  
#0000#.#.#000000#000#  
#0#####.#.#0#####0#  
#0#000#...#000##...>0#  
#0#0#0#####0##.##0#  
#00#0>.#...>0>.#.##0#  
####0#.#.##0#.#.##0#  
#0000#...#000#.#.#00#  
#0#####0###.#.#0###  
#00##000#000#...#0###  
##0##0#0#0#####0###  
#00#000#0#000>.#.>0###  
#0##0##0#0###.#.#0###  
#0000##000###...#000#  
#####0#
```

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

Your puzzle answer was 6470.

Both parts of this puzzle are complete! They provide two gold stars: **

At this point, you should **return to your Advent calendar** and try another puzzle.

If you still want to see it, you can **get your puzzle input**.

You can also [\[Share\]](#) this puzzle.

Our **sponsors** help make Advent of Code possible:

Tailscale - Secure remote access, powered by WireGuard. Replace your VPN :)