

Iceland

### Icelandic Wilderness 11 days – 10 nights

### Reykjavik, Thingvellir, Gullfoss, Geysir, Hvolsvöllur, Vik, Dyrholaey, Kirkjubaejarklaustur, Jokulsarlon, Skaftafell, Landmannalaugar, Thjorsardalur, Sprengisandur, Lake Myvatn Tjornes, Asbyrgi, Dettifoss, Akureyri, Skagafjordur, Laugarbakki, Hvammstangi, Ehiking, iriksstadir, Fellsstron, Snaefellsjokull National Park Hiking, Ecology, Nature, Discover, Relaxation

### This program may be operated for individual or for groups This is a suggested itinerary - Please call us to customize

Iceland has the advantage of offering a wide variety of landscapes. Each region has a particularity. Discover the secret and wild lands of the North West, the loneliness of the Highlands, the green landscapes of the North East, the volcanic highlands of the East, the spectacular palette of the South, the effervescence of the capital Reykjavik as well. You will discover authentic lands in the many colors of nature. A very striking part of the island is undoubtedly the Snaefellsness peninsula. This long and corpulent peninsula of 50 miles will allow you to discover diverse landscapes.

Weather and Hours of daylight														
Month	Temp.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high	°F	36	37	40	44	50	54	57	57	52	45	37	36	45
Average low	°F	28	28	30	34	39	45	50	46	43	37	32	30	36.9
Hours of daylight		4	7	10	15	18	20-22	19	16	13	9	6	4	12
Northern lights intens	sity						None							

## .....

### Day 1: Reykjavik

Get on board your shared transfer to Reykjavik. If your flight lands early in the day, a great suggestion is to explore Reykjavík, the largest municipality in Iceland. There are many great museums, art galleries and attractions in the city. If you want to stretch your legs, the city has many scenic walking trails. The town got its name "Smoky Bay" after the columns of steam that rose from the hot springs in the area and made such a deep impression on the first settlers. Dinner is on your own. Reykjavik offers a multitude of restaurants and/or coffeehouses, making dinner a great way to get better acquainted with Iceland's capital. Overnight stay in Reykjavík (airport transfer not included). Dinner on own.

### Signature option: Blue Lagoon Entrance and Extras. Airport transfer via Blue Lagoon

### Day 2: Reykjavik, Thingvellir, Gullfoss, Geysir, Hvolsvöllur (UNESCO World Heritage site with Geological Wonders, The beautiful Golden Falls, Exploding Geysers, Plant a birch tree)

Breakfast at your hotel. The first day begins with a visit to Thingvellir National Park, the ancient site of the world's first parliament. Here you can see the dramatic continental drift between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. An hour's drive away the popular Geysir geothermal area awaits. The most active geyser, Strokkur, shoots water high into the air every few minutes but you'll also witness boiling pools and hot springs. Next your group will take part in Iceland Travel's reforestation program, located in Haukadalur valley. Help plant a total of five trees, which not only allows you to leave your mark in Iceland but also for your tour group to reduce your carbon footprint! Then it's onwards to Iceland's most popular waterfall, the impressive two-stage Gullfoss ("Golden Falls"). Dinner and overnight stay in Hvolsvöllur area. [B/D]

### Day 3: Hvolsvöllur, Vik, Dyrholaey, Kirkjubaejarklaustur (Thundering Waterfalls, Seabird Colony, Black Sand Beaches of the South Shore, Lava Fields)



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Breakfast at your hotel. Start the day by driving along the highway, making a stop at two impressive waterfalls; Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss. Head to the black sand beaches to enjoy the far-reaching views from Dyrholaey headland, where thousands of puffins and other seabirds nest until mid-August. Enjoy a stop in the quaint village of Vik before crossing the Myrdalssandur volcanic ash outwash plains. The day ends after passing through the vast Eldhraun lava field, the world's largest recorded single lava flow in the last 10.000 years. Dinner and overnight stay in Kirkjubaejarklaustur area for the next two nights. [B]

# Day 4: Jokulsarlon, Skaftafell (Glacial Lagoon with Icebergs, Scenic Glacial Park, Europe's Largest Glacier)

Breakfast at your hotel. The day starts with a drive through beautiful scenery towards Vatnajokull, the largest glacier in Europe, and the country's highest peak of Hvannadalshnjukur. The highlight of the day is surely Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon, where huge icebergs dance around in icy seawater. Continuing on your way, pass by several outlet glaciers from Vatnajokull, visiting at least one of them. Along the route you also will get magnificent views of Skaftafell, a glacier-crowned wonderland within Vatnajökull National Park. Dinner and overnight stay in Kirkjubaejarklaustur area. [B/D]

### *Signature option:* An optional boat tour among the icebergs is available.

## Day 5: Kirkjubaejarklaustur, Landmannalaugar, Thjorsardalur, Lake Myvatn (\*Multi-colored Mountains of the Interior, Lava Fields, Hot Springs with Bathing, Hekla Volcano)

Breakfast at your hotel. It's finally time to leave the asphalt behind and meander along the Fjallabaksleid interior track to Landmannalaugar, an astonishing area surrounded by colorful rhyolite mountains. The surreal beauty of the uninhabited interior reveals deep valleys and sculptured mountains, many formed in volcanic eruptions under glaciers during the Ice Age. After a nice walk (optional) enjoy a relaxing swim in a warm brook created by the convergence of hot and cold springs. Continue to Lake Myvatn for dinner and overnight. [B/D]

### Day 6: Lake Myvatn (Sprengisandur) (Wild Heart of Iceland and Black Sand Desert)

Breakfast at your hotel. It's time to head north through the very heart of Iceland. Discover hidden treasures of Iceland's uninhabited interior traveling along the Sprengisandur highland route, a vast, barren, black desert connecting the north and south. With only rough tracks and un-bridged glacial rivers, your group will rely on your experienced driver to navigate the rugged passage between the glaciers. (Note: If Sprengisandur is closed, we take the Kjolur highland route instead.) Dinner and overnight stay in the Lake Myvatn area for the next 2 nights. [B/D]

# Day 7: Lake Myvatn (Tjornes, Asbyrgi, Dettifoss) (Glacial River Gorge, Europe's Most Powerful Waterfall, Geothermal Wonderland, Rich Birdlife)

Breakfast at your hotel. After traveling on the gravel roads of the highlands the past couple of days, the smooth highways of the North make the fully-packed day ahead more comfortable. Travel through the town of Husavik and around the Tjornes peninsula, the northernmost point of your journey. Discover the impressive 100 meter (328 feet) high walls of the horseshoe-shaped canyon of Asbyrgi. According to Norse mythology, the canyon is the hoof-print left by Sleipnir, the magical eight-legged horse of the pagan god Odinn. The journey continues to Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall, which is located in the awe-inspiring Jokulsargljufur canyon. Next travel to the unforgettable Lake Myvatn area, a geological wonderland and paradise for bird watchers. Some of the most visually bizarre attractions in the region include the mud pits of Hverarond and the still-warm lava fields of Krafla, teeming with lava flows, fissures and explosion craters. Dinner and overnight stay in the Lake Myvatn area. [B/D]

# Day 8: Lake Myvatn, Akureyri, Skagafjordur, Laugarbakki (Waterfall "Of the Gods", The Capital of the North, Viking Horses)

Breakfast at your hotel. Start the adventure today with a visit to Godafoss, one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country. Continue to Akureyri, the vibrant "Capital of the North". Enjoy some free time



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to explore this colorful and charming town. Some activities might include a visit to the delightful botanical garden, a swim in the local geothermal pool, or perhaps enjoying the atmospheric Listagil neighbourhood dedicated to culture, art and fine food. The route then continues to the Skagafjordur district, known as the traditional heart of horse breeding in Iceland. This area also boasts many historical sites from the classic Sagas. Dinner and overnight stay in the Laugarbakki area. [B/D]

**Signature option:** Tonight, horseback riding on a purebred Viking horse might be an appealing option, as would be an invigorating walk in the picturesque surroundings. The horse riding tour in Gauksmyri takes an hour and a half.

# Day 9: Laugarbakki, Hvammstangi, Eiriksstadir, Fellsstrond (Historical Farmlands, Birthplace of Leif Eiriksson)

Breakfast at your hotel. The journey continues around Vatnsnes Peninsula, which contains the extraordinary rock formation of Hvitserkur, a 15 meter (49 ft) tall cliff jutting out straight from the sea. You might even see seals resting close to the beach. In the after-noon, drive through rolling farmlands and across Laxardalsheidi heath to the Viking Age house at Eiriksstadir. This was the original homestead of Erik the Red and birthplace of his son Leif Eiriksson, two of the most celebrated Vikings in the world. In a replica of a grass-roofed house, meet modern day Vikings who demonstrate the lifestyle from 1000 years ago, sharing their crafts and knowledge. Dinner and overnight stay in Sanefellsjokull. [B/D]

# Day 10: Snaefellsjokull National Park, Reykjavik (Snaefellsjokull Glacier, Pebble Beaches, Sea Cliffs with Birdlife, Quaint Fishing Villages)

Breakfast at your hotel. Today is spent exploring the amazing variety of natural landscapes in Snaefellsnes National Park. Undoubtedly the crowning jewel is Snaefellsjokull glacier itself, which covers a dormant volcano that last erupted in 250 AD. Walk along the uniquely pebbled seascape of Djupalonssandur beach. At the picturesque harbor village of Arnarstapi, you can observe magnificent basalt rock in stacked formations and take a unique walk along the hiking trail linking the settlements of Arnarstapi and Hellnar. Afterwards drive back to Reykjavik. Overnight in Reykjavik. Dinner is on your own. [B]

### Day 11: Reykjavik, USA

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to the airport. We advise departing your hotel no later than three

hours before your international flight. If you did not visit the Blue Lagoon on your arrival day, you might use the opportunity to stop there now on your way to the airport. [B]

*Signature option:* Blue Lagoon Entrance and Extras. Airport transfer: Arrival via Blue Lagoon

[B] = Breakfast | [B/D] = Breakfast and Dinner

Important: Please note that good trekking shoes/hiking shoes are important on this tour.



### Your Tour includes:

- Round-trip airfare USA-Reykjavik
- Arrival and departure shared transfers
- 10 nights' accommodation with facilities:
  - Reykjavík 2 nights
  - o Countryside 8 nights
- Meals
  - o Breakfast daily
- o 8 dinners
- Geological Wonders
- Golden Falls
- Exploding Geysers
- Seabird Colony
- Lava Fields
- Glacial Lagoon with Icebergs
- Scenic Glacial Park
- Europe's Largest Glacier
- Hot Springs with Bathing
- Hekla Volcano
- Black Sand Desert
- Glacial River Gorge
- 9-day tour with driver-guide from/to Reykjavík
- Snaefellsjokull Glacier

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- Participation in Reforestation Project in Haukadalur
- Entrance to Eriksstadir Museum
- English speaking guide during tour
- All taxes

### Tour does not Include:

- Any taxes and surcharges relating to airfares
- Travel insurance
- Wi-Fi at hotels
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Other meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out (Most hotels begin check-in around 2:00pm).
- Expenses of personal nature
- Porterage at airport and hotels
- Optional tours and activities
- Any service not specifically listed under "included"
- Swimsuit at the Blue Lagoon (can be rented on site)

## **Recommended hotels in your Tour:**

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor				
Superiot Tourist Class						
Reykjavik	Skuggi	4.5				
Hvolsvollur	Midgard Base Camp	5				
Kirkjubaejarklaustur	Hrifunes Guesthouse	5				
Skaftafell	Hali Country	4.5				
Lake Mytvatn	Asar Guesthouse	5				
Laugarbakki	Hraunsnef Sveitahotel	4.5				
Snaefellsjokull	Guesthouse Hof	4				
First Class						
Reykjavik	Reykjavil Konsulat	4.5				
Hvolsvollur	Country Hotel Anna	5				
Kirkjubaejarklaustur	Magma	5				
Skaftafell	Fosshotel Glacier	4.5				
Lake Mytvatn	Laugar Guesthouse	5				
Laugarbakki	Hotel A	4.5				
Snaefellsjokull	Gistiheimilid Virkid	4.5				

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

## **Tour Prices:**

### From: \$3,635 including airfare

Add-ons available from all US gateways.

Prices are per person and may change without notice

These programs can be customized for individuals and for groups

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request



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### Airfare

• We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

### Program

- You may add or remove;
  - o Trip days
  - $_{\rm O}$  Cities and sites
  - o Meals

### **Other options**

- The program was designed with private services; however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

### Quotation

• Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

### Tour Code: IS07REK21VT

### **Optional tours and activities:**

Day	Description	Length
Day 1 or 11	Tour to Blue Lagoon	Flexible time
Day 4	Boat tour on the Glacial Lagoon	30-40 mins.
Day 8	Horse riding tour in Gauksmýri	1.5 hours

We strongly recommend that you book these optional tours in advance due to high demand of these activities.

Book in advance.

### **Options:**

- The options suggested in the itinerary will be quoted at time of booking
- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

### **Group Quotations**

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web <u>Group Quote Request</u>.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the lad journey.
- Booking both air an land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.
- We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.