

Iceland Complete 9D/8N

Depart 16 to 24 July 2018 From \$4455 pp Twin or \$6137 SOLO

This is a classic circle tour that provides the perfect mix of culture and nature. Visit all Iceland's main attractions along the Ring Road, escorted by a professional local guide. With so much to discover and explore in Iceland, this bestselling tour highlights the natural wonders, majestic landscapes and unique character of Iceland. Features of this popular tour include stops at the Glacial Lagoon, Lake Myvatn and all the famous Golden Circle sights such as Gullfoss, Geysir and Thingvellir National Park.

This tour has been our bestseller for nearly 20 years.



Day 1 Arrival Reykjavik

Arrival in Iceland.

On your own, transfer to Reykjavik. We recommend the easy and convenient FlyBus Plus transfers, which can be booked through Iceland Travel. If your flight lands early in the day, a great suggestion is to explore Reykjavík, the largest municipality in Iceland.

Ingolfur Arnarson, the first settler of Iceland, built his farm on the peninsula where Reykjavík stands today. The town got its name "Smokey 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. We suggest visiting the Reykjavik Settlement Exhibition to see the excavated remains of Ingolfur's house and learn about Reykjavik in Viking times. (admission not included).

Dinner is on your own. Reykjavik offers a multitude of restaurants and/or coffee-houses, making dinner a great way to get better acquainted with Iceland's capital.

Please note guaranteed early check-in is not included in the price. Most hotels begin check-in around 14:00 (2:00pm).

Overnight stay in Reykjavík (airport transfer not included). Dinner is on own.

Meals: None

Day 2 Geysir – Gullfoss – Skogar – Dyrholaey – Vik (Approx 330 kms)

Exploding Geysers – Waterfalls – Seabird Colony – Black Sand Beaches of the South Shore

Breakfast at your hotel. Start the day with a short city sightseeing tour of Reykjavik. From Reykjavik, head over the Hellisheidi Pass and through the pretty greenhouse village of Hveragerdi, gateway to South Iceland. Head on to the Golden Circle natural wonders. Explore Gullfoss, the "Golden Waterfall" and the nearby Geysir hot spring area to see the famous Geysir and Strokkur, as well as numerous other hot springs and boiling mud pools. Continue along the south shore and stop to admire the waterfalls Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss before continuing to Dyrholaey* nature reserve. Drive along the coast to the village of Vik.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Vik area.

*Please note that Dyrholaey is closed during nesting season in spring, approximately mid-May until June 25th.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Vik – Skaftafell National Park – Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon – Hofn (Approx 280 kms)

Lava Fields – Glacial Lagoon with Icebergs – Europe's Largest Glacier

Breakfast at your hotel. Continue your journey along the Ring Road. Cross Eldhraun, the largest lava flow recorded on the planet in historical times. Visit Kirkjubaejarklaustur town, the former site of a 12th-century Catholic convent. The tour continues over Skeidararsandur sands to Skaftafell, a beautiful glacial area within Vatnajokull National Park. Continue to the stunning Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon to see the birthplace of icebergs. As you head east, you will continue to enjoy magnificent views of mighty Vatnajokull, Europe's largest glacier. Your destination is Hofn, a seacoast village located near the glacier.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Hofn area.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Hofn – East Fjords – Egilsstadir (Approx 260 kms)

Narrow Fjords – Steep Mountains – Picturesque Coastline – Mineral Collection

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you'll enjoy amazing scenery as you head from glacial landscapes to fjord views. Drive from Hofn through Almannaskard pass, stopping to admire the majestic coastline. Head into the magnificent East Fjords with its views of towering mountains plunging vertically into the sea.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Egilsstadir area.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 Lake Myvatn Area (Approx 225 kms)

Highland Desert – Bizarre Lava Formations – Geothermal & Volcanic Activity – Rich Birdlife – Nature Reserve

Breakfast at your hotel.

Explore the wilderness vastness of the Modrudalsoraefi highland desert plateau as you head towards the Lake Myvatn area. On the way, stop at Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall. Continue onwards to Namaskard pass with its boiling mud pools and vibrant colours.

Explore the natural beauty of the volcanic Lake Myvatn area, including the pseudo craters at Skutustadir and the Laxa Salmon River. One of the Myvatn area's claims to fame is that it is home to more species of ducks than any other place on Earth, with very diverse birdlife in general.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Myvatn area.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Lake Myvatn Area – Akureyri – Siglufjordur (Approximate distance: 215 kms)

Waterfall of the Gods" – Folk Museum – The beautiful Troll Peninsula

Breakfast at your hotel. Start the day by exploring the peculiar lava formations at Dimmuborgir. Visit the magnificent Godafoss waterfall and the Laufas turf farm museum, Afterwards, visit Akureyri, the colourful northern "capital" of Iceland. The town has charming buildings and a beautiful view of the Eyjafjordur Fjord. After spending some time in Akureyri, continue along the coastal roads of Eyjafjordur and the Troll Peninsula. This is a beautiful drive along steep mountains with amazing views over the Arctic Sea and black sand coastline. The destination is Siglufjordur, set in a beautiful fjord of the same name. This town has some of the finest timber buildings in the country, beautifully restored to their original glory. The evening and dinner is on your own at one of the town's restaurants. Siglufjordur is a very enjoyable and friendly town for an evening stroll.

Overnight in Siglufjörður. Dinner is on own.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 Skagafjordur – Borgarnes (Approx 315 kms)

Fertile Farmlands – Glacial Rivers

Breakfast at your hotel. This morning visit Siglufjordur's award-winning Herring-Era Museum. The museum recreates the atmosphere of the early 20th century, when tiny Siglufjordur was transformed into a herring boom town, thanks to a large migration of herring. Continue through north Iceland towards the village of Blonduos built on both sides of the river Blanda. Hrutey Island, a protected nature reserve, sits within the centre of this popular Salmon River. Cross the moors of Holtavorduheidi plateau, and drive through Borgarfjordur to the beautiful town of Borgarnes.

Dinner and overnight stay in Borgarnes area.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 Borgarfjordur – Thingvellir – Reykjavik (Approx 280 kms)

Europe's Largest Hot Spring – Picturesque Waterfalls – National Park with Geological Wonders (UNESCO)

Breakfast at your hotel. Drive to Deildartunguhver, the most powerful hot springs in Europe. Stop to admire the beautiful Hraunfossar waterfalls before continuing via Hvalfjordur fjord to Lake Thingvallavatn, Iceland's largest lake, and Thingvellir National Park. This UNESCO heritage site is where the world's oldest continuing parliamentary government was founded in the 10th century. It is also the place where the North American and European tectonic plates meet.

Overnight stay in Reykjavík. Dinner is on your own.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 9 Departure

Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to the airport not included. We would be happy to book a transfer for you. 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.

Meals: Breakfast

INCLUSIONS

- 7 day guided tour as per itinerary from/to Reykjavik
- Accommodation 2 nights w/private facilities in Reykjavik
- Accommodation 6 nights w/private facilities in countryside
- Breakfast daily except arrival day
- 6 dinners in the countryside
- Entrance to Laufas Folk Museum, including refreshments (day 6)
- Herring-Era Museum Entrance (day 7)

EXCLUSIONS

- Round-trip transfers between Keflavik airport and Reykjavik (Will be priced once numbers are confirmed)
- Dinners in Reykjavik (day 1 and 5) and Siglufjordur (day 6)
- Lunches
- Beverages with meals other than coffee/tea and fresh tap water
- Porterage at airport and hotels
- Guaranteed early check-in or late check-out
- Optional tours and activities
- Any service not specifically listed under "included"

Optional tours and activities:

Booked via your guide at the start of your tour.

Day 3: Boat tour on the glacial lagoon (45 mins)

Day 3: Super jeep tour on Vatnajokull glacier (4 hrs)

Day 5: Myvatn Nature Baths (Flexible time)

Day 5: Horse riding in Myvatn/Safarihestar (1-2 hrs)

Day 6: Sailing / Sea angling / Whale watching (dep. on season) Akureyri (3 - 3.5 hrs)

Day 8: Non guided tour to the Blue Lagoon on arrival/departure

