

NORTHERN LIGHTS CIRCLE TOUR

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: ARRIVAL & SIGHTSEEING IN REYKJAVÍK

On arrival at Keflavik International Airport, you will be greeted by a driver who will transfer you to your hotel in the city centre of Reykjavik. After settling in, the rest of the day is free for you to explore the vibrant capital city with its abundance of museums, restaurants and bars to suit all tastes. If you're interested in checking out Icelandic design or experiencing the city's thriving coffee culture, head to the main street, Laugavegur, and enjoy its various shops and cosy cafes. At 18:00, you will meet your group and guide for a welcome drink and a short introduction about the itinerary and some useful information about the coming days.

Spend the night at **Center Hotel Laugavegur** or similar.

For those arriving early today you have the option to upgrade your journey from the airport with a visit to the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa before heading to the city. It's the perfect way to start your Iceland adventure!

Included:

- Private meet and greet airport transfer on arrival
- Welcome drink and group information meeting with your guide

Average Driving Distance: 49 km / 30 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 50 Minutes

Attractions: Reykjavík

 DAY
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DAY 2: WONDERS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

This morning your guide will pick you and your fellow travellers up at the hotel. The first leg of the journey takes you around the famous Golden Circle, a popular route containing some of the best-known natural sites in Iceland. Highlights include Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO heritage site; the Geysir geothermal hot spring area and the powerful Gullfoss waterfall. The tour will also visit the geothermally-heated greenhouses at the Friðheimar tomato farm, where we will get to taste the fresh tomato products.

Spend the night at **Hótel Selfoss** or similar.

Included:

- Visit to the Friðheimar Tomato Farm Greenhouse
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet at the Hotel

Average Driving Distance: 198 km / 123 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 9 - 11 Hours

**Please note that the northern lights are a natural phenomenon. If weather conditions and visibility are not favourable, the guide will inform you about the matter.*

Attractions: Geysir, Gullfoss, Þingvellir

DAY 3: WATERFALLS, VOLCANIC BEACHES & NORTHERN LIGHTS

Today you will explore majestic waterfalls, black sand beaches and learn about the unique geology of Iceland. You will start with a visit to the Lava Centre, a one of a kind interactive exhibition about Iceland's volcanic activity, its frequent earthquakes and how Iceland evolved over millions of years. Next up is the fairy tale-like Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where you can walk behind the icy cascade on a footpath. Close by your guide will take you to Skógarfoss, an impressive 60-metre high waterfall located at the foot of a mountain range, followed by a visit to the Skógar Folk Museum.

The last stop before continuing to your accommodation is at the black sand volcanic beach near the village of Vík í Mýrdal. Here, you will be able to see the spectacular rock arch and steep cliffs of along with the Reynisdrangar basalt columns just off the shore.

Next, you will travel to your carefully selected charming boutique hotel, situated far from the city lights to give you the best chance of seeing the northern lights. Enjoy dinner at Magma Hotel with the group.

Spend the night at the **Magma Hotel**.

Included:

- Entrance fee to the Lava Center
- Entrance fee to the Skógar Folk Museum
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet at the Hotel
- Dinner at Magma Hotel

Average Driving Distance: 227 km / 141 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 - 9 Hours

Attractions: Dyrhólaey, Reynisfjara & Reynisdrangar, Seljalandsfoss, Skógafoss, Vík í Mýrdal

DAY 4: THE GLACIER LAGOON & DIAMOND BEACH

Start the day bright and early as you have a full day of exciting icy highlights ahead of you. You will spend some time exploring Skaftafell, part of the immense Vatnajökull National Park and a place of great natural beauty. The tour will then head to the spectacular Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon, famous for its floating icebergs in shades of milky white and bright blue. On a clear day, you may even get a good view of Breiðamerkurjökull glacier behind the lake. Next to the glacier lagoon, we will stop at the Diamond Beach where you will see large chunks of ice that have washed up on shore after being shaped and polished in the surf of the glacier lagoon. It's truly a beautiful sight and a great photo opportunity!

After some time at the Diamond Beach, you will be driven to your accommodation for the night. A delicious local dinner will be served, and after, you can end the evening by putting on some warm clothes to gaze at the sky waiting for the northern lights to appear.

Spend the night at **Hótel Framtíð** or similar.

Included:

- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet at the Hotel
- Dinner at Hotel Framtíð

Average Driving Distance: 318 km / 197 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 10 - 11 Hours

Attractions: Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, Kirkjubæjarklaustur, Skaftafell

DAY 5: THE MYSTICAL EAST FJORDS & MÝVATN NATURE BATHS

Today you will get to experience a slice of Iceland that few travellers get to explore. Your group's drive takes you along majestic East Iceland, with gorgeous scenery that includes tranquil fishing villages, narrow fjords, rugged tundra and sweeping landscapes. If you are lucky, you might spot a reindeer or two as they come down from the mountains to stay close to the sea during the winter months.

Among other highlights, you will stop in the small villages of Stöðvarfjörður and Fáskrúðsfjörður, the latter known for its French heritage and a fascinating northern lights photo exhibition. The final destination of the day is the otherworldly Lake Mývatn area. Here, you have the option of either relaxing at the hotel after today's drive or going to visit the warm alkaline geothermal lagoon and saunas at the Mývatn Nature Baths, with a view to mountains and lava fields (optional: not included).

The Lake Mývatn area is known for being one of the best places in Iceland to view the northern lights due to the altitude and the lay of the land. We therefore highly recommend that you are on the lookout for the Aurora Borealis tonight!

Spend the night at **Fosshótel Mývatn** or similar.

Included:

- Entrance fee to the Northern Lights Photo Exhibition in Fáskrúðsfjörður
- Mývatn Nature Baths (optional: not included)
- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet at the Hotel

Average Driving Distance: 393 km / 244 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 - 9 Hours

Attractions: Egilsstaðir & Lagarfljót, Fáskrúðsfjörður, Stöðvarfjörður

DAY 6: LAKE MÝVATN & CHARMING AKUREYRI

Start the day by exploring the unusual, moon-like landscapes of the Lake Mývatn area, including the Námaskarð pass and the Skútustaðagígar pseudo craters—sights that are even more surreal in wintertime. You will also have a chance to see Goðafoss, the Waterfall of the Gods, which is among the most beautiful falls in the country. While the waterfall is not very tall, the cascade is divided into two horseshoe-shaped falls, making it unique among Icelandic waterfalls. You will then have some free time in Akureyri to explore on your own. Akureyri is a charming town with museums, shops, cafes and a picturesque harbour area, before heading to Skagafjörður, where you will dine and stay at Hofsstaðir (dinner is included).

Spend the night at **Hofsstaðir Country Hotel** or similar.

Included:

- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet at the Hotel
- Dinner at Hofsstaðir

Average Driving Distance: 244 km / 152 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 7 - 8 Hours

Attractions: Akureyri, Hverarönd, Lake Mývatn, Skagafjörður, Skútustaðagígar Pseudo-Craters

DAY 7: WEST ICELAND & RETURN TO REYKJAVÍK

Before heading back to Reykjavík, you will get the chance to explore the incredible western part of Iceland along beautiful Borgarfjörður. Your guide will stop at Deildartunguhver, the most powerful hot spring in Europe, the beautiful and the spectacular twin waterfalls of Hraunfossar and Barnafoss. Hraunfossar is a thrilling series of waterfalls that seemingly originating in a field without a river or lake. The water is actually streaming through rivulets in the Hallmundarhraun lava field. Meanwhile, Barnafoss is more like a series of rapids caused by the water of Hvitá entering a narrow passage. Next, you will be driven to the historical sites at Reykholt, which is rich in Saga history. Reykholt is the home of 13th century writer, poet and scholar Snorri Sturluson.

After being dropped off at your accommodation, you can spend the evening at your leisure in the city centre of Reykjavík.

Spend the night at **Center Hotel Laugavegur** or similar.

Included:

- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet at the Hotel

Average Driving Distance: 395 km / 245 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 - 9 Hours

Attractions: Borgarnes, Deildartunguhver, Hraunfossar & Barnafoss, Reykholt, Reykjavík

DAY 8: DEPARTURE FROM REYKJAVIK

When it's time for your Iceland adventure to end, you will be picked up from your hotel by a shuttle bus about three hours before your flight. If you're flying in the afternoon, you have the option to visit the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa to relax in the warm mineral waters before continuing to the airport (optional: not included).

If you are interested in extending your stay, we can book extra nights and activities in the Reykjavik area or even combine this tour with a visit to one of our other Nordic destinations.

Included:

- Breakfast: Continental Breakfast Buffet at the Hotel
- Shuttle Transfer to Keflavik International Airport on Departure

Average Driving Distance: 49 km / 30 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 50 Minutes

Attractions: Reykjavik

Whatever your needs, we are here to help. If you have any questions about our packages or services, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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