

# ICELAND FULL CIRCLE AT LEISURE

## ITINERARY

DAY

**1**

### DAY 1: WELCOME TO REYKJAVÍK

On arrival to Keflavik International Airport, you will be greeted by a driver who will take you to your accommodation in Reykjavík. After settling in, the rest of the day is free for you to explore the vibrant city centre 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.

Spend the night in Reykjavík.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Reykjavík

DAY

**2**

### DAY 2: THE CLASSIC GOLDEN CIRCLE

Collect your rental car in the morning and begin your journey on the classic Golden Circle route, home to some of Iceland's most popular attractions. Start with a visit to the fascinating Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, you can walk on a path in the rift valley between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates, and see the site of Iceland's first parliament. Next on the route is the Haukadalur geothermal area, where you can see Geysir—the original “geyser”—and its more active neighbour, Strokkur, which spouts water and steam every few minutes. Complete the circle with visits to the majestic Gullfoss waterfall and the impressive implosion crater of Kerið, which has a pool of bright blue water in the centre.

Spend the night in the Selfoss area.

*Driving distance approx 180 km / 112 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Geysir - Gullfoss - Kerið - Þingvellir

DAY

**3**

### DAY 3: SCENIC SOUTH ICELAND

Enjoy the day in the area surrounding Selfoss, where you can do some hiking or book optional activities such as horseriding, bathing in natural geothermal waters, river rafting, snorkeling between the continents, venturing into a volcano, golfing or simply spending the day at leisure.

Other options today include visiting the charming coastal villages of Stokkseyri and Eyrarbakki or driving the beautiful Þjórsárdalur valley towards Hekla. We recommend visiting the Viking replica farm of Stöng, a historically accurate reconstruction of the three buildings, including a longhouse. The farm is believed to have been buried under volcanic ash in 1104 following the eruption of the nearby volcano Hekla. For those up for some hiking, the walk up to Háifoss, the third highest waterfall in Iceland, is worth the trip!

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Gjáin Valley - Hekla - Þjórsárdalur

DAY

**4**

### DAY 4: WATERFALLS AND VOLCANIC BEACHES

Start with visits to the fairytale-like Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where you can experience walking directly behind the misty cascade, and the gorgeous 60-metre high Skógafoss waterfall just a short drive down the road.

Further ahead at Vík, you can make a stop at the black volcanic beach south of the village, from where you can view the rugged rock formations Dyrhólaey and Reynisdrangar. The last stop of the day is to the stunning Fjaðrárgljúfur canyon, which is a treat to photograph and roam. You also have a chance today to join an exciting guided excursion by foot or snowmobile on a glacier!

Spend the night in the Kirkjubæjarklaustur area.

*Driving distance approx. 200 km / 124 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Dyrhólaey - Fjaðrárgljúfur - Kirkjubæjarklaustur - Reynisfjara & Reynisdrangar - Seljalandsfoss - Seljavallalaug - Skógafoss - Skógar - Vík í Mýrdal

DAY  
5

## DAY 5: GLACIERS AND ICEBERGS

Enjoy Skaftafell, part of the immense Vatnajökull National Park and a place of great natural beauty with many interesting hiking trails, including a short walk to the beautiful Svartifoss waterfall. This area is also full of opportunities for more adventurous pursuits, such as guided glacier-walking or ice-climbing excursions. Next, head to the spectacular Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon, where you can join a boat ride among the maze of floating icebergs (optional).

Spend the night in the Höfn area.

*Driving distance approx. 205 km / 128 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Diamond Beach - Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon - Skaftafell - Svartifoss

DAY  
6

## DAY 6: THE ENCHANTING EAST FJORDS & THE QUIET WILDERNESS

Today's drive in East Iceland takes you along tranquil fishing villages, spectacular fjords and sweeping landscapes. Anyone who enjoys offbeat attractions – particularly geology buffs or garden enthusiasts – will want to visit Petra's Mineral Collection in Stöðvarfjörður, a small museum of found natural objects and mineral rocks started as a personal hobby by a local resident. End the day in Egilsstaðir, where you will find the monster habitat Lagaflljót and Hallormsstaðarskógur forest, the largest wooded area in Iceland, and a visit to the Wilderness Center – Óbyggðasetrið is highly recommended, an old farm turned into a exhibition, guesthouse, café, located at the end of the fjord leading into the deep valley close to the highlands.

Spend the night in the Egilsstaðir or Seyðisfjörður area.

*Driving distance approx. 255 km / 158 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Búlandstindur - Djúpivogur - Egilsstaðir & Lagarfljót - Fáskrúðsfjörður

DAY  
7

## DAY 7: SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR AND BORGARFJÖRÐUR EYSTRÍ

Drive to Seyðisfjörður, one of the most enchanting villages in Iceland with its well-preserved wooden houses, steep mountains and picture-perfect fjord scenery. Then head to Bakkagerði, one of Iceland's most isolated and smallest villages. But what it lacks in humans, it makes up for with other "residents" – it is rumoured to have the largest colonies of elves and fairies in the country as well as a thriving bird population. Here you will find the best chance to view the curious and colourful puffins up close, and it's a great place for hiking! Other attractions in the area include a hiking trail leading to Hengifoss waterfall, one of Iceland's tallest at 118 metres high.

Spend the night in the Egilsstaðir/Seyðisfjörður area.

*Driving distance approx. 143 km / 89mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Bakkagerði - Borgarfjörður Eystri - Seyðisfjörður

DAY  
**8**

## DAY 8: MAGICAL LAKE MÝVATN: DIMMUBORGIR & GEOTHERMAL WATERS

Today's drive brings you to the Lake Mývatn area, a hotbed of volcanic landscapes such as the Námaskarð Pass, Skútustaðagígar pseudo-craters, Dimmuborgir lava formations and Krafla, one of Iceland's most fascinating volcanoes. Later, take a dip in the soothing geothermal waters of the Mývatn Nature Baths, the perfect way to relax after a full day of sightseeing.

Spend the night in the Lake Mývatn area.

*Driving distance approx. 165 km / 102 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Dimmuborgir - Krafla & Leirhnjúkur - Lake Mývatn - Námafjall

DAY  
**9**

## DAY 9: JÖKULSÁRGLJÚFUR NATIONAL PARK

Use this day to explore more of Lake Mývatn and its unique surroundings. We recommend a drive through the Jökulsárgljúfur part of Vatnajökull National Park, visiting such sights as the Ásbyrgi canyon and Dettifoss, the most powerful waterfall in Europe. Another great option is to join a whale watching tour at the nearby village of Húsavík, "the whale watching capital of Europe".

Spend another night in the Lake Mývatn area.

*Driving distance approx. 250 km / 155 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Dimmuborgir - Krafla & Leirhnjúkur - Lake Mývatn - Mývatn Nature Baths - Námafjall

DAY  
**10**

## DAY 10: AKUREYRI & NORTH ICELAND

Spend the first half of the day exploring the Lake Mývatn region. We recommend a visit to Goðafoss (the Waterfall of the Gods) on your way to the charming town of Akureyri, where you will find interesting shops and museums as well as a well-kept botanical garden.

After your time in Akureyri head to Tröllaskagi (the Peninsula of the Trolls), where you can enjoy fantastic scenery of beautiful mountains, jagged cliffs and wide fjords. Then, continue through Siglufjörður, which was once the centre of Iceland's herring fleet, and make a stop at Hofsós to relax in the thermal pool (optional) before arriving to Skagafjörður, an area known for its abundance of purebred Icelandic horses.

Spend the night in the Skagafjörður area.

*Driving distance approx. 255 km / 158 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Akureyri - Dalvík - Goðafoss - Hrísey - Siglufjörður - Skagafjörður

DAY  
**11**

## DAY 11: EXPERIENCE WEST ICELAND

Head to West Iceland, an area with very diverse attractions, including the twin waterfalls Hraunfossar and Barnafoss along with the Deildartunguhver hot spring, and Háafell Goat Farm. You have the choice of joining several optional activities such as Krauma geothermal baths, the lava tunnel Víðgelmir, venturing inside a glacier or experiencing a snowmobile tour on top of a glacier. For those interested in the Viking history of Iceland, a stop at the Icelandic Settlement Center in Borgarnes is highly recommended.

Spend the night in the Borgarfjörður area.

*Driving distance approx. 310 km / 192 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Borgarfjörður - Deildartunguhver - Hraunfossar & Barnafoss

DAY  
**12**

## DAY 12: SNÆFELLSNES GLACIER & NATIONAL PARK

Today you have the option of exploring the dramatic Snæfellsnes peninsula. We recommend starting the day early as you have a full day of highlights ahead of you, ranging from black sand beaches, caves, waterfalls, glaciers and charming fishing villages. Snæfellsjökull National Park is well known for its rich birdlife, lush valleys and desolate lava fields. It's an ideal road trip to drive around the peninsula, exploring Dritvík Cove, Lóndrangar Cliffs as well as Hellnar and Arnarstapi Cliffs with its bursting birdlife and the small villages along the coast. You may want to test your strength at the stones of the black volcanic beach of Djúpalónssandur like the sailors did in past times, to prove their strength and get choice roles on the fishing ships.

Spend the night in the Borgarfjörður area

*Driving distance approx. 295 km / 183 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Arnarstapi - Búðir - Dritvík Cove - Hellnar - Kirkjufell - Snæfellsjökull National Park

DAY  
**13**

## DAY 13: HIDDEN GEMS AND THE WONDERS OF THE BLUE LAGOON

Complete the ring road of Iceland by heading to the capital, Reykjavik. Those who would like to experience some hidden gems, we recommend a relaxing drive via Hvalfjörður fjord. There you will find Glymur, a tall beautiful waterfall but the hike to the top requires sturdy shoes, moderate fitness level, and favourable weather. It is indeed worth the hike if you are looking for spending some quality time in nature. Other sights include Bjartisandur, a charming farm where you can dine on local fresh food and even join a farm tour with the owners. Hvalfjörður is a scenic drive where the locals from Reykjavik enjoy going for picnics and hikes.

If time allows you could even venture out on a road trip to the volcanic peninsula of Reykjanes where you can take a dip into the Blue Lagoon (not included) and explore Seltún hot spring area and enjoy the rocky cliffs along the edge of Reykjanes before dropping off the rental car in the afternoon or evening.

Spend the night in Reykjavik.

*Driving distance approx. 70 km / 44 mi.*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Blue Lagoon - Hvalfjörður - Reykjanes

DAY  
**14**

## DAY 14: DEPARTURE FROM ICELAND

As your amazing holiday comes to an end, transportation to Keflavík International Airport is provided via shuttle bus in time for your departure flight.

*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.*