

SOUTH & WEST ICELAND AT LEISURE

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: ARRIVAL & LEISURE DAY IN REYKJAVIK

On arrival to Keflavik Airport, you will be greeted by a driver who will take you to your accommodation in Reykjavik. 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 central Reykjavik.

Attractions: Reykjavik

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DAY 2: WEST ICELAND: HOT SPRINGS & GLACIER ADVENTURES

Begin your journey today by driving through the bountiful Borgarfjörður area. Sights along the way include the twin waterfalls Hraunfossar and Barnafoss along with the Deildartunguhver hot spring, and Háafell Goat Farm. You also have the choice of joining several optional activities such as relaxing at the Krauma geothermal baths, visiting the lava tunnel Víðgelmir, venturing inside a glacier or experiencing a thrilling 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. 185 km / 115 mi.

Attractions: Borgarfjörður, Deildartunguhver, Glanni Waterfall, Hraunfossar & Barnafoss, Húsafell

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DAY 3: THE WONDERS OF SNÆFELLSNES

Today you will drive to the geographically diverse Snæfellsnes peninsula, which some call "Iceland in miniature" for its various landscapes. Here, you can see the mighty Snæfellsjökull glacier, believed by many to be one of Earth's seven major energy centres. It was also used as the backdrop to Jules Verne's famous novel "Journey to the Centre of the Earth."

Your drive along the scenic coast offers sights like the Dritvík Cove, the Lóndrangar cliffs, the Arnarstapi cliffs, the hamlet of Hellnar and other small fishing villages. For a fun photo opportunity and to experience a blast from the past, you can also visit Djúpalónssandur, a pebble-filled beach with four famous "lifting stones" that were used in old days to test men's strength for jobs on fishing boats. Do you have what it takes to lift the stones?

Spend the night in the Borgarfjörður area.

Driving distance approx. 330 km / 205 mi.

Attractions: Arnarstapi, Búðir, Djúpalónssandur, Dritvík Cove, Lóndrangar, Snæfellsjökull National Park, Stykkishólmur

DAY 4: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

Today's journey takes you up close to some of Iceland's most popular attractions on the classic "Golden Circle" route. 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. 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 every few minutes.

End the circle with a visit to the two-tiered Gullfoss waterfall, one of Iceland's most memorable sights.

Spend the night in the Selfoss area.

Driving distance approx. 230 km / 143 mi.

Attractions: Geysir, Gullfoss, Kerið, Þingvellir

DAY 5: A FULL DAY FOR ACTIVITIES & ADVENTURES

The next couple of days will be spent along the south coast, where there are so many highlights and activities to explore. Our staff recommends optional activities like rafting Hvítá river, horseriding, snorkeling in the Silfra ravine in Þingvellir, venturing inside a volcano, or visiting one of the geothermal spas in the area such as the Secret Lagoon or Fontana. For hiking enthusiasts, we recommend the well-maintained trail on the Hengill mountain above Hveragerði, a popular path among bubbling mud pots ending up at a warm river where you can bathe with fellow travellers in natural surroundings.

Spend the night in the Selfoss area.

Driving distance Varying

DAY 6: HIGHLANDS, LOWLANDS & ISLANDS OF THE SOUTHWEST

Today is ideal to explore more of the southwest region of Iceland. Travel throughout the Þjórsárdalur valley, where 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!

Furthermore, on good summer days there is nothing quite like visiting the Westman Islands, just off the coast of the south. The ferry departs from Landeyjarhöfn harbour several times a day (prebooking is recommended), and we recommend bringing your rental car so you can explore the island at your own pace. Or, you can book a guided tour as there are long walking distances between the highlights of the island. Sights include Cape Stórhöfði, the Eldheimar museum, a boat tour around the island, puffin watching and hiking on the volcano above the town with breathtaking views over the small islands.

Spend the night in the Selfoss area.

Attractions: Gjáin Valley, Hjálparfoss, Westman Islands, Þjórsárdalur

DAY 7: WATERFALLS & BLACK LAVA BEACH

Start with a visit to the fairytale-like Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where you can enjoy the unique experience of venturing behind the misty cascade. Just a short drive brings you to yet another gorgeous waterfall, the 60-meter tall Skógafoss which is perfect to photograph and roam the surroundings. Your next stop is at the stunning black volcanic sand beach south of Vík, where you can see the jagged basalt rock formations of Reynisdrangar and Dyrhólaey. Continue along the South Coast to Kirkjubæjarklaustur.

Spend the night in the Kirkjubæjarklaustur area.

Driving distance approx. 200 km / 124 miles

Attractions: Dyrhólaey, Mýrdalsjökull, Katla & Sólheimajökull, Reynisfjara & Reynisdrangar, Seljalandsfoss, Skógafoss

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DAY 8: SKAFTAFELL AND JÖKULSÁRLÓN GLACIER LAGOON

Explore Skaftafell, part of Vatnajökull National Park and a place of great beauty with many interesting hiking trails, including a short walk to the beautiful Svartifoss waterfall. In this area you can go on a guided glacier walk or try your hand at ice-climbing with an optional guided tour. Then head to the spectacular Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon and the Fjallsárlón ice lagoon where you can take a boat ride among the floating icebergs and view chunks of ice scattered on the black sand beach by Jökulsárlón, also known as the diamond beach. Head back to your accommodation for the night.

Spend the night in the Kirkjubæjarklaustur area.

Driving distance approx. 240 km / 149 miles

Attractions: Diamond Beach, Fjallsárlón, Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, Skaftafell, Svartifoss

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DAY 9: SOUTH COAST TO THE VOLCANIC REYKJANES PENINSULA

Drive along the south coast to the Reykjanes peninsula, making worthwhile stops along the way including the Fjaðrarárgljúfur canyon and the Dverghamrar "elf cliffs". Once you have traversed the road under Eyjafjallajökull and Mýrdalsjökull you will continue to the volcanic wonderland of Reykjanes Peninsula.

We recommend visiting the bubbling mud pots at Seltún and Lake Kleifarvatn before reaching the world famous Blue Lagoon geothermal Spa (entrance not included)*. The Blue Lagoon's water is rich in silica and blue-green algae, giving the lagoon its reputed healing powers and characteristic milky blue colour. In-water massages are available (must be booked in advance) but you can also unwind in the saunas and steam baths or get a soothing massage under the mini waterfall. Head to the capital where you will be dropping the rental car in the late afternoon before relaxing at your accommodation for your last day in Iceland.

Spend the night in Reykjavik.

Driving distance approx. 370 / 230 mi.

***Reservations are required well in advance at the Blue Lagoon for both entrance and in-water treatments.**

Attractions: Blue Lagoon, Bridge Between Continents (Leif the Lucky bridge), Kleifarvatn, Krýsuvík & Seltún geothermal area

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DAY 10: DEPARTURE FROM ICELAND

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

Attractions: Reykjavík

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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