

ICELAND ULTIMATE ADVENTURE

ITINERARY

DAY
1

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN REYKJAVÍK

Upon 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 Reykjavik.

Attractions: Reykjavik

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 learn about 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 metres into the air every few minutes. Complete the circle with visits to the majestic Gullfoss waterfall and the impressive implosion crater of Kerið.

Spend the night in the Selfoss area.

Driving distance approx. 180 km / 112 mi.

Attractions: Geysir, Gullfoss, Kerið, Þingvellir

DAY
3

DAY 3: SCENIC SOUTH ICELAND

Enjoy the day in the region surrounding Selfoss, where you can spend time hiking or book an optional activity like snorkelling between the continents at Þingvellir National Park, or simply spend 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!

Spend another night in the Selfoss area.

Attractions: Gjáin Valley, Hekla, Þjórsárdalur

DAY

4

DAY 4: BLACK SAND BEACHES OF THE SOUTH COAST

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. On the way to the village of Vík, you can make a stop at the black sand beach south of the village, from where you can view the jagged 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.

Attractions: Dyrhólaey, Fjaðrárgljúfur, Reynisfjara & Reynisdrangar, Seljalandsfoss, Skógafoss

DAY

5

DAY 5: ENORMOUS GLACIERS AND TOWERING ICEBERGS

Enjoy Skaftafell, a 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.

Attractions: Diamond Beach, Fjallsárlón, Höfn, 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/Seyðisfjörður area.

Driving distance approx. 259 km / 161 mi.

Attractions: Búlandstindur, Djúpivogur, Egilsstaðir & Lagarfljót, Fáskrúðsfjörður

DAY

7

DAY 7: UNIQUE DISCOVERIES IN THE EAST FJORDS

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.

Spend the night in the Egilsstaðir/Seyðisfjörður area.

Driving distance approx. 143 km / 89mi.

Attractions: Bakkagerði, Borgarfjörður Eystri, Seyðisfjörður

DAY

8

DAY 8: THE POWERFULL DETTIFOSS WATERFALL

Start the driving toward the beautiful surroundings of Mývatn, region known for unique landscapes, flourishing birdlife, and a hotbed of volcanic activity. Before reaching Mývatn, visit the thundering Dettifoss waterfall, the most powerful in all of Europe. It stands an impressive 45 metres high and 100 metres across, and it's thrilling to watch the roaring white rapids drop into Dettifoss' deep gorge. End the day with a relaxing visit to the Mývatn Nature Baths, with its warm, healing, milky blue waters soothing your body after a long day (optional: not included).

Spend the night in the Lake Mývatn area.

Driving distance approx. 165 km / 102 mi.

Attractions: Dettifoss, Lake Mývatn

DAY

9

DAY 9: LAKE MÝVATN & HIKING TRAILS

Get ready for a long day of exploring Mývatn! The geological diversity of this region makes it a favourite for so many travellers. Drive to Dimmuborgir, a fascinating area comprised of caves and rock formations, that was created by lava flows from hundreds of years ago. Krafla is another special highlight you won't want to miss. The impressive caldera stands more than 800 metres tall. The surrounding area of Krafla is home to an active geothermal region with bubbling mud springs and fumaroles. Also check out Leirhnjúkur, an active and colourful volcano, as well as the Viti crater, which has a stunning bright blue lake in its centre.

Spend the night in the Lake Mývatn area.

Driving distance approx. 170 km / 105 mi.

Attractions: Dimmuborgir, Krafla & Leirhnjúkur, Lake Mývatn, Námafjall

DAY
10

DAY 10: EXPLORE IMPRESSIVE NATURAL SITES OF THE NORTH

Húsavík is a cute coastal town famous for its whale watching tours. Join an optional tour at the harbour to get a glimpse of these impressive mammals. Meanwhile, a trip to Ásbyrgi canyon is another can't-miss highlight. The lush surroundings in the horseshoe-shaped canyon are lovely to stroll, admiring the diverse birdlife, and rocky landscape. Next, drive to Vesturdalur in Vatnajökull National Park to see Hljóðaklettur, a collection of basalt columns that create an arched cave. There are two well-marked hiking paths around the region.

Spend the night in Akureyri area.

Driving distance approx. 272 km / 169 mi.

Attractions: Húsavík, Lake Mývatn

DAY
11

DAY 11: RELAX IN AKUREYRI

Today explore the charming town of Akureyri, the unofficial capital of north Iceland. There are numerous museums, galleries, and cafes to visit, as well as outdoor areas like the botanical gardens and the harbour area to roam. You could also stroll along the historical town centre on the streets of Hafnarstræti and Aðalstræti to view the old houses and visit the Nonni Museum. If you are interested in Iceland's quirky Christmas traditions, take a drive to Jóláhúsið (Christmas House), which is just outside of town and where you can learn about Icelandic Yuletide traditions and the thirteen "Yule lads", the local Santa alternatives. Enjoy dinner at one of Akureyri's many fine dining restaurants.

Spend the night in Akureyri area.

Attractions: Akureyri, Eyjafjörður, Goðafoss

DAY
12

DAY 12: THE TROLL PENINSULA & SKAGAFJÖRÐUR

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. 155 km / 96 mi.

Attractions: Dalvík, Hrísey, Siglufjörður, Skagafjörður

DAY

13

DAY 13: JOURNEY TO THE WESTFJORDS

Today marks the beginning of your journey around the beautiful West Fjords, one of the most remote, unspoilt regions in Iceland. Sights along the way include the countless mounds of Vatnsdalshólar, the Borgarvirki natural fortress, the Hvítserkur rock formation (which some say resembles a rhino) and Illugastaðir, where you are likely to find seals at play. Continue the drive to Hólmavík where you will find the Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft Museum, the Sorcerer's Cottage and the hot natural pools in Dranganes are also well worth a visit.

Spend the night in the Hólmavík area.

Driving distance approx. 333 km / 207 mi.

Attractions: Borgarvirki, Hólmavík, Hvítserkur

DAY

14

DAY 14: ÍSAFJÖRÐUR - THE CAPITAL OF THE WESTFJORDS

Today's journey is characterized by endless but dramatic fjords and towering mountains. In Ísafjörður, the biggest settlement in the region, you'll find some of the most historic houses in Iceland, dating back to the mid-18th century. In the afternoon, we suggest a drive to Bolungarvík for a visit to the Ósvör Maritime Museum and a visit to the radar station on top of Bolafjall where, on a clear day, you can have amazing views over the uninhabited Hornstrandir Nature Reserve.

Spend the night in the Ísafjörður area.

Driving distance approx. 220 km / 137 mi.

Attractions: Bolafjall Mountain, Ísafjörður

DAY

15

DAY 15: HIKING TRAILS & SIGHTSEEING

Today we recommend joining a guided boat tour from Ísafjörður to the small, charming island of Vigur, where you can see an abundance of birds in their natural environment including eider ducks, arctic terns, puffins, black guillemot, and more (when in season). Today can also be spent enjoying the scenic nature surrounding Ísafjörður, joining optional activities such as a guided walk, kayaking tour and enjoying a unique dining experience at the well-known Tjöruhúsið restaurant, which serves fresh fish from the local fishermen.

Spend the night in the Ísafjörður area.

Attractions: Bolafjall Mountain, Ísafjörður

DAY
16

DAY 16: DYNJANDI WATERFALL & AUTHENTIC ICELAND

Drive to Dýrafjörður, where you will find the trail of the Viking Saga hero Gisli Súrsson as well as Skríður, the oldest botanical garden in Iceland. Then head to Hrafnseyri, where you can visit a museum dedicated to Jón Sigurðsson, hero of Iceland's battle for independence. Next up is the impressive seven-tiered Dynjandi waterfall on your way to the breath-taking Látrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Europe. There you can get a closer look at some of the millions of nesting sea birds such as puffins and razorbills (when in season).

Spend the night in the Patreksfjörður area.

Driving distance approx. 170 km / 105 mi.

Attractions: Dýrafjörður, Hrafnseyri, Látrabjarg

DAY
17

DAY 17: LÁTRABJARG & RAUÐISANDUR

This is a great day for hiking, bird watching and photography as you have plenty of time to explore more of Iceland's westernmost region. Enjoy a walk along the cliffs at Látrabjarg, where you might be able to get a good look at nesting birds such as puffins and razorbills (when in season). Then drive to the sand mounds of Sauðlauksdalur, the "home of the Icelandic potato", and to Rauðisandur to view the breath-taking sand beach.

Spend the night in the Patreksfjörður area.

Driving distance approx. 143 km / 89 mi.

Attractions: Látrabjarg, Rauðisandur

DAY
18

DAY 18: THE HIDDEN CHARMS OF FLATEY ISLAND

Drive from Látrabjarg to Brjánslækur to catch the Baldur ferry that sails through the Breiðafjörður fjord to Flatey, a tranquil island with its well-preserved wooden houses, rich birdlife and pristine natural beauty. Cars are not allowed on this small island so the ferry will transport your car to the port at Stykkishólmur where you will pick it up the next day. Spend the night on Flatey Island*

Driving distance approx. 55 km / 34 mi.

***Note that the hotel is only open from June to August and in case the hotel is fully booked, the night will be moved to the Snæfellsnes peninsula. The Hotel in Flatey only offers rooms with shared bathroom facilities but is our only choice for both Economy & Comfort Plus accommodation on the island.**

Attractions: Breiðafjörður & Flatey

DAY

19

DAY 19: FLATEY & SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA

Spend the morning in Flatey and then board the ferry to Stykkishólmur on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Take a little time to explore this charming port town with its lovely harbour and ocean views. From there you can drive to Helgafell, where legend has it that you will be granted one wish if you walk up the mountain. And make sure not to miss the beautiful mountain of Kirkjufell in Grundarfjörður.

Spend the night on Snæfellsnes peninsula.

Driving distance approx. 130 km / 81 mi.

Attractions: Kirkjufell, Stykkishólmur

DAY

20

DAY 20: SNÆFELLSJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK

Explore the magical Snæfellsjökull National Park with its diverse birdlife, lush valleys, rugged lava fields and towering glacier-capped volcano. Driving along the coast of this scenic peninsula you can stop to visit such sights as Dritvík Cove, the Lóndrangar Cliffs, Hellnar, the Arnarstapi Cliffs and small fishing villages on the coast. You may also wish to test your strength at Djúpalónssandur, a black volcanic beach with “lifting stones” that sailors in old days used to prove their strength and determine their roles on the fishing boats. Continue to Reykjavík where you will be ending the circle tour around the Island.

Spend the night in Reykjavík.

Driving distance approx. 170 km / 105 mi.

Attractions: Arnarstapi, Búðir, Dritvík Cove, Hellnar, Lóndrangar

DAY

21

DAY 21: DEPARTURE FROM ICELAND

If your flight is in the afternoon, use the morning to relax or enjoy one last stroll through the city centre. Transfer by shuttle bus to Keflavík International Airport in time for your departure flight.

Attractions: Flatey

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.

Nordic Visitor | Tel: +354 578 20 80 | info@nordicvisitor.com | nordicvisitor.com