

HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTH & WEST

ICELAND

ITINERARY

DAY

1

DAY 1: ARRIVAL & EXPLORING REYKJAVIK

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 Reykjavik.

HIGHLIGHTS: Reykjavík

DAY

2

DAY 2: GULLFOSS, GEYSIR & THE KJÖLUR HIGHLAND ROAD

Start the day by collecting your rental car and driving to the Geysir geothermal region where you can watch geysers shoot water and steam metres into the air every few minutes, before driving to the picture-perfect Gullfoss waterfall.

Next, travel to the Kjölur highland road – once notorious as a refuge for outlaws – located between the Langjökull and Höfsjökull glaciers to Hveravellir, a high-temperature geothermal area with smoking fumaroles and sky-blue boiling pools. There you can find stunning landscapes off the beaten track, as well as natural hot pools popular with bathers. **Note: The Kjölur road is only accessible to "F-road" approved rental vehicles, so make sure to choose a 4x4 vehicle type when booking this tour if you wish to travel this route.**

Spend the night in Skagafjörður.

Driving distance approx: 330 km/205 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Geysir - Gullfoss - Hveravellir - Kjölur - Skagafjörður

DAY

3

DAY 3: TROLL PENINSULA, AKUREYRI & LUSH LAKE MÝVATN

The scenery on today's route is impressive, weaving along the beautiful mountains, cliffs and fjords of Tröllaskagi, "The Troll Peninsula". You may choose to take a break in the town of Hofsós for a soak in the geothermal pool that offers amazing views over the bay. Further ahead on your route is Siglufjörður, a colourful village that was once the prosperous herring centre of Iceland. It has a numerous interesting museums, a bustling harbour, and divine restaurants, as well as being close to well-marked hiking trails and pristine nature.

Next up is Akureyri, the unofficial "capital of North Iceland" which you will have more time to explore on day 5 so today you will drive through the town on your way to Lake Mývatn. Enjoy a visit to Goðafoss (the Waterfall of the Gods) on your way to Mývatn, a region of surreal landscapes, hot springs and other unique geothermal and volcanic features. It's ideal to end the day visiting the Mývatn Nature Baths (optional; not included), where guests can relax in the soothing milky blue heated waters.

Spend the night in the Lake Mývatn area.

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Driving distance approx: 260 km/161 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Goðafoss - Hofsó - Hverfjall - Lake Mývatn - Siglufjörður

DAY

4

DAY 4: EXPLORE IMPRESSIVE NATURAL SITES OF THE NORTH

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 Hljóðaklettar, a collection of basalt columns that create an arched cave. There are two well-marked hiking paths around the region if you're up for some outdoor activities.

Next, 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.

Spend the night in the Lake Mývatn area.

Driving distance approx: 250 km/155 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Ásbyrgi - Dettifoss - Hljóðaklettar - Húsavík - Jökulsárgljúfur National Park

DAY

5

DAY 5: EXPLORE LAKE MÝVATN: DIMMUBORGIR, KRAFLA & BUBBLING MUD POTS

Spend the first part of the day exploring the last highlights you've got yet to cover in Lake Mývatn. Noteworthy attractions here include the sizzling mud-pots at Námafjall, the moon-like pseudocraters at Skútustaðir, the lava maze of Dimmuborgir and the Krafla volcanic area, just to name a few. Afterwards head to Akureyri where you have time to relax and enjoy the evening. Have dinner at one of Akureyri's many fine dining restaurants.

Spend the night in Akureyri.

Driving distance approx: 100 km/62mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Akureyri - Dimmuborgir - Krafla & Leirhnjúkur - Námafjall - Skútustaðagígir Pseudo-Craters

DAY

6

DAY 6: CHARMING AKUREYRI & THE RUGGED NORTH WEST

Spend the morning exploring the charming town of Akureyri. 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.

From Akureyri, you will drive to Skagafjörður, a region rich with culture, purebred Icelandic horses and numerous natural sites. In this area you can stroll along a black sand beach, explore the turf houses of Glaumbær, enjoy a horse riding adventure or join other optional activities.

Spend the night in the Varmahlíð/Hvammstangi area.

Driving distance approx: 200 km/124 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Akureyri - Eyjafjörður - Glaumbær - Skagafjörður - Vatnsdalshólar

DAY

7

DAY 7: THE SCENIC SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA

Today you will be driving to 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 diverse birdlife and the small villages along the coast.

You might also try lifting the heavy stones on 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 Snæfellsnes peninsula area.

Driving distance approx: 270 km/168 mi.

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

DAY

8

DAY 8: WEST COAST ADVENTURES

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

Continue to the capital of Iceland, Reykjavik, where you will be spending your last night in Iceland.

Spend the night in the Reykjavík.

Driving distance approx: 290 km/180 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Borgarfjörður - Deildartunguhver - Hraunfossar & Barnafoss - Húsafell

DAY

9

DAY 9: 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.

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