

# SOUTH & WEST ICELAND AT LEISURE - WINTER ITINERARY

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## DAY 1: WELCOME TO 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 and its many museums, restaurants and bars for all tastes. Head to the main street, Laugavegur, to enjoy its various shops and cosy cafes.

Spend the night in Reykjavik.

**Attractions:** Reykjavík

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## DAY 2: EXPLORING BEAUTIFUL BORGARFJÖRÐUR

Collect your rental car this morning and drive to the historical Borgarfjörður region of west Iceland today. Worthwhile natural sights in the region include the Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls that tumble over a lava field and Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring. You have the option of signing up for optional activities today like the manmade ice tunnel Into the Glacier and a visit to Krauma, the newly-opened baths adjacent to Deildartunguhver. For those interested in the history of Iceland, a visit to the Icelandic Settlement Centre in the town of Borgarnes is recommended.

Spend the night in the Borgarnes area.

*Driving distance approx. 196 km / 121 mi.*

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

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## DAY 3: THE MAGICAL SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA

From Borgarnes begin your journey to Snæfellsjökull National Park on Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Highlights of your driving route today include Dritvík Cove, the dramatic bird cliffs of Lóndrangar, Hellnar and Arnarstapi as well as idyllic seaside villages. And if you think that you have what it takes to be an Icelandic fisherman, you can test your strength with the “lifting stones” on the beach at Djúpalónssandur, just like fishermen did in the old days.

Spend the night in the Borgarnes area.

*Driving distance approx. 323 km / 200 mi.*

**Attractions:** Arnarstapi, Búðir, Dritvík Cove, Hellnar, Kirkjufell, Snæfellsjökull National Park, Stykkishólmur

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## DAY 4: NATIONAL PARK & NORTHERN LIGHTS

Today your journey takes you to some of the best-known natural phenomena in Iceland, on what is commonly called the "Golden Circle". The first stop on this popular route in south-western Iceland is Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its natural beauty, unique geology and historical significance. Next, you will drive to the impressive Kerið implosion crater than has a pool of blue water in the centre. Make your way to your accommodation for the evening. If the conditions are right, you might be able to get a glimpse of the northern lights tonight\*.

Spend the night in the Selfoss area.

*\*Please note that the northern lights are a natural phenomenon, so sightings cannot be guaranteed.*

*Driving distance approx. 139 km / 86 mi.*

**Attractions:** Hvalfjörður, Kerið, Þingvellir

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## DAY 5: COMPLETE THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

Today, you will complete the Golden Circle route today. Drive to the Haukadalur region, which is a hot-bed of geothermal activity. Here, you can see the frequently bursting Strokkur geyser at the Geysir geothermal area. This sight reminds us that Iceland is very much alive with raw, natural energy. Next, drive to Gullfoss waterfall, which is an especially majestic sight in the wintertime. The two-tiered waterfall is perhaps the most famous in a land of breathtaking cascades.

Spend the night in the Selfoss area.

*Driving distance approx. 143 km / 88 mi.*

**Attractions:** Geysir, Gullfoss

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## DAY 6: EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN & OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Today you will create your own adventure. You can visit some sights of the Golden Circle that you missed or want to see again, or attractions like the Faxi waterfall and the charming Friðheimar farm. At Friðheimar you can tour the tomato greenhouses, buy local products at their market and even enjoy a tomato-based lunch (meal must be booked in advance). You can also choose an optional activity like snorkelling in Þingvellir National Park.

Spend another night in the Selfoss area.

## DAY 7: THE SCENIC SOUTH COAST

Start the day with a visit to Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where you can follow a path behind its misty cascade. The next waterfall you will see, Skógafoss, is just as impressive in its winter coat and also has a trail running alongside it up the hill. Nearby is the Skógar Folk Museum, where we recommend exploring the old turf farm or checking out the historical exhibits inside. Next, your journey today takes you towards Vík, where you can see the dramatic black sand beaches\* of the region. Then head to your accommodation for the evening.

*\*Caution should always be exercised when visiting Reynisfjara beach near Vík due to powerful rogue/sneaker waves and the strong undertow current. Always stay far back from the water's edge and read the warning sign before walking on the beach.*

Spend the night in the Kirkjubæjarklaustur area

*Driving distance approx. 203 km / 126 mi.*

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

## DAY 8: FLOATING ICEBERGS AT JÖKULSÁRLÓN & DIAMOND BEACH

Take your time and enjoy Skaftafell, part of the immense Vatnajökull National Park and a place of great natural beauty. Or if you're feeling more adventurous, join an optional guided glacier hike or ice climbing excursion\*. After some time exploring Skaftafell, head to the amazing Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon, by far one of Iceland's most popular sights. This incredible maze of floating icebergs is a photographer's dream, and you can sometimes even see curious seals swimming around. Then stop by the Diamond Beach, where you will see chunks of ice glistening on the black sands before continuing to the smaller lagoon, Fjallsárlón.

*\*venturing onto a glacier or engaging in ice climbing should only ever be attempted with the assistance of a licensed and experienced guide.*

Spend the night in the Kirkjubæjarklaustur area.

*Driving distance approx. 249 km / 154 mi.*

**Attractions:** Diamond Beach, Fjallsárlón, Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, Skaftafell, Vatnajökull National Park

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## DAY 9: GEOTHERMAL AREA OF REYKJANES PENINSULA

Head to the volcanic Reykjanes Peninsula. On a fissure zone created by separation of the mid-Atlantic ridge running across Iceland lies the large geothermal area of Krýsuvík. Within the same area is the stunning Seltún geothermal field, where volcanic fumaroles, mud pots and hot springs have formed over millennia. Not far from the geothermal areas of Krýsuvík and Seltún is Kleifarvatn, the third largest lake in southern Iceland. Next, you can visit the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa surrounded by interesting lava formations—an especially unique experience in the winter (pre-booking needed). You also have the option of heading directly to Reykjavik, skipping the sights of Reykjanes.

Spend the night in Reykjavik.

*Driving distance approx. 341 km / 211 mi.*

**Attractions:** Blue Lagoon, Kleifarvatn, Krýsuvík & Seltún geothermal area, Reykjanes Peninsula

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## DAY 10: DEPARTURE

When it's time for your Iceland adventure to end, you will be picked up from the accommodation for your airport transfer 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).

*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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