

SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA & THE ARCTIC NORTH - WINTER

ITINERARY

DAY

1

DAY 1: ARRIVAL & REYKJAVIK

On arrival to Keflavik 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. If you're interested in checking out Icelandic design or experiencing the city's thriving coffee culture, head to the main street, Laugavegur, to enjoy its various shops and cosy cafes.

Spend the night in central Reykjavik.

HIGHLIGHTS: Reykjavík

DAY

2

DAY 2: SNÆFELLSJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK

Begin your journey to Snæfellsjökull National Park on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. The focal point here is undoubtedly the Snæfellsjökull glacier, believed by many to be one of Earth's seven major energy centres. It was also the setting of Jules Verne's famous novel *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*. Your drive along the coast also offers such sights as the Dritvík Cove, the Lóndrangar Cliffs, the Arnarstapi cliffs, the hamlet of Hellnar and other small fishing villages.

For a fun photo opportunity and a blast from the past, we suggest a visit to Djúpalónssandur, a pebble-filled beach with the legendary "lifting stones" that were used in the old days to test men's strength for jobs on fishing boats. Do you have what it takes to lift these?

Spend the night on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula.

Driving distance approx. 176 km / 109 mi.

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

DAY

3

DAY 3: SNÆFELLSNES, TROLLS & FJORDS

Spend the first half of the day exploring more of Snæfellsjökull National Park before heading towards the majestic fjords on Tröllaskagi, the "Troll Peninsula". Your drive takes you through the beautiful valley of Skagafjörður and the village of Hofsós, where we recommend a stop at the geothermal pool in for amazing views over the islands in the fjords. Then head to Siglufjörður, the historic centre of Iceland's herring fleet and a charming little town well-suited for both nature and culture lovers.

Spend the night in the Tröllaskagi area.

Driving distance approx. 350 km / 218 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Herring Era Museum - Hofsós - Siglufjörður - Skagafjörður - Snæfellsjökull National Park - Tröllaskagi

DAY

4

DAY 4: AKUREYRI - CAPITAL OF THE NORTH

On your drive to Akureyri, the “Capital of North Iceland”, the scenery includes some of the most beautiful mountains, cliffs and fjords of Iceland. On arrival to the city, take a break to enjoy the cosy cafés and small shops. We also recommend taking a walk in the historical town centre along the streets of Hafnarstræti and Aðalstræti to view the old houses and visit the Nonni Museum. For those that want to hit the slopes, Akureyri has one of Iceland’s best ski areas.

Another more leisurely option is to explore Eyjafjörður, the beautiful fjord where Akureyri is located. One of the notable sights in this area is Jólahúsið (“Christmas House”), where you can learn about Icelandic Yuletide traditions and the thirteen “Yule lads”, the local Santa alternatives. We also recommend the home-made ice cream from the nearby Holtsel farm, but remember to save some room for dinner at one of Akureyri’s charming restaurants!

Spend the **next three nights** in the Akureyri area.

Driving distance approx. 120 km / 75 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Akureyri - Mt. Hlíðarfjall

DAY

5

DAY 5: WONDERS OF LAKE MÝVATN

Start the day with a visit to Goðafoss (“Waterfall of the Gods”) on your way to Lake Mývatn, an area of surreal landscapes, hot springs and other unique geothermal features. Notable sights here include the sizzling mud-pots at Námafjall, the moon-like pseudo craters at Skútustaðir, the lava maze of Dimmuborgir and the Krafla volcanic area.

End the day with a relaxing soak at the Mývatn Nature Baths, a pool of warm geothermal water drawn from depths of 2,500 meters (optional; not included). Then head back to the Akureyri area for another good night’s sleep.

Driving distance approx. 204 km / 127 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Akureyri - Dimmuborgir - Goðafoss - Krafla & Leirhnjúkur - Lake Mývatn

DAY

6

DAY 6: DISCOVER NORTH ICELAND

This day is totally up to you! Among your many options, you can simply relax and enjoy the sights in Akureyri or take the car out for more exploration of Mývatn or the nearby fishing village of Húsavík. There are also optional guided day tours departing from the Akureyri town centre, such as an art and design walk, a visit to a local farm, a tour of the Icelandic Churches and more!

HIGHLIGHTS: Akureyri

DAY

7

DAY 7: CAPITAL OF HORSES & ICELANDIC SAGAS

Today you will reverse your journey and head back towards Skagafjörður, an area known for its abundance of Icelandic horses. Why not give horse riding a try here with a guided tour? If road conditions allow, you can also take a dip in Grettislaug, the natural hot pool on the Reykjanesströnd beach where Grettir the Strong, one of the most notorious outlaws of the Icelandic Sagas, is said to have bathed over a thousand years ago. And if you’re looking for another type of legendary experience, you might get lucky and see the northern lights dancing in the starry skies this evening.*

Spend the night in the Skagafjörður area

Driving distance approx. 100 km / 62 mi.

Driving distance approx. 120 km / 75 mi

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

HIGHLIGHTS: Skagafjörður

DAY

8

DAY 8: VIKING HERITAGE IN WEST ICELAND

Continue through beautiful West Iceland today. Notable sights on your way include the Grábrók volcanic crater, the Icelandic Settlement Centre in Borgarnes, Deildartunguhver—the largest hot spring in Europe—and the beautiful Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls. History or Nordic literature buffs may also find it worthwhile to stop at the medieval research institution of Snorrastofa in Reykholt, where Snorri Sturluson wrote the saga *Heimskringla* in the 13th century.

Spend the night in the Borgarfjörður area.

Driving distance approx. 230 km / 142 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Borgarnes - Deildartunguhver - Reykholt - Snorrastofa

DAY

9

DAY 9: 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 Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where you can walk on a path in the rift valley between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Next up is the Haukadalur geothermal area, home of 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, which is especially majestic in the wintertime. Then head back to Reykjavik and spend the evening at your leisure.

Spend the night in central Reykjavik.

Driving distance approx. 142 km / 89 mi.

HIGHLIGHTS: Geysir - Gullfoss - Kerið - Þingvellir

DAY

10

DAY 10: DEPARTURE

Transfer by shuttle bus to Keflavík International Airport in time for your departure flight. If you depart in the afternoon, you can do some last minute shopping at some of Reykjavik's boutiques or visit one of the city's many interesting museums. You also have the possibility to add a trip to the Blue Lagoon* to your transfer (optional).

Please be advised that daylight is limited in Iceland during the winter months, with about 4-5 hours of daylight during the holidays, from December to January. Winter in Iceland is considered to be from October to April.

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.

