

HIGHLAND EXPLORER - PRIVATE 4X4

TOUR

ITINERARY

DAY

1

DAY 1: ARRIVAL TO ICELAND AND REYKJAVIK

On arrival at Keflavik International Airport, you will be welcomed and driven to your accommodation in **Reykjavík**. After settling in, take the opportunity to explore the vibrant city centre at your own pace. The main downtown street, **Laugavegur**, offers a variety of shops, galleries, restaurants, coffee houses and bars to suit all tastes—all within an easy walk. Spend the rest of the evening at your leisure.

Spend the night in Reykjavík.

Average Driving Distance: 49km / 30 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 50 Minutes

HIGHLIGHTS: Reykjavík

DAY

2

DAY 2: HIDDEN HOT SPRINGS IN THE HIGHLANDS

This is the day you've been waiting for – the first of many adventures to some of Iceland's most wild landscapes with your own expert guide at the wheel. Your guide will pick you up at your accommodation and you'll head along the south coast into the **Þjórsárdalur** Valley, once a prosperous farmland until it was devastated by a volcanic eruption in 1104.

Further inland at the secluded **Landmannalaugar** area you can stop to bathe in a natural hot spring surrounded by nature before driving to the **Fjallabak** nature reserve. This drive takes you through an area sculpted by volcanoes and geothermal activity, covered by sands, lava fields, lakes and rivers. Continuing back towards inhabited land, you'll pass such otherworldly sites as Lake **Langisjór** near **Vatnajökull** glacier, the **Ófærufoss** waterfall and **Elgjá**, one of the largest volcanic canyons in the world.

Spend the night in the Kirkjubæjarklaustur area.

Please note: Today's journey can take up to 12 - 14 hours depending on road conditions and optional stops.

Average Driving Distance: 295 km / 183 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 12-14 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: Eldgjá - Fjaðrárgljúfur - Hjálparfoss - Landmannalaugar - Ófærufoss - Stöng - Þjórsárdalur

DAY

3

DAY 3: EUROPE'S LARGEST GLACIER & ICEBERGS

Spend the day exploring around the southern edge of the vast Vatnajökull National Park, the huge swath of protected land surrounding Europe's largest glacier. Here, you will get to experience some of Iceland's most famous scenery – the deep blue ice and stark, jagged rock formations that often adorn postcards.

The **Skaftafell** area of the park offers a great cross-section of Iceland's natural contrasts, and you can hike (4 km total) to the **Svartifoss** waterfall, with its cliffs of dark, hexagonal basalt columns. If the refreshing walk has you thinking about ice, you'll be delighted by the next stop on your journey, the famous **Jökulsárlón** glacier lagoon. Take your time to watch the blue icebergs floating in the mirror-like water, and if you're lucky you might spot some curious seals.

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Spend the night in the Höfn area.

Average Driving Distance: 203 km / 126 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: Diamond Beach - Fjallsárlón - Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon - Skaftafell - Svartifoss

DAY

4

DAY 4: ETHERAL EAST FJORDS & FISHING VILLAGES

Today the scenery completely changes, and instead of glaciers and icebergs your views will be of dramatic coastlines, steep mountainsides and secluded fishing villages as you weave around the **East Fjords**. Notable sights on the way include the majestic **Búlandstindur**, the delightful village of **Seyðisfjörður** and the **Lagarfljót** River, said to be inhabited by an enormous worm, a la the Loch Ness Monster. And of course, the photo opportunities from the roadside viewpoints are a major highlight here.

Spend the night in the Egilsstaðir area.

Average Driving Distance: 256 km / 159 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: Egilsstaðir & Lagarfljót - Seyðisfjörður

DAY

5

DAY 5: VOLCANIC HIGHLANDS & OTHERWORLDLY ASKJA

From **Egilsstaðir** it will be a long travel day, but you won't regret getting up early for all the incredible sites. You'll visit **Askja**, a deep (200 m) caldera-lake formed after the powerful volcanic eruption of 1875, and **Víti**, a smaller crater-lake formed the same year. Driving through this barren, unforgiving landscape -- where NASA once trained astronauts and where Icelandic outlaws hid in the Middle Ages -- is something you won't soon forget. Before arriving at your next destination, the fascinating **Lake Mývatn** area where you will spend the night you will stop by **Dettifoss**, the most powerful waterfall in Europe.

Spend the night in the Lake Mývatn area.

Average Driving Distance: 326 km / 202 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 10-12 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: Askja - Dettifoss - Lake Mývatn

DAY

6

DAY 6: NATURAL WONDERS OF THE NORTH

Start the day by exploring the surrounding area of Lake Mývatn, a region rich in birdlife and fascinating geological formations. Here the earth comes alive with the geothermal and volcanic forces that lie beneath, as you can see first-hand at places such as the steamy **Námaskarð** Pass, the **Skútustaðagígur** pseudo-craters, the **Dimmuborgir** lava formations and the **Krafla** volcano.

From here you will head to **Skagafjörður**, stopping on the way to admire the **Goðafoss** waterfall before reaching **Akureyri**, the "capital of the north". You will have some time to walk around this small city -- the second largest in Iceland -- before arriving at your accommodation for the night.

Spend the night in Skagafjörður.

Average Driving Distance: 202 km / 125 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 9-10 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: Akureyri - Dimmuborgir - Goðafoss - Námaskarð - Skútustaðagígur Pseudo-Craters

DAY

7

DAY 7: HIGHLAND DISCOVERY - A JOURNEY BETWEEN TWO GLACIERS

Today's journey is a true wilderness adventure, as you travel from north to south through the rugged interior. Following the old **Kjölur** highland route – once notorious as a refuge for outlaws – you'll come across some unique, primitive-looking landscapes, such as the smoking fumaroles and sky-blue boiling pools of **Hveravellir**, and travel between the **Langjökull** and **Hofsjökull** glaciers before reaching your accommodation for the night.

Spend the night in the highland area - Kerlingarfjöll.

Please Note: The Kerlingarfjöll lodge is a highland hotel and guesthouse and is only available in the comfort and budget categories. If Kerlingarfjöll happens to be sold out upon booking, we will book an alternative accommodation along the Golden Circle region.

Average Driving Distance: 167 km / 103 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: Hveravellir - Kjölur - Langjökull Glacier

DAY

8

DAY 8: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE & RETURN TO REYKJAVIK

Today you'll travel the famous Golden Circle route, one of the most popular areas in Iceland. If you aren't already astounded by the natural diversity in Iceland, this trip will make you appreciate just how many different natural wonders can be seen within a small area. The first attraction on this route is the UNESCO-listed **Pingvellir** National Park, a geological marvel and location of the country's first parliament over 1,000 years ago.

Next you will see Iceland's famous geothermal forces in action at the Haukadalur geothermal area, home of the great **Geysir** – from where we get the familiar English word geyser. But here it's the Strokkur geyser that steals the show, spouting a column of boiling water several meters into the air roughly every 8 minutes. End the route with visit to the two-tiered **Gullfoss** waterfall, where you can follow a trail to get closer to the roaring, misty cascade.

Spend the night in Reykjavik.

Average Driving Distance: 185 km / 114 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: Geysir - Gullfoss - Pingvellir

DAY

9

DAY 9: DEPARTURE DAY

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

Average Driving Distance: 49 km / 30 mi.

Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 50 Minutes

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.

