



Grand Tour of Iceland - 12 Days (#2881)

Note: Price printed on this PDF is valid until **10-12-2024** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

Overview

See areas which are left unexplored by most visitors!

Experience the spectacular splendour and untamed beauty of Iceland's nature, breath taking scenery and unique Icelandic history and culture. You will discover some of the most remote parts of the country and visit many well-known highlights as well. The Grand Tour of Iceland takes you on an unforgettable journey around Iceland including the Snæfellsnes Peninsula and the magical West Fjords. The tour features all the best the country has to offer. Each day combines touring by bus, going for light walks, enjoying soft adventures, and experiencing Icelandic culture and history. We stay in simple and charming guesthouses, farm- and tourist-class hotels, many of them set in the most stunning locations.

Trip Highlights

Iceland - Golden Circle - Snæfellsnes Peninsula & Ferry trip to West Fjords - Iceland's Westernmost Point - Iceland's Northernmost Town - Volcanic Lava Wonders - East Fjords and Geothermal Bathing - Vatnajökull National Park, Glaciers & Glacier Lagoon - South Coast



Detailed Itinerary

Day 01

Day 1 Welcome to Iceland

Individual transfer by Fly bus shuttle bus from Keflavik airport to your accommodation in Reykjavik. You may explore Iceland's capital city on your own if time allows.

Hotel: Foss hotel Reykjavik or similar in Reykjavík.

Meal: No Meal

Day 02

Day 2 Golden Circle

We see classic highlights today, the Golden Circle Route. We start with a visit to a geothermal greenhouse and watch how Icelanders grow tomatoes. Next door, we can take a selfie with an Icelandic horse and learn about its unique qualities and history. We explore Gullfoss, the beautiful double “Golden Falls”, and we walk through the active geothermal area of Geysir, where Strokkur “the churn” spouts up to 25 meters (70 feet) every five to seven minutes. The next stop is the ancient Viking Parliament area and UNESCO world heritage site of Þingvellir National Park. The Þingvellir plain is situated on a tectonic plate boundary where North America and Europe are slowly tearing away from each other. As a result, the plain is scarred by dramatic fissures, ponds, and rivers, including the great rift Almannagjá.

Hotel: Hotel Hamar, Borgarnes or similar

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 03

Day 3 Snæfellsnes Peninsula & Ferry trip to West Fjords

Today, we explore the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, which juts out from Iceland's West Coast. A rugged mountain chain runs its length, capped by the 1,446-meter Snæfellsjökull glacier, a mystical cone-shaped stratovolcano. We travel around the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, through lava fields, and along the ocean with many excellent Icelandic photo opportunities. We see the most popular sites at the Snæfellsnes National Park where volcanic craters, lava flows, an ice cap, glaciated peaks, fjords, sandy beaches, and high cliffs shape its landscapes. We follow the adventure of Jules Verne's classic science-fiction novel about “The Journey to the Center of the Earth”. Do not miss your chance to go on a trip to the interior of the earth under the glacier Snæfellsjökull! This lava cave tour takes you 35 meters underground and about 200 meters into the lava tube called



Vatnshellir. In the afternoon, we catch the car ferry Baldur from Stykkishólmur to Brjánslækur in the West Fjords. On the 2,5-hour journey over Breiðafjörður Bay, we pass the island of Flatey, which is inhabited only during the summertime. If the weather is beautiful, you will enjoy a magnificent view of the bay's countless isles as well as the glacier Snæfellsjökull.

Hotel: Fosshotel Westfjords, Patreksfjörður or similar.

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 04

Day 4 Iceland's Westernmost Point

We follow the coastline and stop at the folk and transport museum in Hnjótur. We continue through a very remote and sparsely populated region to the bird cliffs of Látrabjarg, the most abundant seabird cliff and the westernmost point of Iceland and Europe where you can see puffins from mid-May till mid-August. We take a walk in the wilderness to the top of the highest bird cliff in Iceland. Látrabjarg is known in the world for its density of Nordic birds. Puffins, razorbills, guillemots, fulmars, cormorants, kittiwakes, and other cliff birds flock either in hundreds, thousands and even in millions. Látrabjarg is a place where you can get very close to the seabirds, and even if you're not into bird watching, you are entertained by the comic puffins and mesmerized by the sheer number of birds. If weather and road conditions allow, we travel to Rauðisandur beach with endless red sand. Well, not endless but 10 km is a lot. The magnificent hues of the sand differ with daylight, tides, and weather. This pure sand beach is home to countless seabirds and seals and is an oasis of unique tranquillity. Forget everything, except maybe getting the perfect shot of the ever-changing hues of yellow, orange and red.

Hotel: Fosshotel Westfjords, Patreksfjörður or similar

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 05

Day 5 Beautiful West Fjords

We travel over mountains and along the shore of scenic fjords until we reach the majestic fjord Arnarfjörður, surrounded by high mountains. At the bottom of the fjord, we come across the unique waterfall Dynjandi with its seven levels of plunging water, declared the country's most beautiful waterfall by the people of Iceland. We continue over a mountain pass and along the southern shores of the West Fjords which is a route less travelled and is characterized by sheer cliffs, deep cut bays and narrow stretches of coastal lowland. We reach Erpsstaðir, a family run dairy farm best known for their ice cream and various other dairy products. Take a look at the milk production world and taste their unique ice cream directly from the farm, with local seasonal flavours.



Hotel: Hotel Laugarbakki, Hvammstangi or similar

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 06

Day 6 Heading North

Today's journey is a little bit of the beaten track, around the Vatnsnes peninsula. We pass the fishing village of Hvammstangi, also called the seal capital of Iceland. A gravel road takes us around the peninsula to Hvítserkur, a highlight on the east coast of the region; a mass of igneous rock, about 15 meters high, situated on the seashore where fulmars and gulls live. An old story has it that Hvítserkur is a petrified troll that intended to stone a nearby cloister, but dawn arrived before he could succeed. We continue to Kolugljúfur canyon, where waterfalls cascade into the deep, rugged gorge. It is a breath taking sight to walk on the viewing platform and watch the calm waters of the river suddenly leap and tumble onwards over so many impressive falls – a sight which will leave no one unmoved. Further north we stop at Víðimýri to visit one of the few preserved turf churches in Iceland. The church was built in 1834 and has turf walls, but timber gables both back and front. We continue along a high mountain road to Akureyri, also called the capital of North Iceland, where we stay for two nights.

Hotel: Sæluhús Studio Apartments, Akureyri or similar

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 07

Day 7 Iceland's Northernmost Town, Whale Watching & Sea Angling

Enjoy breakfast in the beautiful surrounding of the botanical garden in Akureyri. Afterwards enjoy a whale watching tour for 2-3 hours in Eyjafjörður – Iceland's longest fjord right below the Arctic Circle. For additional bonus and fun, try your luck at sea angling towards the end of the tour. In the afternoon see the spectacular fjord landscapes while travelling to Siglufjörður, Iceland's northernmost town, known as the herring capital of the North Atlantic. Siglufjörður is located on the mountainous Tröllaskagi Peninsula. On the way, we pass small fishing villages and stop at a deserted valley that even most Icelanders have not seen. Included is a visit to the Herring Era Museum in Siglufjörður, Iceland's largest maritime museum and the only one in Iceland that won the European Museum Awards. We won't miss the opportunity to taste the herring along with Brennivín, Icelandic schnapps.

Hotel: Sæluhús Studio Apartments, Akureyri or similar.

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner



Day 08

Day 8 Volcanic Lava Wonders and Geothermal bathing

We explore Goðafoss, the waterfall of the Gods, and continue to Lake Mývatn, known for its abundant bird life and amazing volcanic lava landscapes. We see pseudo craters, walk in the mysterious lava field Dimmuborgir, see the tephra cone Hverfjall, explore the hot springs, fumaroles, and bubbling mud pools of Námaskarð. We travel to Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall, in the northern part of Vatnajökull National Park. The round-trip walk takes about 40-60 minutes. We continue east through the bare and sometimes deserted landscape with mountains all around and head through the uninhabited highlands to East Iceland. We end the day at Vök baths, a geothermal floating pool in Lake Urriðavatn where guests can soak in hot water within and surrounded by the lake.

Hotel: Hotel Eskifjörður or similar.

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 09

Day 9 East Fjords

It's a day to admire the dramatic fjord landscape and its tiny fishing villages at the end of twisty roads in the East Fjords. First stop of the day is Petra's fascinating rock collection. A naturalist and a collector are two terms that have been used to describe Petra since she was a little girl. Petra collected for nearly 80 years this unique treasure of rocks, crystals, zeolites, quartz and more, all from the nearby area in the East Fjords. Finally, in the afternoon, we see Vatnajökull, Europe's biggest glacier visible all-over Southeast Iceland.

Hotel: Fosshotel Vatnajökull, Höfn in Hornafjörður or similar

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 10

Day 10 Vatnajökull National Park, Glaciers & Glacier Lagoon

Today we visit Vatnajökull National Park which covers about 14% of Iceland, making it Europe's 2nd largest national park in terms of area. We stop for a boat ride amongst the floating icebergs on the magnificent Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, considered one of the highlights on tour around Iceland. Next, we walk along the black sands of the so-called Diamond beach. We explore the region of Skaftafell that is nestled below Iceland's highest mountain and the second biggest stratovolcano in Europe, the 2.110-meter high Hvannadalshnúkur. We walk close to one of the many glacial tongues in the area – a true photo moment. We cross a sandy desert before reaching our overnight location Vík, the southernmost village in



Iceland.

Hotel: Hotel Vík, Vík in Mýrdalur or similar

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 11

Day 11 The South Coast

Today we travel along the South Coast of Iceland, between the sea, rugged mountains, glaciers, and waterfalls. We explore the black lava beach, Reynisfjara, and bird cliffs before stopping at the Skógafoss waterfall, another must-see location in South Iceland. The crashing water creates a mist that results in frequent and magical rainbows, just adding some more memorable experiences to the sheer beauty of this stunning scenery and place. Afterwards we visit Skógar folk museum with its turf houses assemblage of traditions of territorial relics on display. Later reach Seljalandsfoss waterfall where you can follow a slick and wet trail and walk right behind it. Come prepared and bring a raincoat and good boots as you will get wet. Then we visit the Lava & Volcano Exhibition Centre focused on geology and active volcanoes and watch a documentary film about volcanic eruptions in the past years in Iceland. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Reykjavík, Iceland's capital.

Hotel: Fosshotel Reykjavik or similar

Meal: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 12

Day 12 Departure Home

Individual transfer by Flybus shuttle from your accommodation in Reykjavik to Keflavik airport.

Breakfast included. (50km / 31mi)

Meal: Breakfast

Inclusions

- 11 nights accommodation, in rooms with shower/WC
- 10 days escorted tour with English-speaking guide/driver-guide
- Arrival & departure airport transfer by Fly bus shuttle (no guide)



- 11x breakfast
- 10x 3-course dinner
- Discover three national parks
- Lava cave in Snæfellsnes
- Ferry trip to the West Fjords
- Folk and transport museum at Hnjótur
- Farm visit
- Visit to a geothermal greenhouse and horse stables
- Herring museum
- Whale watching tour in Eyjafjörður fjord
- Vök Baths, including towel
- Petra's stone collection
- Boat trip on Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon
- Entrance to Skógar Folk Museum
- Exhibition and 4K movie at Lava Centre in Hvolsvöllur.

Complementary

- Free Wi-Fi on the bus

Exclusions

Any private expenses

Any additional services

Meals that are not listed under "included"

Single supplement (mandatory when in single room)

International airfares

Optional activities

Other meals, drinks, tips and other personal expenses or services not specified on the program

Personal equipment

Travel insurance

Gratuities

Voluntary tips for guides or drivers

Travel and medical insurance

Any items not mentioned as included



Note

Highlights & Experiences

- Complete escorted tour around Iceland including Snæfellsnes Peninsula & West Fjords
- Discover three National Parks
- Explore an 8000-year-old natural wonder Lava Cave
- Ferry trip to West Fjords
- Dynjandi waterfall - The Crown Jewel of Westfjords
- Relax at Vök Baths in the floating series of geothermal pools
- Sail among the huge icebergs in the picturesque scenery of Jökulsárlón (glacier lagoon)
- Experience authentic culture, visit small local museums and take a selfie with Icelandic horses
- See more sea-cliff birds than you can ever count (June-August)
- Small groups, maximum 20 people

Additional services

- Extra night in Reykjavik before/after the tour – on request.
- Upgrade for private airport transfer.

Start & End Location: Keflavik International Airport (Flybus shuttle)

Tour Pick-up Time: 09:00 on day 2 at Fosshótel Reykjavík (subject to change)

NOTE: Itineraries may be subject to change at short notice during severe weather conditions and certain outdoor activities/day trips may be cancelled during the winter season in Iceland. In these rare cases, where situations of force majeure apply, excursions/activities cannot be refunded but the local guides will try their best to find reasonable alternatives where and whenever possible.

NOTE: Accommodations are subject to change.

Children discount: No discount available. Tour is not recommended for children younger than eight years of age.

Triple rooms are double rooms with an extra bed and ideal for two adults and one child.

Maximum group size - 20 pax.

Program Touring / Guide

Escorted Experience



Departure Period

01 Jun, 2025 to 31 Aug, 2025

tourist-class hotel

AUD 12,180 P P twin share

AUD 15,741 P P single

AVAILABLE

