

## Escorted Tour: ACROSS THE WILDERNESS



### *Small-Group Sightseeing and Easy Nature Hikes*

Experience the otherworldly volcanic landscapes of Iceland's uninhabited interior. With a specially 4x4 mountain coach, travel off the beaten track through the untamed highlands of Iceland, highlighted by the multi-coloured mountains of the Landmannalaugar Nature Reserve and the barren black sands of Sprengisandur. When combined with other major attractions such as the Geysir geothermal area, Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon, and Dettifoss waterfall, this tour is sure to conquer the hearts of all first-time visitors, as well as those who have been here before.

- The tour includes some short, guided nature walks/hiking that let you experience more of Iceland's natural beauty.
- With our flexible itinerary there's always plenty of time to stop and experience the magnificence of Icelandic nature.
- Activity/Difficulty Level: 2 out of 5 (Easy)
  
- All departures are guaranteed with minimum of 2 participants
- Maximum group size: 24 people
- Excellent locally-based guides who know and are passionate about Iceland

### **Highlights**

- Discover the beauty and power of Iceland's wilderness, an area that few travellers visit
- Visit beloved "must see" natural wonders of the Golden Circle region and the South Shore
- Enjoy short guided walks/hikes that give you more insights into natural wonders
- Get a taste of adventure with travel on unpaved mountain tracks in a specially-outfitted vehicle
- Relax with hot spring bathing in the natural springs of Landmannalaugar
- Take part in protecting Icelandic nature with a visit to Iceland Travel's Reforestation project
- Enjoy the benefits of a small-group tour
- Stay in comfortable standard three star hotels well-situated to experience Iceland's nature and wilderness

### Travel Tips:

- We recommend comfortable trekking shoes/hiking shoes for this tour, as some of the walking is on unpaved surfaces.
- Some people like to bring hiking poles, though this is not a requirement
- We also suggest bringing a mosquito/fly head net for use on Day 7, as there can be harmless midges around Lake Myvatn. It's not required, but people often find it more comfortable.

### PRICE PER PERSON 2022:

June – August: 11 Days / 10 nights

Group English & \*French guided

	Double	Single	Triple
23*, 30* June, 14* Jul & 04*, 25 Aug	3126 EUR	3921 EUR	2939 EUR

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Group English & Dutch guided:

	Double	Single	Triple
07, <del>21</del> July, 11 August	3126 EUR	3921 EUR	2939 EUR

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Group Spanish guided:

	Double	Single	Triple
28 June, 26 July, 16 August	3126 EUR	3921 EUR	2939 EUR

Child 6-11 years sharing a double room with 2 adults will receive a 25% discount from the listed package price. Children 12 years and older pay full price. It is not recommended that children 0-5 years old travel on scheduled tours.

\* The touroperator reserves the right to guide these departures in English/French to ensure an optimal group size.

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### Included

- 9-day tour with expert local guide
- Free Wi-Fi on board tour vehicle
- Tour pick-up from Reykjavik hotel on Day 2 & drop-off at Reykjavik hotel on Day 10
- 2 nights in a standard room w/private facilities at a hotel in Reykjavik
- 8 nights in a standard room w/private facilities at a hotel in the countryside
- 10 Icelandic breakfast buffets (except arrival day)
- 8 two-course or buffet dinners in the countryside
- Guide service during dinners
- Participation in Reforestation Project in Haukadalur
- Zodiac Tour on Fjallsárlón Iceberg Lagoon
- Entrance to Eric the Red Museum
- Great photo stops
- Seat rotation during the tour

## Not included

- Breakfast on arrival day
- International airfare
- Baggage portage at airport/hotel
- Personal travel insurance (highly recommended)
- Round-trip transfers between airports and hotels
- Beverages, snacks, lunches, dinners unless otherwise noted in itinerary
- Guaranteed early check-in (check-in time for most hotels in Iceland starts between 14:00 and 16:00 (2:00pm and 4:00pm))
- Guaranteed late check-out
- Any service not specifically listed under “included”

## Optional activities:

- Geo Sea Geothermal Bath 41 EUR per adult, includes bathing fee and use of towel
- Evening Horse riding tour in the North 68 EUR per adult, duration 1,5 h including 1 hr guided riding tour, safety helmet.

## Accommodation

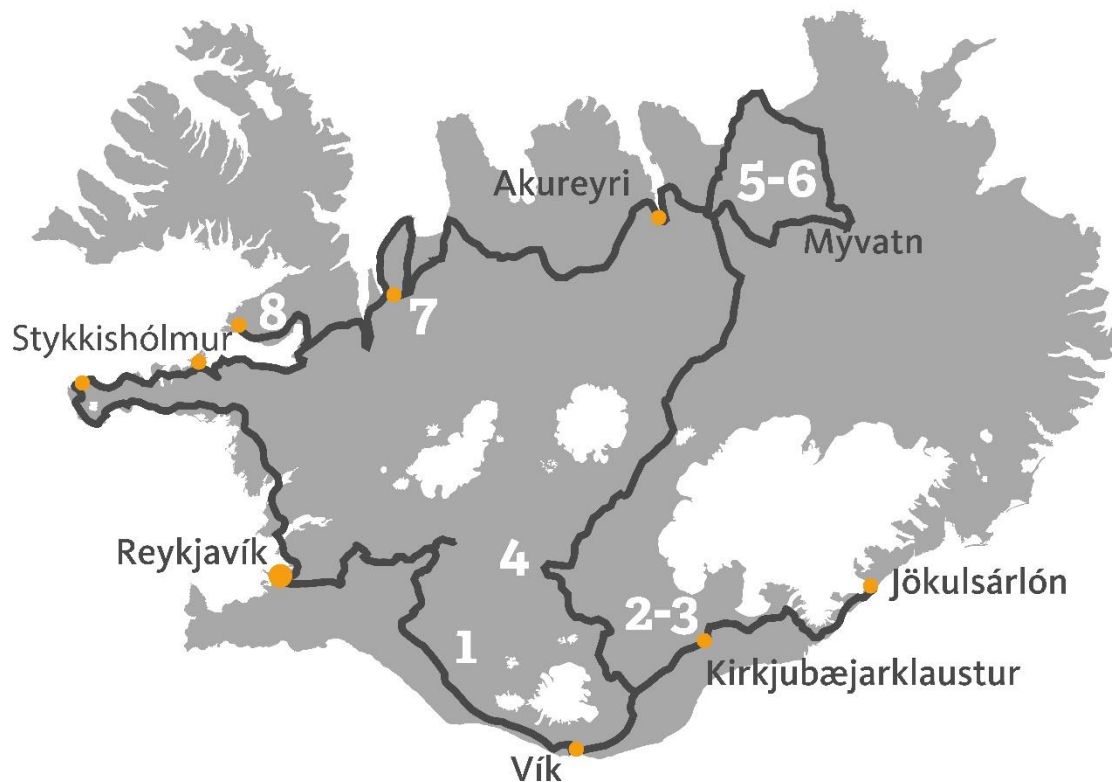
This tour stays in comfort-level hotels with private bathrooms. These hotels are well situated to enjoy the beautiful places your group will explore. Most of the groups stay at the following hotels. Please note this is an advised hotel list and subject to change.

## Important

- Please note that good trekking shoes/hiking shoes are required for this tour, as some of the walking is on unpaved, sometimes uneven surfaces.
- Some wilderness interior roads during the trip are unpaved with bumpy driving conditions– it’s all part of the authentic adventure and fun of exploring the highlands!
- **We reserve the right to alter routes without prior notice, due to road conditions**

Time of cancellation:

More than 3 weeks (22+ days) prior to arrival deposit  
3 weeks (21 days) and more than 1 week (8 days) 50%  
1 week (7 days) and more than 72 hours 75%  
72 hours' notice and less 100%



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival

*Please note: If you have added extra nights in Reykjavík before your tour, the guide will meet your group for the start of the tour on the morning of Day 2 according to the standard "Across the Wilderness" itinerary. Please check the "Services" section in your travel documents to see how to meet your guide at the start of the tour.*

Arrival at the Keflavik airport. Transfers to Reykjavik are **not included** in the tour. We would be happy to arrange shared or private transfers for you, so let us know at booking time.

### Day 2: Þingvellir National Park - Gullfoss - Geysir

*Highlights: Gullfoss Geysir Thingvellir National Park UNESCO World Heritage site with Geological Wonders – The beautiful Golden Falls – Exploding Geysers – Iceland Travel's Conservation Project*

*Approximate distance: 280 km (174 miles)*

Breakfast at your hotel. Meet your guide at the hotel and start your adventure! Your first day begins with a visit to Thingvellir National Park, the ancient site of the world's first parliament. Here you can see the dramatic continental drift between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Your guide will share interesting facts about some of the interesting historical events that have happened at Thingvellir.



*Gullfoss waterfall*

An hour's drive away, visit the popular Geysir geothermal area. The most active geyser, Strokkur, shoots water high into the air every few minutes, but you'll also see several other boiling pools and hot springs.

Next your group will take part in Iceland Travel's reforestation program, located in Haukadalur valley. You can help your group plant a total of five trees, which not only allows you to leave your mark in Iceland but also for your tour group to reduce your carbon footprint!

Now it's time to head onwards to Iceland's most popular waterfall, the impressive two-stage Gullfoss ("Golden Falls"). A series of easy footpaths leads around the waterfall, giving you the chance to get excellent views from different angles.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Hella area.



*Skogafoss waterfall*

### **Day 3: Vík - Dyrhólaey - Kirkjubæjarklaustur**

*Highlights: Skogafoss Seljalandsfoss Myrdalsjokull Eyjafjallajokull Skogafoss Vík Dyrhólaey Thundering Waterfalls – Seabird Colony – Black Sand Beaches of the South Shore – Lava Fields  
Approximate distance: 190 km (118 miles)*

Breakfast at your hotel. Start the day by driving along the highway, making a stop at two impressive waterfalls: Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss. Head to the black sand beaches to enjoy the far-reaching views from Dyrhólaey headland, where thousands of puffins and other sea birds' nest (puffins generally seen between May and mid-August. Enjoy a stop in the quaint village of Vík before crossing the Myrdalssandur volcanic ash outwash plains created by flowing water from nearby glaciers. The day ends after passing through the vast Eldhraun lava field, the world's largest recorded single lava flow in the last 10,000 years.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Kirkjubæjarklaustur area for the next two nights.



*Jökulsárlón Glacier lagoon*

#### **Day 4: Jökulsárlón - Skaftafell**

*Highlights: Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon Skaftafell National Park Hvannadalshnjukur Eldhraun Lava Field*

*Glacial Lagoon with Icebergs – Scenic Glacial Park – Europe’s Largest Glacier*

*Approximate distance: 255 km (158 miles)*

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you will be in the area of Vatnajokull National Park, the largest national park in Western Europe. The day starts with a drive through beautiful scenery towards Vatnajokull, the largest glacier in Europe. You will also get a view of Hvannadalshnjukur, the country’s highest peak. The highlight of the day will surely be the Fjallsarlon and Jokulsarlon lagoons, where huge icebergs dance around in icy seawater. Experience up close this stunning sight on a Zodiac tour among the icebergs. You will also view the much-photographed Diamond Beach area, where glittering shards of ice rest on a black sand beach. Continue on your way, passing by several outlet glaciers from Vatnajokull. Along the route you also will get magnificent views of Skaftafell, a glacier-crowned wonderland within Vatnajokull National Park.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Kirkjubaejarklaustur area..



*Landmannalaugar*

#### **Day 4: Vik – Landmannalaugar**

*Highlights: Hekla Landmannalaugar Thjorsardalur*

*Multi-colored Wilderness Mountains – Lava Fields – Hot Spring Bathing*

*Approximate distance: 200 km (124 miles)*

Note: Today some of the roads will be bumpy since you’re on highland wilderness tracks, but it’s all part of the adventure and the views will be amazing!

Breakfast at your hotel. It’s now time to leave the asphalt behind and meander along the scenic and rugged Fjallabaksleid interior track to Landmannalaugar, an astonishing area surrounded by colorful rhyolite mountains. The surreal beauty of the uninhabited interior reveals deep

valleys and sculptured mountains, many formed by volcanic eruptions that happened beneath glaciers during the Ice Age. After a nice walk in the nature reserve (optional), enjoy a relaxing bath in a warm brook created by the convergence of hot and cold springs. It's an authentic Iceland experience!

Dinner and overnight stay in the Thjorsardalur area.



*Sprengisandur highland road*

### **Day 6: Sprengisandur Trail**

*Wild Heart of Iceland and Black Sand Desert*

*Approximate distance: 300 km (186 miles)*

Note: Today some of the roads will be bumpy since you're on highland wilderness tracks, but it's all part of the adventure and the views will be amazing!

Breakfast at your hotel. Today, wilderness adventure awaits! It's time to head north through the very heart of Iceland. Discover hidden treasures of Iceland's uninhabited interior along the Sprengisandur highland route, a vast, barren, black desert connecting Iceland's north and south. With only rough tracks and un-bridged glacial rivers, your group will rely on your experienced driver to navigate the rugged passage between the glaciers. This is a true taste of Iceland's wild side: rough gravel roads and fording rivers are a part of the amazing experience! (Note: If Sprengisandur is closed due to road conditions, your group will take the Kjölur highland route instead.)

Dinner and overnight stay in the Myvatn area for the next 2 nights.



*Lake Myvatn*

### **Day 7: Lake Myvatn – Dettifoss – Asbyrgi - Tjornes**

*Highlights: Dettifoss Ásbyrgi Myvatn Jokulsargljufur National Park Húsavík Krafla Magnificent Canyon – Europe’s Mightiest Waterfall – Volcanic Wonderland*  
*Approximate distance: 300 km / 186 miles*

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you will visit the northern part of Vatnajokull National Park, as well as Lake Myvatn. Travel to the unforgettable Lake Myvatn area, a geological wonderland and paradise for bird watchers. Some of the most visually bizarre attractions in the region include the colorful boiling mud pits of Hverarond and the still-warm lava fields of Krafla volcano, teeming with lava flows, fissures and explosion craters. The journey continues to Dettifoss, Europe’s most powerful waterfall, located in the awe-inspiring Jokulsargljufur canyon. Discover the impressive 100 meter- (328-feet) high walls of the horseshoe-shaped canyon of Asbyrgi. According to Norse mythology, the canyon is the hoof-print left by Sleipnir, the magical eight-legged horse of the pagan god Odinn. Drive around the Tjornes peninsula, the northernmost point of your journey. In the afternoon drive to the town of Husavik where you have the option to experience the hot spring bath named GeoSea.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Lake Myvatn area..



*Goðafoss waterfall*

### **Day 8: Akureyri – Skagafjörður**

*Highlights: Godafoss Akureyri Skagafjordur Fjord*  
*Waterfall “Of the Gods” – The Capital of the North – Scenic historical fjord*  
*Approximate distance: 285 km (177 miles)*

Breakfast at your hotel. Start the adventure today with a visit to Godafoss, one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country. (The name means “Waterfall of the Gods”,) Continue to Akureyri, the vibrant “Capital of the North”. Enjoy some free time to explore this colorful and charming town. Some activities might include a visit to the delightful botanical garden, a swim in the local geothermal pool, or perhaps enjoying the culture, art and fine food of the Listagil artists’ district.

The route then continues to the Skagafjordur area, known as the traditional heart of horse breeding in Iceland. This area also contains many historical sites from the classic Viking-age Sagas. Tonight, horseback riding on a purebred Viking horse might be an appealing option. Or simply enjoy a peaceful walk in the countryside around your hotel.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Laugarbakki area.





*Hvitserkur rock formation*

### **Day 9: Hvammstangi – Vatnsnes Peninsula - Eirikstadir**

*Highlights: Vatnsnes Peninsula Eirikstadir Viking Home Hvitserkur*

*Historical Farmlands – Mysterious Scenic Peninsula – Birthplace of Leif Eiriksson*

*Approximate distance: 150 km (93 miles)*

Breakfast at your hotel. Your journey continues around Vatnsnes Peninsula, which contains the extraordinary rock formation of Hvitserkur, a 15 meter (49 feet) tall cliff jutting out straight from the sea. This off-the-beaten path peninsula is part of the newly designated Arctic Coast Way, which focuses on the enchanting and wild wonders that border the Arctic Circle. This is an area where the sea and the sky seem to meet together, and there are inspiring views far into the distance. You might also see seals resting close to the beach.

In the afternoon, drive through rolling farmlands and across Laxardalsheidi heath to the Viking Age house at the Eric the Red Museum. This was the original homestead of Eric the Red, as well as the birthplace of his son, Leifur Eiriksson. These men are two of the most legendary Vikings in the world. In a replica of a grass-roofed house, meet modern day Vikings who will show you the lifestyle from 1.000 years ago, sharing some of the crafts and knowledge.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Fellsstrond or Snaefellsnes area.



*Eirikstaðir*



*Glaumbær turf houses*



*Snæfellsnesjökull glacier*

### **Day 10: Snæfellsnes National Park**

*Highlights: Snæfellsjokull National Park Stykkisholmur Djupalonssandur Arnarstapi Hellnar Snæfellsjokull Glacier – Pebble Beaches – Sea Cliffs with Birdlife – Quaint Fishing Villages*

*Approximate distance: 340 km (211 miles)*

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you will explore the amazing variety of natural landscapes in Snæfellsjokull National Park. The park's crown jewel is Snæfellsjokull glacier itself, which covers a dormant volcano that last erupted in 250 AD. In addition, you'll also see Kirkjufell, one of the most photographed mountains in Iceland. Walk along the uniquely pebbled seascape of Djupalonssandur beach. At the picturesque harbor village of Arnarstapi, you can observe magnificent basalt rocks in stacked formations and perhaps take a walk along the unique hiking trail linking the historical settlements of Arnarstapi and Hellnar. At the end of the afternoon, the journey leads back to Reykjavik. Your guide will bid you farewell at your hotel.

Overnight in Reykjavik. Dinner is on your own.



*Buðir church on Snæfellsnes peninsula*

### **Day 11: Farewell to the Land of Fire and Ice**

Breakfast at your hotel. Please note that this might be a light breakfast if you are taking an early morning flight. **Transfer on your own** to the international airport for your departure flight. The airport transfer is **not included**, but we are happy to help you arrange shared or private transfers. We recommend you depart your hotel no later than three hours before your departure flight.

We wish you a pleasant trip back to your homeland and hope to see you in Iceland again!