

Grand Tour of Iceland

Experience the spectacular splendour and untamed beauty of Iceland's nature, breathtaking 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.

Duration: 12 days / 11 nights
Availability: June - September
From/to: Keflavik international airport

Minimum age: 8 years
Maximum group size: 20 people

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Complete escorted tour around Iceland including Snæfellsnes Peninsula & West Fjords
- Explore three national parks
- Dynjandi waterfall, elected "the most beautiful waterfall in Iceland" by Icelanders
- Ferry trip to West Fjords
- Soak in Vök geothermal bath
- Boat trip between floating icebergs on Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon
- Experience authentic culture, visit small local museums and take a selfie with an Icelandic horse
- See more sea-cliff birds than you can ever count
- Small groups, maximum 20 people

INCLUDED

- 11 nights accommodation, in rooms with shower/WC
- 10 days escorted tour with English-speaking guide/driver-guide
- Arrival & departure airport transfer by Flybus 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
- Exhibition and 4K movie at Lava Centre in Hvolsvöllur

NOT included:

- Any private expenses
- Any additional services
- All meals not listed under "included"
- Single supplement (mandatory when in single room)

Complimentaries:

- Free Wi-Fi on the bus

Price per person 2023

	Double room	Single room
Jun – Sep 2023	5000 EUR	6230 EUR

DEPARTURES 2023:

June: ~~05, 19~~
July: 03, 17, 31
August: 14, 28

Please note:

This tour has an average of 1-2 hours light walking each day, mostly short walks of 5-20 minutes, to explore and reach many of the natural treasures around Iceland. It is an easy tour for nearly everyone to participate. Grand Tour of Iceland is NOT a hiking/walking tour, but most trails in Iceland are nature trails which include uneven terrain, gravels, stairs and not paved trails.

There is a possibility that some of the natural attractions around Iceland might charge an entrance fee during the trip. These entrance fees are not included in the tour price and need to be paid by all tour members additionally on the spot when entering any of these natural sites. Locations, amount of entrance fee, form of payment and other details are not known at present and 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.

Start and end location: Keflavik international airport

Departure time day 2: 09:00 on day 2 at Hotel Klettur, Reykjavik (subject to change).

Cancellation & payment policy: A cancellation fee of 20% will be retained by us for cancellations made 56 days prior to start. From 28 days until 9 days prior to tour start, the fee is 50%. No refund is possible for cancellations less than 8 days prior to tour start, or for no shows, and a tour begun, but not completed.

ITINERARY



Day 1: Arrival

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

Overnight location:
Hotel Klettur, Reykjavík. (50km / 31mls)

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 we 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 ten 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. We continue our journey to our overnight location in Borgarnes, a small town at the shore of Borgarfjörður.

Overnight location:
B59 Hotel, Borgarnes. Breakfast & dinner included. (290km / 180mls)



Gullfoss waterfall



Strokkur hot spring

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 enjoy a magnificent view of the bay's countless isles as well as the glacier Snæfellsjökull.

Overnight location:

Hotel Flókalundur, Patreksfjörður. Breakfast & dinner included. (240km / 149mls)

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.



*Djupalonsandur black pebble beach
at Snæfellsnes*



Látrabjarg Cliff

Forget everything, except maybe getting the perfect shot of the ever-changing hues of yellow, orange and red.

Overnight location:

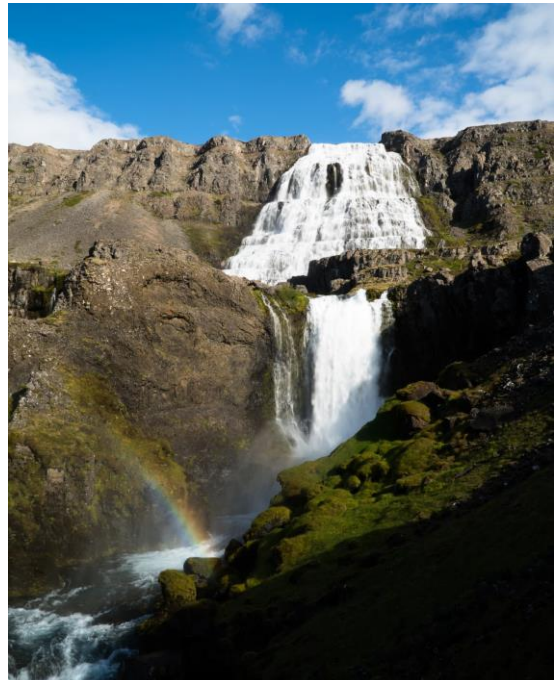
Fosshotel Westfjords, Patreksfjörður. Breakfast & dinner included. (240km / 149mls)

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.

Overnight location:

Hotel Laugarbakki, Hvammstangi.
Breakfast & dinner included. (330km / 205mls)



Dynjandi waterfall



Horses grazing



Hvítserkur rock formation

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. Fulmars and gulls live on Hvítserkur. 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. Later take a short walk up to Borgarvirki, on a 180-meter ridge. The ruins of Borgarvirki are a circular, fort-like stone enclosure rising above 10-15 meter basalt columns. Inside are the remains of a well and some dwellings. We continue to Kolugljúfur canyon, where waterfalls cascade into the deep, rugged gorge. It is a breathtaking 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 visit Glaumbær, one of Iceland's most beautiful turf house farm and folk museum. We continue along a high mountain road to Akureyri, also called the capital of North Iceland, where we stay for two nights.

Overnight location:

Sæluhús Studio Apartments, Akureyri. Breakfast & dinner included. (310km / 193mls)

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.



Akureyri



Glaumbaer turf houses

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.

Overnight location:

Sæluhús Studio Apartments, Akureyri. Breakfast & dinner included. (160km / 99mls)

Day 8: Geological and Volcanic Wonders

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, and travel to the explosion crater lake Víti in the Krafla geothermal fields. 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 explore the northernmost fjord on the East Fjord mountain range. The isolated village Bakkagerði at Borgarfjörður-Eystri has only 120 inhabitants; offering an end of the road location. This charming village is built snugly next to the steep mountainside and getting there is a dramatic but rewarding drive. The colourful mountains are unique and impressive.

Overnight location:

Guesthouse Álheimar, Borgarfjörður Eystri. Breakfast & dinner included. (360km / 224mls)

Day 9: Eastfjords and Geothermal bathing

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. Our first stop will be at Vök baths, a geothermal floating pools in Lake Urriðavatn where guests can soak in the hot water, within and surrounded by the lake.



Goðafoss waterfall



Namafjall hot springs

Later, we visit 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 Eastfjords. In the afternoon we see Vatnajökull, Europe's biggest glacier that is visible all over Southeast Iceland.

Overnight location:

Fosshotel Vatnajökull or similar. Breakfast & dinner included. (330km / 205mils)

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 Skafftafell 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.

Overnight location:

Hotel Vík, Vík in Mýrdalur. Breakfast & dinner included. (280km / 174mils)

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.



Jökulsárlón Glacier lagoon & Diamond beach

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.

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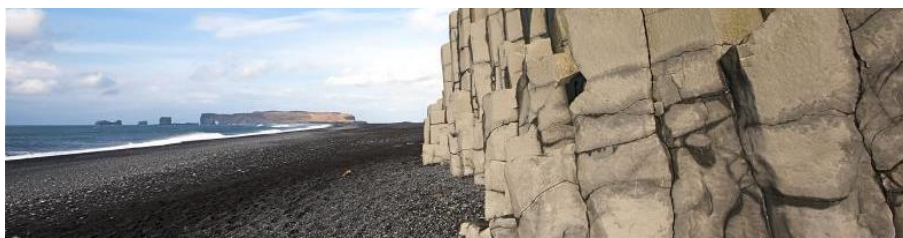
Overnight location:

Hotel Klettur, Reykjavík. Breakfast & Farewell dinner included. (220km / 137mils)

Day 12: DEPARTURE

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

Breakfast included. (50km / 31mils)



Reynisfjara black sand beach



Reynisdrangar rock columns at Vik



Moss covered lava field