



## Northern Lights Exploration 8 days / 7 nights

### A winter bestseller group tour with up to 98% Northern Light sightings!

Discover the Golden Circle, the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, the Blue Lagoon, the Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon and Black lava beaches. Climb a volcano, embark on a fjord cruise, stop at a shark farmer, meet Icelandic horses, see turf farmsteads and churches. There is an optional ice cave tour at Vatnajökull glacier from mid-November to mid-March and an optional Northern Lights by boat cruise from Reykjavík. Our Northern Lights Exploration series are designed to include the highlights of Iceland and aim to maximise the chances of seeing the elusive Northern Lights, as 6 out of 7 nights are spent in the darkness away from light pollution.

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Minimum age: 8 years

Availability: September – April

Group size max large group: 45 pax

From/to: Keflavik international airport

Group size max small group: 16 pax

### Prices for September 2023 - March 2024:

#### For large groups with maximum 35 persons:

	Double room	Single room
<b>Sep 2023</b>	<b>2180 EUR</b>	<b>2440 EUR</b>
<b>Oct 2023</b>	<b>1990 EUR</b>	<b>2240 EUR</b>
<b>Nov 2023 – Apr 2024</b>	<b>1850 EUR</b>	<b>2100 EUR</b>

<b>September 2023:</b>	<b>08, 22</b>	<b>January 2024:</b>	<b>05, 19</b>
<b>October 2023:</b>	<b>06, 20</b>	<b>February 2024:</b>	<b>02, 16</b>
<b>November 2023:</b>	<b>03, 17</b>	<b>March 2024:</b>	<b>01, 15, 29</b>
<b>December 2023:</b>	<b>01, 15</b>		

#### For small groups with maximum 16 persons:

	Double room	Single room
<b>Sep 2023</b>	<b>2880 EUR</b>	<b>3650 EUR</b>
<b>Oct 2023</b>	<b>2690 EUR</b>	<b>3320 EUR</b>
<b>Nov 2023 – Mar 2024</b>	<b>2520 EUR</b>	<b>3020 EUR</b>

<b>September 2023:</b>	<b>12, 26</b>	<b>January 2024:</b>	<b>02, 16, 30</b>
<b>October 2023:</b>	<b>10, 24</b>	<b>February 2024:</b>	<b>13, 27</b>
<b>November 2023:</b>	<b>07, 21</b>	<b>March 2024:</b>	<b>12, 26</b>
<b>December 2023:</b>	<b>05</b>		

### **Highlights and Experiences:**

- Track record of 85-98% chance of seeing the Northern Lights
- See amazing Icelandic landscapes mixed with soft adventure and cultural experiences during the day.
- Climb a volcano crater and walk between two continental tectonic plates
- Visit a traditional shark farmer, turf farmsteads and churches
- Descend 35m underground into Vatnshellir cave situated under Snæfellsnesjökull glacier
- Relax in the Blue Lagoon and learn about living next to Eyjafjallajökull volcano
- See Icelandic horses, taste freshly baked hot spring bread and enjoy a fjord cruise
- Five evenings Northern Lights Academy
- Program offered in two group sizes: maximum 16 or 35 persons
- Optional ice cave tour at Vatnajökull glacier for departures between November 15th and March 15

### **Included:**

- 7 nights accommodation at comfort tourist-class hotels with 7x breakfast
- 6 days escorted bus tour with English-speaking guide/driver-guide
- Arrival & departure airport transfer by Flybus shuttle (no guide)
- Visit Settlement Centre in Borgarnes
- Guided tour into Vatnshellir Cave
- Hot spring Tasting with geothermal cooked bread & eggs
- Visit Icelandic horse stable & geothermal greenhouse
- Visit Lava Exhibition Center
- Skógar folk museum & turf houses
- Entrance with towel to Blue Lagoon
- Northern Lights program

### **NOT included:**

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

### **Complementaries**

- Free Wi-Fi on the bus
- Use of ice grippers spikes for shoes
- Use of flashlight

### **Additional services**

- Extra night in Reykjavik before/after the tour – on request
- Upgrade for private airport transfer
- Optional ice cave visit (mid-November to mid-March)

### **Additional Services at extra costs possible:**

- Extra night in Reykjavik before/after the tour - on request
- **Optional ice cave visit (mid-November to mid-March)**

**Note that most double rooms in Iceland are actually twin bedded rooms**

**\*Triple room on request**

**CHILDREN DISCOUNT: 20%** discount for children 8-11 years of age if sharing room with parents. Tour is not recommended for children younger than eight years of age. Triple rooms are double rooms with extra bed and ideal for two adults and one child.

Cancellation & payment policy: A cancellation fee of 20% will be retained by us for cancellations made 56 days prior. 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.

**NORTHERN LIGHTS:** This program includes a special six-night Northern Lights Academy – which means that during 6 evenings there is a combination of presentations, lectures, a film and guided searches for the Aurora Borealis – the Northern Lights. All countryside hotels in this program offer a Northern Lights wake-up call for guests that register for that special service at the hotel reception. The Northern Lights Exploration series are designed to spend 6 evenings in the countryside to maximise the chances of seeing the elusive Northern Lights, still the tour is dependent on weather and therefore sightings are not guaranteed. The Northern Lights are in the northern hemisphere from September through April but are only visible when the sky is clear and free of clouds. Like many of natural wonders, the Northern Lights are ephemeral – they may be visible, they may appear for a bit and then be gone (it is not a TV show that you can just turn on and off). But it is worth the patience which is much required. Because they are a winter event, you need to be prepared to wait outside while looking for them. It is best to dress very warmly, in layers, with good footwear, gloves, hats and whatever else makes you comfortable while you await patiently this truly outstanding event. For the best photos, we recommend using a tripod.

## Itinerary

### **Day 1: WELCOME to ICELAND** (50 km/31 mls)

Individual transfer by airport shuttle bus from Keflavik Airport to your accommodation in Reykjavík where you spend the night.

Overnight location:

Hotel Klettur, Reykjavík. Dinner is on your own. (50km / 31mls)

### **Day 2: REYKJAVIK CITY TOUR & BORGARFJÖRÐUR SAGA VALLEY**

At 09:00 meet your tour guide who shows the group the highlights of Iceland's exciting capital. Then we head west. Borgarfjörður is known as the Saga Valley because of its many important historical events. We get a chance to climb the Grábrók volcano crater and get warmed at Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring which produces 180 litres per second of water that is nearly boiling - 97° Celsius. Hraunfossar is a series of waterfalls pouring from beneath a wide lava field. Barnafoss – the Children's falls, is nearby with its own tragic tale. We spend two nights in Borgarnes, West Iceland. The afternoon includes a lecture about Northern Lights. After dinner, we step into the hotel garden in search of the Northern Lights followed by a hot cup of chocolate or tea.

Overnight location:

Icelandair Hotel Hamar, Borgarnes. Breakfast included, dinner is on your own. (245km / 152mls)



*Snæfellsjökull Glacier*

### **Day 3: SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA & FJORD CRUISE**

The Snæfellsnes Peninsula, "the peninsula of the snowy mountain", juts out from Iceland's west coast, like a long arm with a clenched fist at its tip, and is in many ways a microcosm of the whole island. A rugged mountain chain runs its length. A uniquely Icelandic "treat" awaits at Bjarnarhöfn, where they make Hákarl – the fermented shark. Visit the fishing village of Grundarfjörður, a place with an impressive coastline and mountains, lakes and waterfalls behind the village. One of the most photographed and famous mountains in Iceland, Kirkjufell, can be seen jutting out into the bay. Visit Arnarstapi and Hellnar before experiencing the area from below, inside Vatnshellir cave. We take you 35 meters underground and about 200 meters into the lava tube under the glacier Snæfellsjökull! On the way back to Borgarnes the guide gives you some practical tips on how to photograph the Auroras as part of the Northern Lights Academy program. Naturally, once

darkness falls, we are out in the hotel garden to chase the Northern Lights and to soak in the hotel's outdoor hot tubs.

Overnight location:

Hotel Hamar, Borgarnes. Breakfast & light lunch included. Dinner is on your own. (300km / 186mils)



*Gullfoss waterfall in winter*

#### **Day 4: GOLDEN CIRCLE, GEOTHERMAL TASTE & ICELANDIC HORSES**

Today we travel along the Hvalfjörður fjord. The first stop is at an Icelandic wool outlet store, to see what they do with all those sheep! We continue inland to Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. We travel the Golden Circle route, see steam rising from the Geysir geothermal fields. The chef of the Restaurant Geysir invites you to taste freshly baked hot spring bread served with Icelandic butter, boiled eggs and herring. On we travel to double waterfall of Gullfoss. In the afternoon, you learn about the Icelandic horse, its unique qualities and history and visit a geothermal greenhouse, before we reach the accommodation in South Iceland. Tonight, step into the darkness and search for the elusive Northern Lights, while best enjoyed from a comfortable hot tub in the garden of the hotel, amidst the peace and stillness of rural Iceland.

Overnight location:

Landhotel near Hella or similar. Breakfast included, dinner is on your own. (240km / 149mils)

#### **Day 5: SOUTH ICELAND & EYJAFJALLAJÖKULL VOLCANO**

Today we travel along the South coast. At the Lava & Volcano Exhibition Center, we learn about geology and active volcanoes. Further east we visit one of Iceland's finest folk museums. This museum contains an outstanding collection of farm and domestic artefacts from Iceland's past and several turf-built houses. Nearby is Skógafoss waterfall which is 60 meters high and one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country. In the afternoon we take a stroll on the black lava beach and along bird cliffs at Reynisfjara in South Iceland. We spend two nights near Kirkjubæjarklaustur in the Vatnajökull National Park region, located in darkness and ideal for Northern Lights search.

Overnight location:

Fosshotel Nupar or similar. Breakfast included, dinner is on your own. (197km / 123mls)



*Floating icebergs on the Glacier lagoon*

## **Day 6: SKAFTAFELL NATIONAL PARK & VATNAJÖKULL GLACIER**

Today's program is all about glaciers, ice and icebergs. We travel to Jökulsárlón, a glacial lagoon filled with floating icebergs, and we explore the amazing site and might see seals swimming in arctic waters. You can walk on the black sandy beach, the so-called Diamond beach, where large icebergs get stranded. In the afternoon we visit the tiny turf church at Hof and spend time at Europe's largest national park, which has Iceland's highest mountains, an alpine environment, and Europe's largest glacier. In the evening enjoy a film presentation about the Northern Lights as part of the Northern Lights Academy program. Be careful not to go to bed too soon in this remote and quiet location, or you may miss out one more chance of seeing the Northern Lights shimmering and dancing across the night sky.

Optional Ice Cave Tour offered between November 15th and March 15th

The tour takes about 2,5 hours in total – nearly 30-minute drive by 4×4 vehicle from the Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon and 5-15 minutes hike (one-way). You spend about one hour inside the ice cave. You need good hiking boots, warm clothing that keeps you dry from the dripping water in the ice cave. Minimum age is 10 years old. The ice cave tour can only be booked on day 2 of Northern Lights Exploration tour. You will have to fill in and sign an order form, once done a cancellation is not possible. Ice cave bookings have to be finalised with the guide by dinner time on day 2 of the tour. Bookings afterwards cannot be accommodated due to limited space. The price is ISK 23.000 per person in 2022; subject to change. Payment is due with the ice cave tour operator on day 6 in Icelandic Krona – cash only! The ice cave explorers meet their local guide at the glacier lagoon at 14:00 and will be brought back to the hotel after the ice cave tour, while the rest of the group continues the official tour program. The ice cave explorers will miss out on some of the official tour programs, as there is no time for everything, but the stop and visit at the Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon are included for all group members.

Overnight location: Fosshotel Nupar. Breakfast included, dinner is on your own. (255km / 159mls)

## Day 7: SOUTH SHORE, REYKJAVÍK & BLUE LAGOON (370 km/230 mls)

From Kirkjubæjarklaustur we head across the Eldhraun lava field to the village of Vík, where we make a photo stop. The black lava beach with high bird cliffs and pounding waves is awe-inspiring. Further west we reach the high but narrow Seljalandsfoss waterfall which plunges from the mountain. In the afternoon we get to soak in the famous Blue Lagoon. We reach Reykjavík around dinner time for one last night.

Overnight location:

Hotel Klettur, Reykjavík. Breakfast & Farewell dinner included (350km / 218mls)

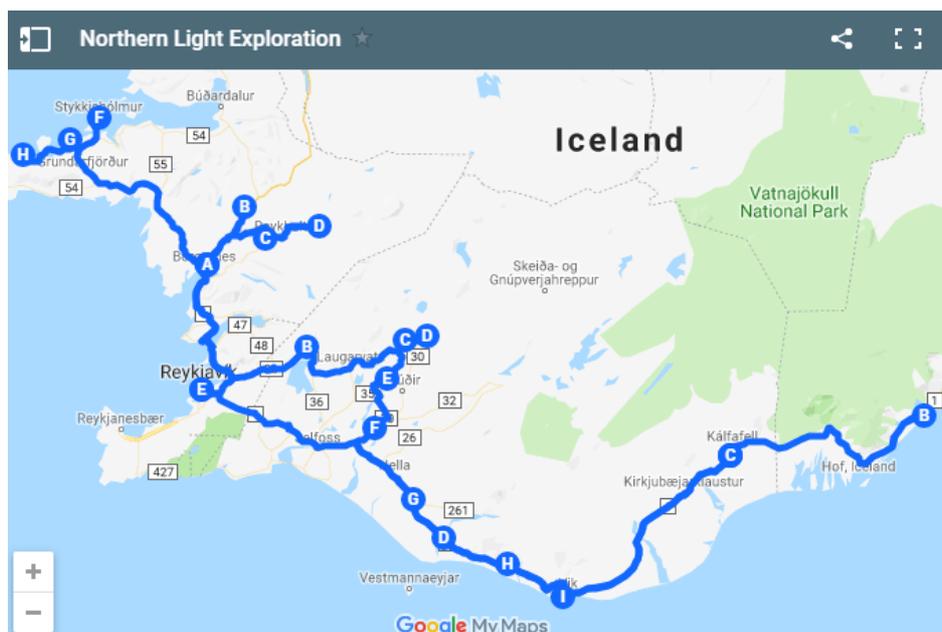


*Skogafoss waterfall*

## Day 8: DEPARTURE HOME (50 km/31 mls)

Individual transfer by Flybus shuttle bus from your accommodation in Reykjavik to Keflavik International Airport.

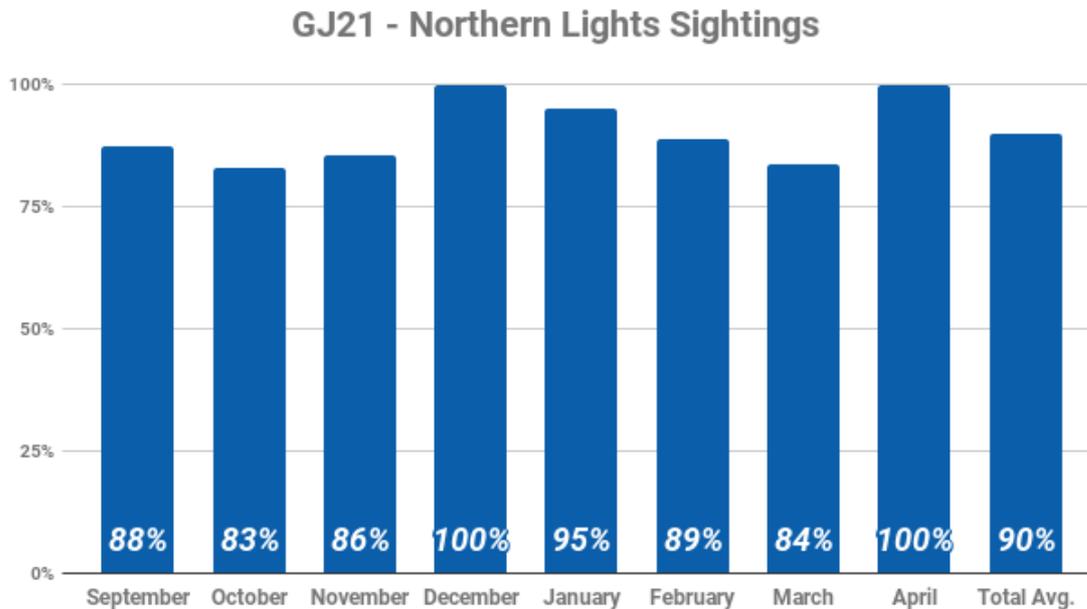
Breakfast included. (50km / 31mls)



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.

**Aurora Statistic for this tour from 2021:**



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Frequently asked questions:

Are there restrictions on how much luggage I can bring?

You can take 1 piece of luggage (20 kg) and 1 piece of hand luggage with you.

What is the suggested budget for meals?

Somewhere between 8.000 and 10.000 ISK per person per day is a good budget for meals while on the tour.

Are there locations to purchase food while we are on the trip or must the meals be prepacked?

We will make stops during the tour at restaurants, supermarkets and gas stations where meals, drinks and snacks can be purchased while on the tour.

How much time is spent at each attraction?

We stop for about 40 minutes at each attraction.

Are the Northern Lights guaranteed on this trip?

The Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis as they are also referred to are one of the many natural wonders of the world and are a natural phenomenon. As a naturally occurring phenomenon, the appearance of the Northern Lights is notoriously difficult to predict any further in advance than about two hours before it happens. So much is dependent on solar activity, we cannot accurately predict when they will occur nor how frequently. Every endeavour will be made on this trip to see the Northern Lights if it is the correct time of year to see the lights, however, this is not guaranteed. The tour includes Northern Light walks from the hotels. Also, most of the hotels are located away from light pollution.

Where should I meet the guide?

You always meet with your tour guide on day 2, just before 9:00 am in the lobby of your hotel.

When and where does the tour start?

The tour always starts on on day 2, just before 9:00 am in the lobby of your hotel.

What are first and last days for?

Arrival and departure days are to make your flight arrangements easier and to have a free day of leisure. You can either arrive or depart at any time on first and last days. The tour will always start on day 2 and will end the second to last day.

In what language is the tour?

All of our tours are English-speaking.

When can we see the Northern Lights?

Usually 15th of September to 15th of April but you can start spotting them as early as mid-August and up to the end of April. Note that December and January are not better than other Winter months due to the darkness.