

ICELAND: JOURNEY TO THE NORTHERN LIGHTS ITINERARY

Day 1: Overnight flight from Boston to Reykjavik

Day 2: Welcome to Iceland!

A transfer will meet you at the airport and bring you to the hotel in Reykjavik. Early check in has been arranged so you can access your room upon arrival. Breakfast is included this morning. This afternoon, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Reykjavik, the northernmost capital of the world. During this tour, we will see the old town center, the Parliament, the Cathedral, the harbor, the Pearl, the National Museum, and Höfði house, the summit site of 1986. We drive past the city's Salmon River, an indication for Reykjavík's low pollution levels, and the Árbæjarsafn outdoor folk museum, which offers an interesting contrast to the modern buildings of the most recent part of Reykjavík. Drive continues past Reykjavik's largest outdoor swimming pool in Laugardalur, which is heated with water from natural hot springs under the city, the Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture museum and Hallgrímskirkja Church (whose steeple is a Reykjavík landmark). We will visit the Aurora Museum in Reykjavík where we will learn more about the elusive Northern Lights.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3: Free day – Optional scheduled tours available to pre-reserve.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4: South Shore Tour

Today we drive from Reykjavik through the fertile farmlands of South Iceland, heading towards the majestic mountains towering over the coast; among them the snow shrouded Hekla and the ice capped volcano Eyjafjallajökull, last active in 2010. Continuing, we drive through the region where one of the best known of the Icelandic classical sagas, Njáls Saga is set. We make a stop at the Skogar Fólk museum, where we are introduced to how Icelanders lived in the not so distant past. The South Shore is one of the most popular regions of Iceland for a number of reasons: the waterfalls Seljalandsfoss and Skógarfoss tumbling over high rock escarpments; the stone arch Dyrhólaey with its sheer cliffs; the picturesque setting of Vík village; a row of glaciers towering over the scenery; and the Reynisdrangar rock pillars (some say they are petrified trolls) decorating the black beach of Reynishverfi. This evening you will hunt for the Northern Lights on foot with your guide.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5: Golden Circle

This is a full-day tour of southwest Iceland and includes three of the best known attractions Iceland has to offer: Gullfoss (The Golden Waterfall), one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe, The Geysir Area, with numerous hot springs, fumaroles and geysers; Pingvellir, a remarkable geological site and a historic site as well. Pingvellir is the site of the world's oldest democratic parliament founded in 930 and the beautiful canyon running through the park is actually the dividing fault line between two of the earth's tectonic plates. Included in today's tour is a visit to Friðheimar tomato greenhouse where tomatoes are grown all year round. Visit the greenhouses and then enjoy a taste of the crop. At Friðheimar you will also be viewing a demonstration of the famed five gaits of the Icelandic horse. After

the show, you can chat with the horse's riders, pet the animals and take pictures in the stable. Today we will enjoy tomato soup and bread for lunch from Friðheimr. At the end of the day we head back to Selfoss and enjoy a farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6: Airport transfer via the Blue Lagoon

After breakfast, you will drive from Selfoss directly to the Blue Lagoon. The Lagoon is a unique formation, a lagoon with pleasantly warm mineral-rich geothermal water in a middle of a black lava field. The high natural levels of silica and minerals give the Lagoon its rich blue color. The facilities include modern changing rooms and showers, an indoor geothermal pool, a winter garden, restaurants and other services. We stop there for approximately three hours for a memorable swim before you depart from Keflavík International Airport.

Meals: Breakfast