



## Scenic Trails Deluxe Hiking- Small Group Size and Soft Adventure Focus

10 DAYS/ 9 NIGHTS

Explore the majestic landscapes and natural wonders of Iceland's most beloved attractions up close on some of Iceland's best hiking trails. Our deluxe tour combines short guided hikes with small-group sightseeing, excellent cuisine, and hot spring relaxation.

Scenic Trails is a combination of guided hikes and small group sightseeing in a small bus or a van with one of expert and fun local guides. This deluxe tour takes you to the fiery colors of Landmannalaugar, the geothermal deserts of the spectacular highlands, the lush volcanic vegetation of Thorsmork and Lake Myvatn plus visits to world-famous natural wonders such as Gullfoss and Geysir. Enjoy a relaxed travelling pace and minimal hotel changes, so there's more time to experience with Icelandic nature and meet locals. We've also added deluxe touches such as quality hotels, quality Icelandic cuisine, and many opportunities to relax in geothermal pools.

**Activity level for this tour:** 3.5 out of 5 (Moderate Plus)

### Highlights

- Variety- Iceland's fantastic trails take you closer to its beautiful natural wonders. Each trail has its own special natural features, reflecting Iceland's ever-changing landscape.
- Refreshing Experience- Hiking immerses you in the invigorating scents, sounds and colors unique to Iceland.
- Health Benefits – Walking is healthy for both your body and mind, an excellent way to refresh and recharge yourself. On several evenings you'll have the chance to relax in geothermal hot tubs.
- Authentic- Hiking is a very popular activity for Icelanders, so you'll have better opportunities to meet locals on the trail and experience a bit about daily life in Iceland.
- Small group size– The small group size makes it easier to get to know your guide and the other people in your group
- Local Focus – The trails you will hike are full of folklore, saga history and ghost stories, and your guide is eager to share them with you. There is no better way to experience a tale than to hike through the landscape where it took place!

- Inspiration- The trails you will hike are full of folklore, saga history and ghost stories, and your guide is eager to share them with you. There is no better way to experience a tale than to hike through the landscape where it took place!
- Great Hotels- Stay in the best hotels in each area, generally a mix of four-star hotels and quality three star hotels. Several hotels have hot tubs on location.
- Slow pace– Discover more by traveling less! Stay several nights in the same accommodation, giving you more time to get to know each area’s unique secrets. (And less time spent packing and unpacking)

## PRICE PER PERSON 2020 (EUR):

	Double	Single	Triple
28 Jun; 12, 26 Jul; 16 Aug	3198	4318	2985
06 Sep 2020	3058	4122	2862

## INCLUDED

- 8-day guided tour as per itinerary from/to Reykjavik with expert local driver-guide
- Pick up from Reykjavik hotel on Day 2 and drop-off at Reykjavik hotel on Day 9
- Accommodation 2 nights in a quality hotel standard room w/facilities in Reykjavik
- Accommodation 7 nights in a quality hotel standard room w/facilities in countryside
- Breakfast daily (except arrival day)
- 4 lunch boxes (day 6, 7, 8 and 9)
- 4 three-course dinners in the countryside (day 2, 5, 6 and 7)
- Icelandic meat-soup dinner at a local’s home (day 4)
- Hiking in the Siglufjordur area with a local guide (day4)
- Entrance to Krauma Geothermal Bath Resort (day 2)
- Entrance to the Herring-Era Museum (day 4)
- Entrance to Myvatn Nature Baths (Day 5)
- Service fee at Landmannalaugar Hot Springs (day 8)

## Not included:

- International airfare
- Round-trip transfers between Keflavik airport and Reykjavik
- Dinners in Reykjavik (day 1 and 9), in Siglufjordur (day 3) and on day 8.
- Lunches in Reykjavik (day 1 and 9) and on day 3, 4, 5
- Beverages with meals other than coffee/tea and fresh tap water
- Swimsuit and towel at hot spring bathing areas (swimsuit and towels can be rented at Krauma, Myvatn Nature Baths)
- Guaranteed early check-in or late check-out
- Optional tours and activities
- Any service not specifically listed under “included”

**Optional:**

Evening Horse riding tour in Hella: 63 EUR per person. Duration 1,5 h. Included: 1 h guided riding tour, safety helmet

**Important**

- Most hiking paths in Iceland are not paved. Expect trails to have lava rocks, loose gravel, soft dirt and muddy areas. In some cases, trails follow narrow paths created from sheep trails. We highly recommend that you bring hiking poles/alpine walking sticks on this tour
- The guide has the right to change hiking routes in the itinerary based on weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances
- Some of the days involve driving on unpaved wilderness tracks in the highlands. Be prepared to expect bumpy roads! It's all part of the authentic adventure and fun of exploring the highlands!
- Important: We reserve the right to alter routes without prior notice, due to road conditions

**Children rate**

Children rate:

Children 6-11 years old travelling with 2 adults and sharing 1 DBL room: 25% discount (valid only per 1 child)

Children 12 years and older pay full price as adults.

It is not recommended that children 0-5 years old travel on scheduled tours.

**Hiking Information**

This tour is combines enjoyable short hikes with sightseeing in a small coach or tour van. Each hike generally ranges from 1- 5 hours, with the longest hiking done on Day 6. Hikes offered during the tour are mixture of easy and moderate routes. Participants do not need to be expert hikers, but they should be in reasonable physical shape. The trip hiking is also designed to be flexible: each day's hiking will be adjusted to your group's general fitness level, weather and trail conditions.

A big appeal of hiking in Iceland is that it is an authentic, natural experience. This means most hiking paths in Iceland are not paved. Expect trails to have lava rocks, loose gravel, soft dirt and muddy areas. In some cases, trails follow narrow paths created from sheep trails. We highly recommend that you bring hiking poles/alpine walking sticks on this tour

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**What to Bring**

- Good waterproof hiking shoes (necessary)
- Wind and waterproof jacket and trousers (rain coat and rain pants)
- Warm hat
- Gloves
- Scarf or bandanna

- Extra socks (your feet may get wet on some days)
- A light day pack with 2.5 – 4.0 litre volume (for items you might use during the hiking)
- Hiking poles (highly recommended)
- Water bottle/Flask (fill it with Iceland’s fresh, healthy tap water- it’s a greener alternative to bottled water!)
- Swimsuit and towel (for Hveravellir on Day 7 and Landmannalaugar on Day 8)
- Sunscreen
- Recommended: wading shoes/water shoes for the Glymur Waterfall hike (Day 2) and for wilderness hot spring pools (Day 7, 8)
- Recommended: alpine walking poles
- Optional: Mosquito/Fly Head net for hiking in the Myvatn area (Day 5)

**Accommodation:**

This tour stays in quality standard hotels with private bathrooms, generally a mix of four and high quality three-star hotels. Most of the groups stay at the following hotels. Please note this is an advised hotel list and subject to change.

- Day 1 – Centerhotel Midgardur
- Day 2 – Fosshotel Reykholt
- Day 3 & 4 – Hotel Siglo
- Day 5 & 6 – Icelandair Hotel Myvatn
- Day 7 & 8 – Stracta Hotel Hella
- Day 9 – Centerhotel Midgardur



## ITINERARY:

### DAY 1 – Arrival in Iceland



On your own, transfer to Reykjavik. We can arrange the Airport Express transfer for you. If your flight lands early in the day, a great suggestion is to explore Reykjavik, the largest municipality in Iceland.

If you would enjoy a scenic walk on your arrival day, Reykjavik has many local walking trails that take you by the seaside and through pretty neighborhoods.

Dinner is on your own. Reykjavik offers a multitude of restaurants and/or coffee-houses, making dinner a great way to get better acquainted with Iceland's capital.

Please note guaranteed early check-in is not included in the price. Most hotels begin check-in around 14:00 (2:00pm).

Overnight stay in Reykjavik (airport transfer not included).

*Please note: If you have added extra nights in Reykjavik before your tour, the guide will meet your group for the start of the tour on Day 2 according to the standard "Scenic Trails" itinerary. Your tour guide will meet you on Day 2 in the lobby of your hotel at 07:55am. Your guide will have a sign with Iceland Travel's logo and words "SCENIC TRAILS ". Please be ready with your luggage*

### DAY 2 - Reykjavik – Hvalfjordur – Borgarfjordur



*Hraunfossar waterfalls*

*Highlights: Reykjavik Glymur Hvalfjordur Fjord Hraunfossar Deildartunguhver Snorrastofa – Reykholt*

Whale Fjord– Fabulous Waterfall Hike – Europe's most powerful hot springs – Lava Falls  
Approximate driving distance: 185 km (115 miles)

Today's Hiking Level: Moderate "Plus"

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up from your hotel at 8:00 (8:00am). Begin the day with a short orientation tour of Reykjavik. Drive along the scenic coastline of Hvalfjordur Fjord, one of Iceland's longest and deepest, on the way to Glymur. This is Iceland's second highest waterfall, which descends gracefully in streaming ribbons down a 200-metre (658 foot) drop into a massive canyon adorned in lush, green moss. Both the fjord and the waterfall are linked to a local legend about a mythical whale that swam up the waterfall into the lake at the top. Eerily enough, whale bones have been found here!

Spend some time hiking in the area to enjoy different views of the waterfall and surrounding nature. Before heading to your overnight accommodation, you will also visit the amazing Hraunfossar "Lava" waterfalls and the Deildartunguhver, the most powerful rushing hot springs in Europe.

Near Deildartunguhver is the Krauma Geothermal Resort. Enjoy a visit here, where you can relax in a variety of hot tubs of different temperatures and take in the beautiful scenery. Krauma also has two soothing steam baths perfect for soothing joints. Then lounge in the relaxation room and enjoy soothing music and a crackling fireplace.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Borgarfjordur area.

Hiking information for Glymur waterfall:

Distance: 5 km / 3,1 miles

Elevation: 357 m / 1.172 ft

Walking time: About 4 – 5 hours

*Note: Part of the trail includes walking through a small river on a natural bridge in the water. The crossing is not difficult but good to know about it. (Some people like to carry along a pair of wading shoes to use during this part of the trail, but this is not required) This day hiking poles are not recommended for the trail since there are some water crossing spots where you will hold on to fixed ropes.*

*Please note this is a general guide. Actual times may vary based on weather and trail conditions. Our expert guides will assess and choose the actual hiking routes and hiking duration for each day based on weather and the fitness/experience level of your group.*



Grábrók crater



Siglufjörður



Kolugilufur

### **DAY 3 – Reykir - Hofsos - Siglufjordur**

*Highlights: Glanni Waterfall Grabrok Hofsos Trollaskagi – Troll Peninsula Siglufjordur*

Elven waterfall – Intriguing Crater – Lava Rock Canyon – Seaside Basalt Columns  
Approximate driving distance: 335 km (208 miles)

Today's Hiking Level: Easy

Breakfast at your hotel. Continue your discoveries of Borgarfjordur with a refreshing short walk to Glanni, a multi-tiered waterfall rumored to be a home for elves and trolls. You will then visit the 3,500-year-old Grabrok crater, which has hiking trails to the top of the crater for remarkable views over moss-covered lava fields. The hike up the crater is steep, but steps have been built on part of the route to make the hike easier.

Continue your scenic journey as you cross Holtavorduheiði plateau, the gateway between North and South Iceland. Head to the Vididalur Valley and its rushing river. Here you will hike in Kolugljúfur, a lava rock canyon that leads to a hidden waterfall. Continue to the charming village of Hofsos and take a short stroll down to Stadarbjargarvík inlet to admire a group of beautifully geometric basalt columns. Then drive to the stunning Trollaskagi (Troll Peninsula) with its amazing views of mountains and fjords to your destination in Siglufjordur town.

Overnight stay in Siglufjordur for the next two nights. Dinner is on your own at one of the town's charming restaurants. Tonight, recharge your body and soul with a soak in the hotel's geothermal hot tubs. With a view over the harbor and the fjord, the hot tubs are a perfect setting for relaxation.

Nature walk information for Glanni waterfall:

Distance: 350 m / less than a mile

Elevation: Very little

Walking time: About 10 minutes

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Hiking information for Grabrok:

Distance: 1,000 meters / less than a mile

Elevation: 1,000 m / 3,280 ft

Walking time: About 1 hour

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Hiking information for Kolugljúfur:

Distance: Varies, route chosen by guide

Elevation: Very little

Walking time: About 30 minutes to 1 hour

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Nature walk information for Stadarvíkurbjarg:

Distance: Minimal

Elevation: Very little

Walking time: About 5-10 minutes

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#### **DAY 4 - Siglufjordur – Troll Peninsula Hiking – Local Heritage**



*Highlights: Siglufjordur The Herring Era Museum Siglufjardarskard*

Award Winning Herring Era Museum – Spectacular Hiking – Traditional Meat Soup Dinner  
Today's Hiking Level: Varies, based on group activity level

Breakfast at your hotel. Trollaskagi, The Troll Peninsula, is a hidden gem in Iceland, a bit separated from the rest of the country by its high mountain range. The area is home to numerous little-known hiking routes showcasing spectacular scenery.

In the morning visit the award-winning Herring Era Maritime Museum, where the harbor atmosphere of the early 20th century is brought to life in three historical buildings.

In the afternoon, take an exciting and scenic hike. This afternoon's hike is led by an expert local guide who will decide which trail is best to explore based on the experience level of the group and trail conditions. The total hiking time is variable, based on group experience. Those who do not wish to participate in the locally guided hike can stay behind in Siglufjordur and enjoy a light walk in the scenic areas around the village with the tour group guide.

After an active day in the outdoors, visit the home of a local resident for a home-cooked meal of hearty Icelandic meat soup featuring local ingredients.

Overnight in Siglufjordur, where you can enjoy the hotel's geothermal hot tubs.

Hiking information for Siglufjordur area:

Distance: Varies, route chosen by guide

Elevation: Varies, route chosen by guide

Walking time: Varies, route chosen by guide, max 4-5 hours

If you decide to walk the Siglufjardarskard trail it is a 3.5 – 4 level hike with a distance of 11-12 km (6-7 miles), elevation of 630 meters/2.067 feet) and 4-5 hours hiking time. Otherwise, alternate routes will be available.



*Goðafoss waterfall*



*Lake Myvatn*

## **DAY 5 – Goðafoss – Hverfjall – Lake Myvatn Wonders**

*Highlights: Godafoss Myvatn Hverfjall Krafla Geothermal Center Myvatn Nature Baths Dimmuborgir*

Waterfall of the Gods – Geothermal & Volcanic Activity – Outdoor Nature Spa  
Approximate driving distance: 185 km / 115 miles

Today's Hiking Level: Easy

Breakfast at your hotel. The day begins with spectacular views of mountains and coast as you head along the Troll Peninsula and Eyjafjörður fjord. Make a short stop in Akureyri, the colorful “capital” of North Iceland. After some time to enjoy the atmosphere of this charming town, drive to picturesque Godafoss, the ‘Waterfall of the Gods’ before heading to Lake Myvatn Nature Reserve, a geological wonderland of amazing landscape contrasts. With the powerful peaks of Mt. Hverfjall and Krafla volcano as a backdrop, Lake Myvatn has a surprising serenity that is ideal for light hiking. Summertime is peak birding season, so it's good to have some binoculars on hand to catch diverse species, possibly even the rare Barrow's golden eye. Begin your Myvatn adventure with a hike to Hverfjall crater. Nearby is Dimmuborgir, where you'll take a walk among the strange “Dark Castles” with their rugged stacks of towering rocks.

Take a walk through the Martian-like terrain of Namaskard geothermal field. Here you'll view boiling fumaroles, brightly colored slopes and violently bubbling pools of mud. The tour will then stop at the Myvatn Nature Baths where you can see how the locals benefit from the geothermal activity. Enjoy the benefits yourself, with a relaxing swim in these azure blue geothermal springs. It's a relaxing reward for an adventurous day in the outdoors!

Hiking information for Hverfjall:

Distance: 4 km / 2,5 miles

Elevation: 190 m / 623 ft

Walking time: About 2-2,5 hours

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Nature walk information for Dimmuborgir:

Distance: 2,4 km / 1,5 miles

Elevation: Very little

Walking time: About 1-2 hours

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Please note this is a general guide. Actual times may vary based on weather and trail conditions. Our expert guides will assess and choose the actual hiking routes and hiking duration for each day based on weather and the fitness/experience level of your group.

## **DAY 6 - Vatnajökull National Park - Asbyrgi - Jokulsargljufur – Dettifoss**



*Dettifoss waterfall*

*Highlights: Ásbyrgi Hljodaklettur Dettifoss*

Edge of the Arctic – Horseshoe Canyon – Europe’s Mightiest Waterfall – Echoing Rocks

Approximate driving distance: 245 km / 152 miles

Today’s Hiking Level: Easy and Moderate Trails

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you will be hiking in the northern part of Vatnajökull National Park, the largest national park in Western Europe. The park is named after vast Vatnajökull Glacier and covers about 14% of Iceland’s surface.

Drive around the fossil rich Tjornes Peninsula on the edge of the Arctic Circle as you head to Vatnajökull National Park. Your first discovery in the park is the enormous horseshoe shaped Asbyrgi canyon. According to Norse mythology, the canyon is the hoof-print left by Sleipnir, the god Odinn’s magical eight-legged horse. Take a trail leading to the bottom of the canyon with views of an enchanting pond as well as an area where you can look over the canyon. Continue onwards to Hljodaklettur or ‘Echo Rocks’, a distinctive cluster of angular rock columns. The unique shape of the rocks creates interesting acoustics and echoes. Hljodaklettur is near Jokulsargljufur, Iceland’s longest canyon. The canyon was carved by a river flowing from Vatnajökull Glacier.

Spend the remainder of your afternoon exploring the lush vegetation and forested areas of Hljodaklettur where stones stand like troll sentinels. (Hiking route can be adjusted to the level of the group).

The day ends with an unforgettable visit to Europe’s mightiest waterfall, Dettifoss, a thundering cascade of glacial water and mist among shattered cliffs. An easy trail leads you down to the waterfall. Afterwards, return to the Lake Myvatn area for your overnight.

Dinner and overnight in the Myvatn area.

Hiking information for Asbyrgi:

Distance: 1 km / less than 1 mile

Elevation: Very little

Walking time: About 30 minutes to 1 hour

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Hiking information for Hljodaklettur:

Distance: 10 km / 6 miles

Elevation: About 50-100 m / About 164–328 ft

Walking time: About 3-4 hours (several trails combined).

Note: One of the trails used today is very rocky – we recommended using hiking poles on this day

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## **DAY 7- Kjolur - Hveravellir – Gullfoss – Geysir**



*Kjölur Highland road*



*relaxing in the natural hot spring at Hveravellir*



### *Highlights: Kjolur Hveravellir Gullfoss Geysir*

Historical Highland Track– Glacial Views – Geothermal Scenery – Golden Falls and Active Geysers  
Approximate driving distance: 465km / 289 miles

Today's Hiking Level: Very Easy (Expect to be driving on bumpy roads today – part of the fun!)

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you will head into the wilderness heartland via Kjolur mountain track. This route goes back to Viking times and heads straight through Iceland's uninhabited interior highlands, passing between the mighty Langjokull and Hofsjokull glaciers. You will see Iceland's true remoteness and nature at its rawest. This area of black sand deserts has numerous scenic walking paths along the way, dotted with hidden geothermal treasures and green oases. The highlands also hold ghost stories and tales of outlaws, including the famous couple Eyvindur and Halla. Your group

will stop at Hveravellir, a multi-colored geothermal field with a natural pool that is perfect for a relaxing break.

The Kjölur highland route emerges into civilization again in the Gullfoss and Geysir area. Gullfoss, the majestic waterfall of sparkling mist and thundering water, is situated on the Hvita River, which is fed by Iceland's second largest glacier, Langjökull. The intriguing great Geysir area is nearby, a steamy geothermal field of bubbling mud and high-shooting hot springs.

Dinner and overnight in the Hella area.

A perfect way to end the day is a soothing soak in the hotel's geothermal hot tub and sauna.

### **DAY 8 - Day in Landmannalaugar**



*Landmannalaugar*

#### *Highlights: Landmannalaugar Hekla*

Hekla Volcano – Brilliantly-Colored Wilderness – Hot Springs  
Approximate driving distance: 210 km / 130 miles

Today's Hiking Level: Moderate (Expect some roads you drive on today to be quite bumpy)

Breakfast at your hotel. Iceland's southern highland wilderness sets a surreal stage for today's adventure. The uninhabited areas of Landmannalaugar and Fjallabak are a geological paradise with volcanic craters, multi-colored rhyolite mountains, steaming lava fields, and the ominous Hekla volcano. There are many beautiful walking trails in the area, and a crater-filled lake lush with brown trout. Today your guide will choose the best route for your group based on your overall experience level and trail conditions. Hiking times vary based on route chosen.

Afterwards, enjoy the benefits of this geothermal area with a refreshing swim in Landmannalaugar's hot spring fed river, one of the most unique natural springs in Iceland.

Overnight in the Hella area. Dinner is on your own.

Hiking information for Landmannalaugar:

Distance: 8,5 km / 5 miles

Elevation: About 300 m / About 984 ft

Walking time: About 4-5 hours (several trails combined)

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## **DAY 9 - Thorsmork - Seljalandsfoss – Reykjavik**



*Þorsmörk valley*

*Highlights: Thorsmork Seljalandsfoss Skogafoss Reykjavik*

Thor's Playground – Glacial Views – Walk behind a Waterfall

Approximate driving distance: 225 km / 140 miles

Today's Hiking Level: Moderate ( Expect some roads used today to be quite bumpy)

Breakfast at your hotel. Thorsmork Nature Reserve (also known as the Thor's Playground) should be on every nature lover's bucket list. This enchanted hidden valley is nestled between two glaciers and protected by rivers and mountains. On the way to Thorsmork, stop at Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where you can gain a different perspective by walking behind the curtain of cascading water. Once within Thorsmork, walk along marked trails in the beautiful scenery of delicate trees and green grass surrounded by towering mountains and glacial tongues. Your guide will choose the best route for your group based on your overall experience level and trail conditions. Hiking times vary based on route chosen.

After a beautiful day here, the tour heads to Reykjavik, arriving around 18:00 (6:00pm)

Overnight stay in Reykjavik. Dinner is on your own.

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Hiking information for Thorsmork:

Distance: 5-6 km / 3-4 miles

Elevation: About 200-300 m / About 656–984 ft

Walking time: About 4-5 hours (several trails combined)

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## DAY 10- Departure

### Highlights: Reykjavik

Breakfast at your hotel. Please note that this might be a light breakfast if you are taking an early morning departure flight.

If your flight is in the afternoon, we recommend taking time to explore Reykjavik or to enjoy a relaxing dip in the popular Blue Lagoon on your way to Keflavik airport. (Airport transfer not included, but we would be happy to arrange it for you.)

### GENERAL HIKING DETAILS FOR 2020 "SCENIC TRAILS"

This table provides some general information about each day's hikes. Please note this is a general guide. Actual times may vary based on weather and trail conditions.

Hiking*	Tour Day	Approximate Distance	Elevation	Approximate Time
meters/feet				
Glymur	2	5 km (3.1 miles)	357 m/ 1,172 ft.	about 4 – 5 hours
Glanni*	3	350 meters/< 1 mile	Very little	about 10 minutes
Grábrók	3	1,000 meters/< 1 mile	100m/328 ft.	About 1 hour
Kolugljúfur	3	varies; route chosen by guide	Very little	About 30 minutes to 1 hour
Staðarbjargarvík*	3	minimal	Very little	About 5- 10 minutes
Sigljufjörður area	4	varies; route chosen by guide	varies; route chosen by guide, max. elevation 630 meters/2,067 ft.	varies; guide chooses route- ca. 4 – 5 hours max.
Hverfjall	5	4km/2.5 miles	190 m/623 ft.	2 – 2.5 hours
Dimmuborgir*	5	2.4 km/1.5 miles	very little	About 1 – 2 hours
Ásbyrgi	6	1km/ < 1 mile	Very little	About 30 minutes to 1 hour
Hljóðaklettur area	6	10 km / 6 miles	approx. 50 – 100 m/164-328 ft.)	3 – 4 hours total (several trails combined)
Landmannalaugar area	8	8.5km/5 miles	approx. 300 m/ 984 ft.	4- 5 hours total (several trails combined)
Þórsmörk	9	5 – 6 km/3 -4 miles	200 – 300 m/656 – 984 ft.	4 – 5 hours total (several trails combined)

\* Nature walk, not hiking

**Note:** We reserve the right to alter routes without prior notice due to road conditions.

Please note this is a general guide. Actual times may vary based on weather and trail conditions. Our expert guides will assess and choose the actual hiking routes and hiking duration for each day based on weather and the fitness/experience level of your group