

# Guided Iceland Circle

Duration: 8 Days/ 7 Nights



The best complete circle tour of Iceland, a bestseller for both Summer and Winter! Hunt the Midnight Sun in the Summer and the Northern Lights in the Winter. Follow Iceland's Ring Road and visit all the highlights of Iceland: discover the major towns of Reykjavík, Akureyri & Egilsstaðir, the Golden Circle, the Mývatn area, bathe in Mývatn Nature Baths, climb a volcano, enjoy Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon, the waterfalls of Seljalandsfoss, Skógafoss, Góðafoss and in the summer Dettifoss, explore two national parks, the black lava beach, stop at the seal museum & Iceland's biggest mineral collection, meet Icelandic horses on a farm, see turf farmsteads and churches. This complete circle tour of Iceland offers excellent value for money!

Maximum group size: 30 people

**Chances to see the Northern Lights during departures from October to mid-April**

## INCLUDED

- 7 nights accommodation in rooms with shower/WC
- 6 days escorted bus tour with English-speaking guide/driver-guide
- Arrival & departure airport transfer by Flybus shuttle (no guide)
- 7x breakfast
- Natural history & Seal museum in Hvammstangi
- Viðimýri turf church
- Mývatn Nature Baths including towel
- Visit to a stone collection
- Exhibition and 4K movie at Lava Centre in Hvolsvöllur
- 2x guided Northern Lights searches, subject to weather (Oct - April)
- Icelandic horse stables & geothermal greenhouse

## NOT included:

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

## Complimentaries:

- Entrance fees
- Free Wi-Fi on the bus
- Use of snow & ice grippers spike (for winter departures)
- Use of flashlight (for winter departures)

**Prices per person 2019**

	Double room	Single room
January – April:	1830 EUR	2370 EUR
May & October	1990 EUR	2610 EUR
June – September	2330 EUR	3220 EUR
November – Dec.	1710 EUR	2230 EUR

**January 2020 – April 2020****1565 EUR per person in double room****2050 EUR per person in single room**

**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.

**DEPARTURES:****Every Friday and Tuesday all year round**

## ITINERARY



### Day 1: ARRIVAL

Overnight stay in Reykjavik (airport transfer included).  
Overnight in *Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura* or similar.

50 km / 31 miles



*Hraunfossar waterfalls*

### Day 2: VOLCANO CRATER, SEALS, FJORDS & MOUNTAINS

At 09:00 meet our tour guide and depart from Icelandair Hotel Natura. Travel west, passing the town of Borgarnes and climb the Grábrók volcano crater. In the afternoon visit a natural history & seal museum in a small fishing village in Northwest Iceland and stroll around the local harbour. Further north we stop at the turf church of Víðimýri which has been extensively restored to its original form and is widely considered one of the purest and most beautiful examples of traditional Icelandic architecture. We continue along scenic fjord landscape and over several mountain passes until we reach Akureyri, the capital of North Iceland. The overnight location is Icelandair Hotel Akureyri or similar.

425 km / 264 miles

### **Day 3: THE CAPITAL OF NORTH ICELAND, LAKE MÝVATN & GEOTHERMAL BATHS**

In the morning we explore Akureyri, a charming town of 17000 inhabitants, visit the botanical garden and enjoy the panoramic view over Eyjafjörður fjord. In the afternoon we travel to a prominent spot in Iceland's history, Goðafoss, the waterfalls of the Gods. We continue to Lake Mývatn which is known for its geological wonders and active bird life during summer. We stop at the bizarre lava formations at Kálfaströnd followed by a walk around the many pseudocraters and end an exciting day with a relaxing soak at Mývatn Nature Baths that contains a unique blend of minerals, silicates, and geothermal micro-organisms. The warm, soothing waters benefit both skin and spirit alike. The overnight location is either at Sel-Hotel Mývatn or a hotel in the Húsavík area.

*120 km / 75 miles*

### **Day 4: LAVA LABYRINTH, HOT SPRINGS & TRAVEL EAST**

In the morning we hike in a lava labyrinth at Dimmuborgir "the dark castles", hoping to get a glimpse of the trolls who are said to live there. After an optional lunch, we visit the hot spring area of Námaskarð with bubbling mud pools and steaming solfataras. We head through the uninhabited highlands and moon-like surrounding to East Iceland. With some luck, we might spot an Arctic fox or see reindeer. From June to August the tour includes a detour to Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall in the northern part of Vatnajökull National Park. The overnight location is either at Icelandair Hotel Hérað or Álfheimar Guesthouse in Borgarfjörður-Eystri.

*250 km / 155 miles*



*Glacier lagoon*

### **Day 5: FJORDS, GLACIER AND ICE**

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 and on the route we visit Petra's impressive stone and mineral collection. In the afternoon we see Vatnajökull – Europe's biggest glacier that is visible all over Southeast Iceland. Past the town of Höfn, we stop at Jökulsárlón, a glacial lagoon filled with floating icebergs, and we explore the extraordinary site and might see seals swimming in arctic

waters. You can walk on the black sandy beach, where often large icebergs get stranded. Depending on the season optional boat trips are available. We travel along the southern part of the glacier Vatnajökull and spend some time at Europe's second largest national park, which has Iceland's highest mountains, an alpine environment, and Europe's largest glacier. The overnight location is either at Icelandair Hotel Kirkjubæjarklaustur or Hotel Höfn.

470 km / 292 miles



*Reynisfjara black sand beach*

### **Day 6: SOUTH COAST**

A beautiful drive with many natural wonders awaits us today as we head across the Eldhraun lava field, cross the sandy desert of the south coast, overlooked by rugged cliffs, glaciers, and waterfalls. The world-famous Reynisfjara shore, near the village Vík, is widely regarded as the most impressive black sand and pebble beach in Iceland and features an amazing cliff of regular basalt columns resembling a rocky step pyramid. Out in the sea are the spectacularly shaped basalt sea stacks Reynisdrangar. In the small village of Skógar, there is Skógafoss waterfall which is 62 meters high and is one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country. We continue to the 65-meter high but narrow Seljalandsfoss waterfall which plunges over the mountain. There is an interesting trail that goes behind the fall – if you are prepared to get wet! The overnight location is either at Icelandair Hotel Flúðir or Hotel Eyjafjallajökull or Hotel Fljótshlíð.

240 km / 149 miles



*Gullfoss waterfall*

### **Day 7: ICELANDIC HORSES & GOLDEN CIRCLE**

We explore classics today as we travel the route of the Golden Circle sights. We start the day at Friðheimar, where you learn about the Icelandic horse, its

unique qualities, and history and visit a geothermal greenhouse. Later on, we see steam from the Geysir geothermal fields as we arrive. There is a variety of hot springs and bubbling pools. The original geyser is now dormant but has been replaced by Strokkur, "the Churn", which erupts at 5-10 minute intervals. We continue to Gullfoss, "the golden falls", which is a double waterfall that tumbles 34 meters into the Hvítá river and attracts travellers all year round. We venture inland to Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site, and an area of exceptional geological and historical interest. The Þingvellir area is part of a fissure zone running through Iceland, situated on the tectonic plate boundaries of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The faults and fissures make evident the rifting of the earth's crust. As we return to Reykjavík, we take you for a short city tour to show highlights of the world's northernmost capital. Overnight is Icelandair Hotel Natura or similar.

*160 km / 99 miles*

### **Day 8: DEPARTURE**

Airport shuttle picks you up from your hotel and takes you to Keflavik airport.

*50 km / 31 miles*