



Itinerary

Icelandic Adventure

May 12, 2020 - May 21, 2020

Pre Night: Centerhotel Plaza



Would you like to begin your vacation with an additional Hotel in Reykjavik?

Day 1: Overnight Flight



You're on your way to Iceland, a land forged by fire and ice, where adventurous landscapes give way to a rich cultural heritage. Discover the dramatic contrasts, from ethereal lava fields and thundering waterfalls to charming coastal villages.

Day 2: Reykjavik, Iceland - Tour Begins



Icelandic culture and epic history greet you this morning in the country's capital: Reykjavik. Explore the old section of the city on a walking tour where you'll discover the towering Hallgrimskirkja church, the harbor, city hall, and Reykjavik's oldest building, now home to the Kraum Icelandic Design Center. The Harpa Concert Hall is a true marvel of modern architecture in Reykjavik, as is the hall's famous glass façade. Tonight, make friends with your traveling companions during a traditional Icelandic dinner at a distinctive local restaurant.

Hotel

Centerhotel Plaza
Reykjavik

Culinary

Dinner

Weather

High 49°
Low 38°
Rain 1"

Day 3: Reykjavik - Golden Circle - Reykjavik



A journey along the spectacular Golden Circle is your gateway to Iceland's most incredible natural wonders. Stop at a family-owned dairy farm and enjoy a mélange of cheeses that are produced onsite. Journey onward to the otherworldly Thingvellir National Park, where you can walk between two continents as you stand at the crest of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a UNESCO World Heritage site that marks the meeting place of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Get lost in the beauty of the Gullfoss (Golden Falls) 100-foot double cascade waterfall, and see Strokkur, the fountain geyser with an explosive, 90 foot vertical spout.

Hotel

Centerhotel Plaza
Reykjavik

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 49°
Low 38°
Rain 1"

Day 4: Reykjavík - Akureyri - Goðafoss - Húsavík



Experience the true beauty of the way up north. This morning, fly* to Akureyri. Upon arrival** enjoy some leisure time to absorb the quaint culture of Iceland's "Capital of the North." Then, it's your choice! Saddle up and immerse yourself in the tranquility of the countryside on a horseback riding excursion -OR- grab your camera for a photo tour with Icelandic horses. Learn about these friendly and photogenic animals as you walk with them alongside beautiful vistas. En route to Húsavík, stop at one of Iceland's most historic waterfalls, Goðafoss, where Iceland was converted to Christianity in A.D. 1000. Later, settle into your farmhouse in the Icelandic countryside. This family-owned property holds an environmental gold certification. Savor the reflective stillness of its rural surroundings during a 3-night stay. This evening, enjoy the true essence of farm-to-table as locally sourced ingredients are incorporated in your dining experience.

Hotel

Hotel Raudaskrida
Húsavík

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 5: Húsavík



After a continental breakfast made with farm-sourced ingredients, the day begins at Grenjaðarstaður, a fascinating collection of Icelandic turf settlement homes. Afterward, venture into the town of Húsavík. Ancient tales say this was the first place in Iceland settled by the Norse. Your adventure starts with a visit to the town's whaling museum. Then take to the sea! Gear up in thermal wear because you'll be joining expert whale watchers on Skjálfandi Bay. Aboard specialized zodiacs, get as close as you can to whales in northern Iceland. You may see the humpback, minke, fin or harbor porpoise, and possibly the orca or giant blue whales that frequent these waters. This afternoon enjoy some leisure time and meet the people who call this town home.

Hotel

Hotel Raudaskrida
Húsavík

Culinary

Breakfast

Day 6: Húsavík - Diamond Circle - Dettifoss - Lake Mývatn - Húsavík



Spend today exploring the highlights of the magnificent Diamond Circle, a scenic circuit that covers over 160 miles. Begin with the powerful Dettifoss waterfall, known to be one of the strongest waterfalls in all of Europe due to its volume. Then visit Lake Mývatn, a volcanic lake surrounded by many intriguing volcanic and geothermal phenomena. During your time here you will have a chance to explore the Dimmuborgir lava formations, a field of ethereal rock structures. Continue on to Skútustaðagígar and get up close to rootless cones, or pseudo-craters, which were formed by lava coming in contact with Lake Mývatn's waters rather than a volcanic eruption. Next, reflect on the sights of the day while taking a relaxing soak in the Blue Lagoon of the north, the Mývatn Nature Baths. Enjoy the warm, mineral-rich geothermal waters of this man-made lagoon. This evening continue to experience the gifts of your surroundings during another farm-to-table inspired dinner.

Hotel

Hotel Raudaskrida
Húsavík

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 7: Húsavík - Snæfellsnes Peninsula - Stykkishólmur



A scenic 290 mile drive takes you to Stykkishólmur, the gateway to the Snæfellsnes Peninsula and a place unlike any other. Nicknamed "Iceland in Miniature," the sparkling fjords, volcanic peaks, and the Snæfellsjökull ice cap (immortalized in Jules Verne's Journey to the Center of the Earth) are just some of the sights you'll see in this otherworldly landscape. Along the way, this transfer day offers you the opportunity to bask in Iceland's barren and dramatic scenery while you drive through the northern horse country of Gauksmyri with its pastures surrounded by mountains. Stop at a wool factory that is among a handful of remaining shops still using 100% Icelandic wool. Discover how they've modernized production while staying true to the traditional patterns of the past. This afternoon, enjoy some time on your own to explore the quaint fishing town of Stykkishólmur, with its shops, museums, and plethora of opportunities for catching the unbelievable scenery with your camera lens.

Hotel

Fosshotel Stykkisholmur
Stykkishólmur

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 8: Stykkishólmur - Vatnshellir Cave - Snæfellsjökull Glacier Experience



Today, continue your journey through the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, with its camera-ready black sand beaches, stunning cliffs, mountain peaks, volcanic craters, plunging waterfalls, rocky coastlines, and tiny fishing villages. Get ready to journey 100 feet below the ground to an 8,000-year-old lava tube on a thrilling tour of Vatnshellir Cave.*** In addition to seeing the amazing rock pigments, lava formations, stalagmites, and stalactites of the cave, you'll also get to experience total and absolute darkness. Back in the light of day, gear up to ascend the captivating Snæfellsjökull glacier**** via mountain truck! Under a tented venue surrounded by Iceland's natural splendor, join your mountain guides for an exclusive tasting of local epicurean specialties. Then, it's your choice! Gear up with crampons and an ice pick and join an expert on a hike that brings you to nearly 3,000 feet onto a glacier, where breathtaking ice

formations, moulins, and crevasses reside in full view -OR- venture alongside a guide for a hike through lava fields, showcasing the landscape's myriad textures and pigments.

Hotel

Fosshotel Stykkisholmur
Stykkishólmur

Culinary

Breakfast

Day 9: Stykkishólmur - Borgarnes - Blue Lagoon - Reykjavík



Head south on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula where you'll embark on a true Icelandic cultural adventure. Learn about a 400-year-old tradition of catching and preserving Greenland shark. Before leaving, test your culinary courage and try the local specialty, hákarl (cured shark meat). Dive into the origins of Icelandic heritage, including the works of the famous Viking poet, Egill Skallagrímsson, on a visit to the Settlement Museum. Embark on a drive to the Reykjanes Peninsula, best known as the home of the Blue Lagoon. You can't leave Iceland without taking a dip in the warm, mineral-rich waters of this geothermal wonder, located in the middle of a dramatic lava field. Come together this evening for a farewell dinner at a restaurant featuring Icelandic-inspired cuisine.

Hotel

Centerhotel Plaza
Reykjavík

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 49°
Low 38°
Rain 1"

Day 10: Reykjavík - Tour Ends



Head for home having uncovered Iceland's adventurous side.