



Iceland: Reykjavík & the Northern Lights

6 days | 8 days with West Iceland & Reykjavík extension

Is there anything like winter in Iceland? The sun creeps lower in the sky, occasional snowfall dusts Reykjavík, and the aurora borealis dances among the stars. This quick tour hits all the highlights, from the staggered columns of the Hallgrímskirkja church to the sparse expanse of West Iceland on the extension. And while we can't guarantee you'll see them, we'll do everything we can to give you your moment with the northern lights.



Your tour package includes

- 4 nights in handpicked hotels
- 4 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 1 dinner with beer or wine
- 4 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Reykjavík
- The Golden Circle
- Great Geysir geothermal area
- Gullfoss
- Eyjafjallajökull volcano
- Seljalandsfoss
- Northern lights excursions

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least two hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including wet, slippery gravel and paved paths with some uphill climbs.

Group size

15–38

Iceland: Reykjavík & the Northern Lights

6 days | 8 days with West Iceland & Reykjavík extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Reykjavík today.

Reykjavík → 4 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Reykjavík

Included meals: welcome lunch

Welcome to Iceland! Meet your fellow travelers during a welcome lunch, then take the rest of the day to explore at your leisure. If you're feeling peckish, check out Hlemmur Mathöll, a bus-station-turned-food-hall serving everything from Italian gelato to Danish smørrebrød, or open-faced sandwiches.

Alternatively, add an excursion—and what better way to decompress after an international flight than with a soak in the Blue Lagoon? The milky waters of this geothermal bath are prized for their restorative properties; go for a float and let them ease your post-travel tension.

+ Blue Lagoon Spa Visit

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Reykjavík & northern lights excursion

Included meals: breakfast

Clean, green Reykjavík is part cosmopolitan capital, part Scandinavian fishing port. Take its streets with your Tour Director today and get to know this one-of-a-kind city on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Build your mental map of Reykjavík at the Perlan, a glass-domed museum with a 360-degree observation deck. From your perch atop the Öskjuhlíð hill, you can see the city's compact downtown, Faxa Bay, and twin mountains emerging from the horizon.
- See the stately Höfði—the house that hosted the 1986 summit between Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev—before continuing to Bessastaðir. Distinguished by its rich, clay-colored roofing and simple, yet dignified, exterior, this home serves as the official residence of Iceland's president.
- Head to Miðborg, the downtown neighborhood more simply known as the 101,

to visit the Hallgrímskirkja. Reaching almost 245 feet into the sky at its peak, this church is one of the tallest buildings in the city—and with its breathtaking curved spire, it's one of the most distinct, too.

- Pass the Alþingishúsið, home of the national parliament, and the lakeside City Hall before stopping at the National Gallery of Iceland to view the work of renowned local artists like Ásmundur Sveinsson and Einar Jónsson.

Afterward, linger a while in the Hljómskálagarðurinn, Reykjavík's principal green space, or add an afternoon excursion to explore one of Iceland's fantastical lava tubes—caves formed over time by magma flowing beneath a hardened crust.

Once the evening rolls in, reconvene and set off as a group in search of the aurora borealis—the northern lights. Make the hour-long journey out of Reykjavík to the Icelandic countryside (less light pollution means clearer skies!), settle in, and keep watch for those ephemeral shimmers.

Please note: The evening northern lights excursion is weather-dependent and seeing them isn't guaranteed.

+ The Lava Tunnel

Day 4: The Golden Circle & northern lights search

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Running for 190 miles across pristine landscapes, the Golden Circle encompasses some of Iceland's most magnificent natural wonders.

Today, you'll board your bus and drive some of this famous route.

- Begin at the UNESCO-listed Þingvellir National Park, a 92-square-mile tract of volcanic rock and golden scrubland. You'll see the original site of the Alþing—"Althing" in English—an open-air governmental assembly that was established in 930 and continued to meet until 1798.
- Sit down for an included lunch at Friðheimar, a farm that grows tantalizingly fresh tomatoes and other produce in a greenhouse heated by geothermal energy.
- Enter the Haukadalur, a valley teeming with geothermal activity, and explore the area surrounding the Great Geysir. You could say

it's the original Old Faithful: After all, the English word "geyser" is derived from its name. While it hasn't erupted since 2016, its nearby cousin, Strokkur, hasn't stopped, spouting into the air every five to 10 minutes.

- Marvel at Gullfoss, the Golden Waterfall that ranks as one of the most powerful in all of Europe. Some say its name comes from the legend of a Viking who dumped his treasure into its churning waters; others, the way the light catches the mist steaming off the cascade. Either way, it's a sight to behold.

Don't stop there. This evening, you'll follow up natural beauty with a celestial show as you chase the northern lights outside of Reykjavík.

Please note: The evening northern lights search is weather-dependent and seeing them isn't guaranteed.

Day 5: The South Coast

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Ready for more sensational sights? Embark on a journey to the South Coast, a lush lowland region filled to the brim with glimmering glaciers, black-sand beaches, and cozy villages.

- Eye the Eyjafjallajökull, an ice cap sitting atop an active volcano, then continue to the area's famous beaches. Colored a deep, metallic black, their sands are the byproduct of centuries of eruptions and erosion. (And they make for stellar photos.)
- Park at the Seljalandsfoss, skirt the waterfall, and walk into a small cave behind it for a misty view of the surrounding plains.
- Marvel at the mighty Sólheimajökull. Spanning the gap between two volcanoes, this glacier's moody blue ice makes it a popular hiking destination.

Celebrate your trip with your group at a farewell dinner this evening, served with beer or wine, and recount all your epic memories before turning in for the night.

Please note: The visit to Sólheimajökull is weather-dependent.

Flight Home

Day 6: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early

morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. If you booked this trip's extension, sleep in a little—there's more exploring to do in the wondrous wilds of West Iceland.

+ West Iceland & Reykjavík extension

Sprawling lava fields. Roiling waterfalls. Abundant animal life. Just when you think you've seen the country's best, West Iceland beckons to be explored. Take a quick survey of the region on this tour's extension to see what we mean.

West Iceland → 1 night

Day 6: West Iceland & Langjökull glacier

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

While some of your companions will be making their way home today, you'll be rolling out to West Iceland, a geographically diverse wonderland that inspired Viking writers and continues to captivate travelers like yourself.

- Walk a one-mile loop and watch as Deildartunguhver—Europe's most powerful hot spring—bubbles and flows without end. Water gushes out of the ground at a piping-hot 207 degrees and is used for heating in nearby towns.
- Behold two waterfalls, different in scale: the Hraunfossar, with its kilometer-long series of gentle rivulets, and the Barnafoss, a rapid cascade that lies at the heart of a dark local legend.
- Visit Reykholt, a historic village that was home to Snorri Sturluson, a 13th-century author and two-time leader of the Althing. Then, make your way to the Langjökull—Iceland's second-largest glacier. Drive along the ice cap in a specially modified truck, then walk through its interior ice tunnels.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine, and prepare for tomorrow's return trip to Reykjavík.

Please note: Langjökull's ice tunnels are tight, enclosed spaces. We recommend that travelers with claustrophobia refrain from entering them.

Reykjavík → 1 night

Day 7: Reykjavík via Borgarnes

Included meals: breakfast

On your way back to Reykjavík, stop in the town of Borgarnes, set on a peninsula jutting into the Borgarfjörður fjord. There, you'll visit The Settlement Center: Built in two of Borgarnes' oldest buildings, it shines a light on Iceland's early history and one of its most famous figures—the Viking poet, warrior, and (supposed) sorcerer Egil Skallagrímsson.

Flight Home

Day 8: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport to board your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/ICL | 1-800-597-0350

Day 2: Blue Lagoon Spa Visit

\$159 (4.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Travel to the Blue Lagoon, a famed geothermal spa known for its restorative properties. The lagoon's light-blue water is a mix of freshwater and seawater, and is warmed deep in the Earth before being sourced and pumped into the lagoon by a nearby geothermal plant. Relax in the lagoon's spa, admire the surrounding lava field, and soak in beneficial minerals as you float weightlessly in the ethereal water. Please Note: On some departures, travelers may visit the Sky Lagoon instead of the Blue Lagoon if it is closed or Go Ahead feels there is a safety risk due to seismic activity, dangerous air quality, or magma accumulating beneath the Blue Lagoon surface. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 45 days prior to departure.

Day 3: The Lava Tunnel

\$155 (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Head outside of Reykjavik, to one of Iceland's longest and best-known lava tubes. Descend into the impressive inner tunnel, which was formed roughly 5,200 years ago as a result of the Leitahehraun eruption. Explore inside the tunnel, where impressive lighting showcases the powerful force of the eruption. In wintertime, water drips from the tunnel's ceiling and freezes in the form of beautiful ice sculptures. Please note: This activity involves 1 hour of walking through the cave on surfaces including some stairs and flat boardwalks. Warm layered clothing, gloves, sturdy shoes, and hats without brims are recommended due to unpredictable weather. Helmets and headlamps will be provided. This excursion is not suitable for people with mobility challenges due to steep stairs and uneven surfaces. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms