

Iceland

The World's Number ONE Tourist Destination

Sample OPTIONAL Self-Drive 10-DAY ICELAND TOUR

The tour includes part of the **Golden Circle** route: Thingvellir National Park, Geysir, Crater Kerið, Gullfoss waterfall and beautiful areas along the way. You will walk along the spectacular **Southern coast** of Iceland and visit waterfalls Skógafoss, Seljalandsfoss and black basalt beaches of Dyrhólaey.

DAY 1 - Landing at Reykjavik City Airport (REK)

You will pick up the car at the airport and then drive 15 minutes to your hotel at harbour-side Reykjavik for express check-in and the initial arrangements at the hotel.



The rest of the day, you will spend walking around Reykjavik, which is the capital city of Iceland and cultural, governance and trade centre of the country.

It is recommended to go down to the Gulf of Reykjavik and breathe in the fresh Icelandic air. The city's opera house called Harpa ("Harp" in Icelandic) is located on the waterfront. This is a unique structure made of glass that changes colours according to the sun's reflection.



The structure Perla (The Pearl) located on a hill in the eastern part of the city provides a beautiful view of 360 degrees of Reykjavik as well as the option to dine in the revolving restaurant located there

The main site of the day: Reykjavik. Accommodation: Reykjavik Harbour Area

DAY 2 – 3 West Iceland - Saga Valley - Hraunfossar Waterfall

Set out by car in the morning and leave Reykjavik behind.

Head west toward the fjord Hvalfjörður also known as Whale Bay. In the inner edge of the fjord is located waterfall Glymur, the highest waterfall in Iceland.

From there you will enter the Borgarfjörður district and from there head to the main city in the area Borgarnes. In Borgarnes visit the settlement centre that tells the saga of the Norsemen settlement in Iceland. The Visitors' Centre dramatically recreates the birth of the Icelandic nation.

After stopping at Borgarnes, continue toward the beautiful crater Eldborg, the most perfectly shaped crater in Iceland. On your way to the Snæfellsness peninsula you will have an opportunity to see the magnificent views. Estimated driving distance: 180 km.

Today's main sites: Whale Bay, Town of Borgarnes - Crater Eldborg - Stykkisholmur.

Accommodation: Snæfellsness Area Optional Activities: Into the Glacier Tour



DAY 4 - Snæfellsness Peninsula - Snæfellsjökull Park



In the morning of the third day, it is recommended to have a cruise in the beautiful Bay Breiðafjörður scattered with small islands. The cruise is available in summer and departs from Stykkishólmur. The islands area is known for its great variety of seabirds, including puffins, ducks, cormorants and even eagles.

After the cruise, continue to drive west along the northern coast of the peninsula, through fisherman's villages Rif, Ólafsvík, Grundarfjörður and Hellissandur. Complete the tour around the peninsula with spectacular views of the volcano Snæfellsjökull and many other sights around. Go for a walk on the beach Djúpalónssandur, visit the picturesque villages Hellnar & Arnarstapi & walk along the basalt cliffs on the beautiful beach. Continue to the eastern part of the southern coast of Snæfellsness. In the farms in this area colonies of seals can be seen often. Next stop will be the Deildartunguhver, Iceland's largest geothermal spring. You will continue to historic site Reykholt, home of the famous poet and researcher Snorri Sturluson. Estimated driving distance: 180 km.

Today's main sites: Fishing village Grundarfjörður - Black Beach
Djúpalónssandur - Hellnar and Arnarstapi - Glacier Snæfellsjökull.
Accommodation: Snæfellsness Area.

DAY 5-6 Geysir - Gullfoss - Park Thingvellir Golden Circle



Continue toward the beautiful waterfalls Hraunfossar and Barnafoss, toward Húsafell, a beautiful resort of bungalows made of wood in a forest of birch trees.

You will climb up one of the highest highland roads in Iceland toward the Kaldidalur pass, a dirt road which lead to the National Park Thingvellir, geologically unique place.

Research has made it clear that Þingvellir is a natural wonder on an international scale, the place was recognized by the UNESCO as the World Heritage Site in 2004. Cracks and fissures in the earth's crust can be seen here all over the place. Thingvellir is also one of the most important historical sites in Iceland, it is the establishment site of the world's first parliament Alþingi.

After you've seen the beautiful sights of the park You will continue to the other side of the Lake Thingvellir - to the park of geysers and hot springs. You will see the Strokkur - one of the active geysers that erupts every few minutes.

You will continue to the Gullfoss waterfall "Golden waterfall" one of the largest and most impressive waterfalls in Iceland.

You'll continue south to see the waterfall Faxi and the volcanic crater Kerið where you will climb up to see the view of the lake harbored in the crater of the mountain. Estimated driving distance: 250 km.

Today's major sites: National Park Thingvellir - Kerið - Laugarvatn - Geysir - Gullfoss Waterfall

Accommodation: Gullfoss area.

DAY 7 & 8 - South Iceland - Skógafoss Waterfall - Dyrhólaey Cliff



Continue our way eastward along the southern coast of Iceland, stopping to admire the Seljalandsfoss & Skógafoss waterfalls. In the summer you can walk behind the waterfall Seljalandsfoss and see the water wall falls from above, a unique experience.

In Skogar there is an interesting museum that shows how Icelanders lived in the past, in small wooden houses with roofs made of grass. The whole area is dominated by glaciers Eyjafjallajökull and Myrdalsjökull rising above.

On March 20th, 2010, there was a volcanic eruption of Fimmvörðuháls, which is a mountain ridge between two glaciers, Eyjafjallajökull and Myrdalsjökull. Eruption of Fimmvörðuháls lasted for a few weeks. When this eruption came to an end, a new one began, but stronger this time, beneath the ice of glacier Eyjafjallajökull. The eruption ended on May 23rd, 2010. You'll continue driving along the southern coast to the Dyrhólaey nature reserve, the southernmost point in Iceland and nesting place for many birds, including puffins. In Reynishverfi you will be able to walk on the beach with black sand and enjoy the view of the cliffs. At the village Vik you'll make a U-turn and go back towards Reykjavik. Estimated driving distance: 250 km

Today's main sites: Waterfalls Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss - Dyrhólaey Nature Reserve - Village Vik - Reynishverfi Beach. Accommodation: Vik area

DAY 9 - Reykjanes Peninsula - Blue Lagoon - Reykjavik



Leave Reykjavik and head to the village Hafnarfjörður, famous for its Viking village. You'll cross the Vopnafjörður toward the Reykjanes Peninsula to the Lake Kleifarvatn with the lunar landscape.

From here a short drive will take us to Krýsuvík, very geothermal active area with many bubbling mud pools, hot springs and boiling water coming out of cracks in the ground! You will continue the road that crosses lava fields to fisherman's village Grindavík. Blue Lagoon is located near the village of Grindavík.

The Blue Lagoon is known worldwide as one of the top ten spas in the world, an exceptional place. Here we highly recommend you have a relaxing bath in the unique water of the Blue Lagoon before heading back to Reykjavik. You'll spend the rest of the day in beautiful Reykjavik. Estimated driving distance: 150 km.

Today's main sites: **Hafnarfjörður town** - Village Grindavík - Reykjanes Peninsula - Lake Kleifarvatn - **Blue Lagoon** - Reykjavik.

Accommodation: Reykjavik. Optional Activities: The Blue Lagoon

DAY 10 - Reykjavik - Keflavik Airport

Return to the airport Keflavík (KEF) where you return the vehicle before your flight home