

TRAVEL FOCUS TOURS

SCENIC ICELAND 2020



9 DAY CIRCLE ISLAND | 26th Sep – 4th OCT | Land PRICE \$4,395* pp



With so much to discover and explore in Iceland, this comprehensive tour highlights the natural wonders, the majestic landscapes, and the unique character of Iceland!

INCLUSIONS

- Meet and greet at Keflavík International Airport upon arrival and transfer to hotel in Reykjavík plus return transfer upon departure
- Coach tour as per itinerary with Australian Tour Manager, Monica Godfrey
- 8 nights carefully selected accommodation including 1 night stay in a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World
- 7 breakfasts and 7 dinners
- Blue Lagoon Comfort Entrance including towel, mud mask and 1 drink at swim up bar
- Mývatn Nature Baths Entrance with towel
- Boat tour on Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon
- Entrance to Lava Museum

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Exploding geysers
Black sand beaches
Lava fields
Europe's largest national park (UNESCO) national park
Glacial lagoon with icebergs
Narrow fjords
Steep & majestic mountains
Picturesque coastlines
Interesting stone and mineral collection
Highland desert
Geothermal & volcanic activity
Rich birdlife
Massive & picturesque waterfalls
Viking horses
Europe's most powerful hot spring
Fertile farmlands
Quaint little towns
Great potential to see the Northern Lights

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TOUR ITINERARY

Tour Day 1: Saturday 26th Sep

Reykjavík

Meet and greet at Keflavík airport. Drive to Reykjavík for check-in at your accommodation (after 2pm).

Afternoon free to wander the town or rest up.

Welcome dinner included this evening.

Approximate Driving Distance: 52km

Overnight: Storm Hotel (D)



Tour Day 2: Sunday 27th Sep

Reykjavík – Blue Lagoon – Reykjavík

Combine a tour of the fascinating area beyond Reykjavík with the option of a reviving visit to the famous Blue Lagoon. The Reykjanes Peninsula was designated a **UNESCO Global Geopark** in 2015. Located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Reykjanes has many volcanic and geothermal sites to explore.

Drive past the Presidential residence of Bessastaðir and to the town of Hafnarfjörður. Take a coastal road to **Lake Kleifarvatn**, set in fascinating, moon-like surroundings. This is the setting of a famous Icelandic suspense novel, *The Draining Lake*, by Arnaldur Indriðason.

Near the lake's southern end lies **Krísuvík** with powerful jets of sulphurous steam escaping from deep below the earth's crust. Here you can view numerous small hot springs, mud pots, boiling pools and other types of geothermal activity. Continue under low mountains along the shore, where craggy cliffs rise steeply from the sea.

Visit **Grindavík**, a bustling town with a large fishing fleet and a history of processing salt fish (bacalao). Nearby is the world-famous Blue Lagoon, where you can opt to spend time relaxing in the geothermal mineral waters

We end the day back at our Reykjavík Hotel. Dinner is on your own tonight in Reykjavík.

Approximate Driving Distance: 104km

Overnight: Storm Hotel (B)



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Tour Day 3: Monday 28th Sep

Geysir – Gullfoss – Skógar – Vík

Exploding Geysers - Massive Waterfall - Puffin Colony - Black Sand Beaches

Breakfast at your hotel. Depart Reykjavík for South Iceland. View Iceland's famous **Gullfoss**, or 'Golden Falls', and the nearby **Geysir** hot spring area with its numerous spouting hot springs and boiling mud pools.



Continue along the South Shore region, making a stop to admire **Seljalandsfoss** and **Skógafoss** waterfalls before arriving at **Dyrhólaey** nature reserve. Here you have a chance of spotting many different seabirds.



Conclude your journey in the charming village of **Vík**, where you can take a walk on the beautiful black-sand beach with powerful waves thundering in the distance.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Vík area.



Approximate Driving Distance: 315km

Overnight: *Vík Icelandair Hotel (B, D)*

Tour Day 4: Tuesday 29th Sep **Vík – Skaftafell National Park – Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon – Höfn**

Lava Fields - Europe's Largest National Park - Glacial Lagoon with Icebergs - Europe's Largest Glacier

Breakfast at your hotel. Cross **Eldhraun**, an impressive lava flow. Eldhraun is the largest lava flow known to have occurred on Earth (1783 – 1783 AD).



Make a stop in the town of **Kirkjubæjarklaustur** and its green setting that contrasts with the surrounding lava fields and black-sand deserts.

The tour continues over **Skeiðarársandur** volcanic sands to **Skaftafell**, a beautiful glacial area that is part of the vast **Vatnajökull National Park**.



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Continue to the stunning **Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon** to see floating icebergs. You might also glimpse sunbathing seals on the ice. Enjoy a boat tour on the Lagoon, sailing among the majestic icebergs.

Head to **Höfn**, enjoying magnificent views of the mighty **Vatnajökull**, the biggest glacier in Europe.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Höfn area.



Approximate Driving Distance: 280 km

Overnight: Fosshotel Vatnajokull (B, D)



Tour Day 5: Wednesday 30th Sep

Höfn – East Fjords – Egilsstaðir

Narrow Fjords - Steep Mountains - Picturesque Coastline – Collection of minerals

Breakfast at your hotel. Drive from Höfn through **Almannaskarð** pass, stopping to admire the majestic coastline.

Continue on for magnificent views of the **East Fjords**: towering mountains that plunge vertically into the sea. East Iceland has some of Iceland's oldest land formations.

Visit Petra's renowned collection of local stones and minerals. Here you can see a story told in stone about the East Fjords, one of Iceland's most geologically ancient areas..

Dinner and overnight stay in the **Egilsstaðir** area.

Approximate Driving Distance: 260 km

Overnight: Fosshotel Eastfjords (B, D)



Tour Day 6: Thursday 1st Oct

Egilsstaðir – Lake Mývatn Area – Akureyri

Highland Desert - Bizarre Lava Formations - Geothermal & Volcanic Activity - Rich Birdlife

Breakfast at your hotel.



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Explore the empty vastness of the highland desert plateau **Möðrudalsöræfi** as you head to the **Lake Mývatn** area. One of the first Mývatn sites you will visit is **Námaskarð** pass with its boiling mud pools and vibrant colours. Explore the natural beauty of the Lake Mývatn area, including the peculiar lava formations of **Dimmuborgir**, the pseudo craters at **Skútustaðir**, and the swift-flowing Laxá salmon river. One of the Mývatn area's claims to fame is that it is home to more species of water fowl than any other place on Earth, as well as many other bird species. Mývatn Nature Baths are included..



Travel towards the bustling northern port and town of Akureyri, making a stop at the magnificent Goðafoss waterfall. Akureyri is home to some of the finest timber buildings in the country, beautifully restored to their original glory.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Akureyri area.

Approximate Driving Distance: 290 km

Overnight: Sæluhus Hotel Apartments & Houses (B, D)

Tour Day 7: Friday 2nd Oct

Akureyri – Skagafjörður – Borgarfjörður

Majestic Mountains - Fertile Farmlands - Viking Horses

Breakfast at your hotel.

Today, majestic mountains and narrow passes lead to **Skagafjörður**, an area famous for horse breeding. Enjoy an introduction to the unique Icelandic horse breed that has a special fifth gait - the "tölt".



Continue towards the village of **Blönduós** built on both sides of the river Blanda with **Hrútey Island** nature reserve located in this popular salmon river.



Cross the **Holtavörðuheidi** plateau to reach **Borgarfjörður**, glimpsing a few volcanic craters along the way.

Dinner and overnight in the Borgarfjörður area.

Approximate Driving Distance: 311 km

Overnight: Husafell Hotel (B, D)

Tour Day 8: Saturday 3rd Oct

Borgarfjörður – Þingvellir – Reykjavík

Picturesque Waterfalls – Europe's Most Powerful Hot Spring – National Park with Geological Wonders (UNESCO)

Breakfast at your hotel.



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Explore the fertile region of Borgarfjörður, visiting the picturesque Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls as well as Deildartunguhver, the most powerful hot spring in Europe.



Travel on to Þingvellir National Park to explore the grounds of the ancient parliament site, Alþingi, on the shores of Iceland's largest lake. Thingvellir also showcases the dramatic continental drift between the American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Continue to Reykjavík.



Farewell dinner at one of Reykjavík's varied restaurants.

Overnight in Reykjavík.

Approximate Driving Distance: 241 km

Overnight: Storm Hotel (B, D)

Tour Day 9: Sunday 4th Oct:

Departure

Unguided transfer to Keflavík Airport for your return flight.



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WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT THIS TOUR

- The hotels have been selected for location and style yet offer value for money. We know that the hotel stay can be just as important as the destination!
- Small group size no more than 22 passengers
- Value for money. This tour has been priced against some competitors and comes in cheaper with more inclusions
- Having so many tour inclusions means it's possible to spend very little additional on the holiday
- This tour offers a chance to leave the kids behind, reconnect with nature and friends, and is bound to offer a load of laughs along the way
- October is a great time to travel as the summertime crowds have dispersed. The cooler temperatures mean the beginning of Northern Lights Season while daylight hours are still normal.
- There's not many tours out there aimed at the 30-50 something year olds so this tour hits the spot!

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- International airfares
- Breakfast on departure day, dinner in Reykjavík on day 2 and lunches
- Beverages with meals other than coffee/tea and fresh Icelandic tap water
- Optional tours and activities
- Porterage at airport and hotels
- Any service not specifically listed under "included"
- Travel insurance

HOW TO BOOK

- Contact Travel Focus Group on 1300 733 323 or 02 4234 1175 or office@travelfocusgroup.com to request a booking form and the complete Terms and Conditions
- Pay a \$250 per person deposit to secure your place. Balance due 26th July 2020

** Price based on twin share accommodation. Ask for single supplement pricing. All prices and information correct at time of issue and subject to change or cancellation.*