



# Northern Lights Explorations

*Northern Lights*

2015 - 16

Adventure.com

The best of Iceland's winter! These Northern Lights Exploration Tours include the highlights of Iceland maximize the chances of seeing the elusive Northern Lights. A seven night stay with breakfast, PLUS our special six night Northern Lights Academy, a combination of evening presentations, lectures, film and guided searches for the the Northern Lights. Experience Icelandic winter as good as it gets. Heading to the countryside away from the big city lights; and going from Snæfellsnes Peninsula in the west to the Vatnajökull glacier in the southeast. You'll visit a lot of Iceland's impressive sights.

**Climb a volcano crater and walk between two continental tectonic plates**

**See Europe's largest glacier and icebergs in its lagoon**

**Visit a traditional shark farmer, turf farmsteads and churches**

**Relax in the Blue Lagoon and learn about living next to Eyjafjallajökull volcano**

**See Icelandic horses, taste freshly baked hot spring bread and enjoy a cruise on a broad Icelandic fjord**

**Six evenings of Northern Lights Academy programs**

**Program offered in two group sizes: maximum 14 or 45 persons**

Itinerary:

US **MON** Departure tours are our **Small Groups** limited to 14 passengers **THU** and **SAT** tours are limited to 40 passengers.

Day Zero. Leave US **SAT, MON** or **THU**

Day 1, **SUN, TUE** or **FRI**: **Welcome to Iceland** (50 km/31 mls)

Individual transfer by Flybus shuttle bus from Keflavik Airport to your accommodation in Reykjavik where you spend the night. We provide you with ideas how to explore Iceland's capital on your own.

Day 2, **MON, WED** or **SAT**: **Reykjavik City Tour & Borgarfjordur Saga Valley** (245 km/152 mls)

At 09:00 meet your tour guide who shows the group the highlights of Iceland's exciting capital. Then it's west to Borgarfjörður and the Saga valley (named for its historical events). A chance to climb the Grábrók volcano

crater and to warm up at Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring. Hraunfossar is a series of waterfalls pouring through the layers of a wide lava field. Barnafoss – the Children's falls, is nearby with its own tragic tale. Two nights in Borgarnes, West Iceland. The afternoon includes a lecture about Northern Lights. After dinner, you step into the hotel garden in search of the Northern Lights followed by a hot cup of chocolate or tea.

Day 3, **TUE, THU**, or **SUN**: **Snæfellsnes Peninsula & Fjord Cruise** (250 km/155 mls)

The Snæfellsnes Peninsula "the peninsula of the snowy mountain" juts out from Iceland's west coast, like a long arm. A rugged mountain chain runs its length. You travel to the charming fishing town of Stykkishólmur for a cruise in the Breiðafjörður fjord. After a light lunch a uniquely Icelandic "treat" awaits at Bjarnarhöfn, where they make Hákarl -

the fermented shark. Depending on road and weather conditions, visit the fishing village of Grundarfjörður, a place with an impressive geography. One of the most photographed mountain in Iceland, Mt. Kirkjufell, is past. On this drive the guide gives you some practical tips on how to photograph the Auroras as part of the Northern Lights Academy program. Once darkness falls, you'll go out in the hotel garden to chase the Northern Lights and to soak in the hotel's outdoor hot tubs.

Day 4, **WED, FRI** or **MON**: **Golden Circle, Geothermal Taste & Icelandic Horses** (220 km/136 mls)

Today's travel is along the Hvalfjörður fjord. The first stop is at an Icelandic wool outlet store, just to see what they do with all those sheep! Continue inland to Þingvellir National Park, a

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UNESCO World Heritage site on the Golden Circle route and see steam rising from the Geysir geothermal fields as we arrive. There is a variety of hot springs and bubbling pools. The original geyser is now dormant. It's been replaced by Strokkur "the Churn" which erupts at 5-10 minute intervals. Travel on to Gullfoss, a double waterfall that tumbles 100+ feet into the Hvítá river. In the afternoon, you learn about the Icelandic horse, its special qualities and history and visit a geothermal greenhouse, before reaching the accommodation in South Iceland. Tonight, step into the darkness and search for the elusive Northern Lights, while best enjoyed from a comfortable hot tub in the garden of the hotel, amidst the peace and stillness of rural Iceland.

Day 5, **THU SAT** or **TUE: South Iceland & Eyjafjallajökull Volcano** (220 km/136 mls)

Today's travel is along the South coast. At the Eyjafjallajökull Information Center you're told about living next to a glacier and an active volcano. Then it's a visit to one of Iceland's finest folk museums with an outstanding collection of farm and domestic artifacts from Iceland's past and several turf-built houses. Nearby is Skógafoss waterfall which is near 100 feet high and one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country. In the afternoon you'll take a stroll on the black lava beach and along bird cliffs at Reynisfjara. The next 2 nights are near Kirkjubæjarklaustur in the Vatnajökull National Park region. Very dark and ideal for Northern Lights search.

### 2015 - 16 Prices

#### Small Group

14 pax **SUN** depart US  
 Single **\$2494**  
 Double **\$2177**

#### Standard group

40 pax **TUE FRI** depart US  
 Single **\$1787**  
 Double **\$1470**

Day 6, **FRI, SUN** or **WED Skaftafell National Park & Vatnajökull Glacier** (280 km/174 mls)

**Glaciers, ice and icebergs.** Jökulsárlón, a glacial lagoon filled with floating icebergs, you might see seals swimming in arctic waters. Explore the black sandy beach where large icebergs get stranded. Then visit the tiny turf church at Hof and spend time at Europe's largest national park, with Iceland's highest mountains, an alpine environment, and Europe's largest glacier. In the evening enjoy a film presentation about the Northern Lights as part of the Northern Lights Academy program. Don't go to bed too soon in this remote and quiet location or you may just miss out one more chance of seeing the Northern Lights shimmering and dancing across the night sky.

Day 7, **SAT MON** or **THU: South shore, Reykjavik & Blue Lagoon** (370 km/230 mls)

Crossing Eldhraun lava field to the village of Vík and a photo stop. The black lava beach, high bird cliffs and pounding waves is very impressive. A stop at Seljalandsfoss waterfall which plunges from the mountain. (A trail goes behind the falling water and offers interesting views, if you are prepared to get wet! In the afternoon a return to Reykjavik and have about 2 hour leisure time to explore Iceland's capital on your own, visit museums, do some shopping or simply rest after all this touring. In the evening we get to soak in the famous Blue Lagoon, followed by an Icelandic dinner at the Northern Light Inn Hotel and followed by one last nocturnal tour to seek more Northern Lights. Around midnight you'll reach Reykjavik for one last night.

Day 8, **SUN TUE** or **FRI: Departure for Home** (50 km/31 mls)

Individual transfer by Flybus airport shuttle from your accommodation in Reykjavik to Keflavik Airport.

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### MON Departures from US

Tour #	Lv US	Return US	
<b>2015</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>14 max</b>
21/B3	Oct 5	Oct 13	15
21/D3	Oct 19	Oct 27	15
21/F3	Nov 2	Nov 10	15
21/H3	Nov 16	Nov 24	15
21/J3	Nov 30	Dec 8	15
<b>2016</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>14 max</b>
21/L3	Jan 18	Jan 26	16
21/N3	Feb 1	Feb 9	16
21/P3	Feb 15	Feb 23	16
21/R3	Feb 29	Mar 8	16
21/T3	Mar 14	Mar 23	16
21/V3	Mar 28	Apr 5	16

### SAT & THUR US Departures

Tour #	Lv US	Return US	
		<b>45 Max</b>	
<b>2015</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>45 max</b>
21/A	Sep 26	Oct 4	15
21/C	Oct 10	Oct 18	15
21/E	Oct 24	Nov 1	15
21/G	Nov 7	Nov 15	15
21/I	Nov 21	Nov 29	15
21/J	Nov 28	Dec 6	15
<b>2016</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>45 max</b>
21/K	Jan 9	Jan 17	16
21/M	Jan 23	Jan 31	16
21/O	Feb 6	Feb 14	16
21/Q	Feb 20	Feb 28	16
21/S	Mar 5	Mar 13	16
21/U	Mar 19	Mar 27	16
21/W	Apr 2	Apr 10	16
<b>2015</b>	<b>THUR</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>45 Max</b>
21/B2	Oct 1	Oct 9	15
21/C2	Oct 8	Oct 16	15
21/D2	Oct 15	Oct 23	15
21/E2	Oct 22	Oct 30	15
21/F2	Oct 29	Nov 6	15
21/G2	Nov 5	Nov 13	15
21/H2	Nov 12	Nov 20	15
21/I2	Nov 19	Nov 27	15
21/J2	Nov 26	Dec 4	15
21/K2	Dec 3	Dec 11	15
<b>2016</b>	<b>THUR</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>45 max</b>
21/L2	Jan 14	Jan 23	16
21/M2	Jan 21	Jan 29	16
21/N2	Jan 28	Feb 5	16
21/O2	Feb 4	Feb 12	16
21/P2	Feb 11	Feb 19	16
21/Q2	Feb 18	Feb 26	16
21/R2	Feb 25	Mar 4	16
21/S2	Mar 3	Mar 11	16
21/T2	Mar 10	Mar 18	16
21/U2	Mar 17	Mar 25	16
21/V2	Mar 24	Apr 1	16
21/W2	Mar 31	Apr 8	16

## Northern Lights Exploration

**It's Winter!** In rare cases, a change of itinerary might be necessary during winter programs in Iceland, should snow, road and weather conditions not allow to follow the scheduled itinerary, and certain outdoor activities might be cancelled. In this case no refund will be given, but GJ-Travel will do its best to find reasonable alternatives whenever possible.

**Price includes airport transfers on arrival and departure, 7 nights in comfortable hotels around the country, 6 nights of the Northern Lights Academy with presentations, films and lectures and a guided search for the northern lights. Fully guided 6 day tour, including the many activities listed in itinerary, including entry to the Blue Lagoon. Included are breakfast every day, 1 light lunch in Stykkisholmur and a farewell dinner at the Northern Light Inn. You'll have the use of ice gripper spikes for your shoes, and a flashlight. There will be a stop each day to purchase lunch at a simple cafe or road side shop. Information on hotel dinners below.**

**ACCOMMODATION:** You'll stay in Comfortable Tourist-class hotels, with private bath. The planned hotels are:

Reykjavik: Centerhotel Plaza for first and last night, Icelandair Hotel Hamar for 2 nights in West Iceland, 1 night at the Fosshotel Hekla in South Iceland; 2 nights at the Hotel Laki near Kirkjubæjarklaustur. All hotels subject to change. Dinners can be purchased at the hotels at a special rate for Northern Lights Explorers. There will be fixed price 2 course dinner featuring fish, meat or a vegetarian entry for 5500 ISK (about \$40 per person) The hotel restaurants will not have ala carte menus available during the winter months.

There are many departures of the Northern Lights Explorer. **Our dates list the day that travelers need to leave the US.** Your arrival day in Iceland is a transfer day and unscheduled - we provide some ideas for exploring Reykjavik. The guided coach tour starts the day after your arrival at 9 AM.

**NATURE FEES:** There is a possibility that Iceland's government may impose a charge to visit some of the country's natural attraction. This fee is not included in the tour price and will be the responsibility of each individual traveler if imposed. Stay tuned!!

**NORTHERN LIGHTS:** The Northern Lights Exploration series are designed to spend 6 evenings in the countryside to maximize the chances of seeing the elusive Northern Lights, the Northern Lights are in the northern hemisphere from September through April but are only visible when the sky is clear and free of clouds, so sightings are not guaranteed. Like many natural wonders, the Northern Lights are ephemeral – they may be visible, they may appear for a bit and then be gone. But it is worth the patience which is much required. They are a fall and winter event, and you may spend considerable time outside while looking for them. It is best to dress very warmly, in layers, with good footwear, gloves, hats and whatever else makes you comfortable while you await patiently this truly outstanding event. For the best photos we recommend using a tripod.

**Not included** are flights to Iceland, travel insurance, meals other than breakfast except those listed above, and any additional travel or activities you may choose to add.

**Finest Print:** Please note that the price is subject to revision until you book your tour by making a deposit. Air prices are very vulnerable to timing - we can sometimes get great deals, or seats may require a surcharge if it's a late booking. The prices listed on print material may not be the latest price. We will make every effort to keep prices on our webpages and their PDFs up to the minute. We welcome phone inquiries about prices and any other details.

