



Drive Around Iceland & Add in Some Regional Activities

9 Days /8 Nights



We've put together a high value driving tour that circumnavigates Iceland in a little over a week. Activities and tours that are special to each of the regions are outlined and can be pre-booked when you sign up for the tour to guarantee you their availability in what may be a busy season.

Here are a few attractions that in each area

West Iceland - You'll go through the Saga lands of the west, with the historical site at Reykholt, some great lava waterfalls, extinct volcanoes and glaciers to climb. You'll see Snaefellsnes (remember "Journey to the Center of the Earth"?) off to the west.

North Iceland - You'll probably want to stop at Glaumbaer, the turf manor house, as you drive towards Iceland's Second City Akureyri (population 18000). Akureyri has an unusual botanical garden, great hiking, a pleasant pedestrian town center with good restaurants and cafes. Crossing Eyjafjordur going east, you'll explore a mighty waterfall that figured into Iceland's Christianization. You should spend some time near the rich sub arctic Lake Myvatn, stop to see some active and some extinct geothermal features, and/or go whale watching up around the Arctic Circle..

East Iceland - As you head across the highlands you'll go past Lake Lagarfljot at Egilstadir and on to the in and-out-fjords of East Iceland. You'll soon be in sight of the huge glacier - Vatnajokull and it will stay with you for awhile. The glacial lagoon, Jokulsarlon, may be your best chance in life to touch a genuine iceberg. Add a visit to the National Park at Skaftafell which will give you a chance to hike up tongue of that glacier; further along the road, there's another chance at glacier trekking, where you can take a guided hike with an opportunity to try ice-climbing.

South Iceland - This coast offers more waterfalls than one should be able to see, some interesting historical sights, some glaciers, and of course the odd volcano or two. You can take in Iceland's Golden Circle Big 3 - Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir hot springs and Pingvellir National Park, each worth seeing for its unique aspects. Then it's back to Reykjavik, with a chance for some exceptional food and (perhaps) a sample of the legendary night-life of the world's northernmost capital.

The printed itinerary that we send with your final documents will be 60 to 70 pages in length with color photos, schedules, and weblinks. Most of our clients find it of sufficient detail for very extensive exploration. We give a little warning that there will be more choices than travelers have the time (or energy) for and choices need to be made.

*Iceland Adventure
Great Values and Great Trips for the independent traveler!*

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Day 1: WELCOME TO ICELAND (49 km/30miles)

Upon arrival at Keflavik Airport, pick up your car at the airport and head out on the mostly new road to Reykjavik. You can check in at Grand Hotel Reykjavik early afternoon, so you could do a bit of exploring on the way. There are some interesting land and sea-scapes on the Reykjanes peninsula, with bird cliffs, hot springs and lighthouses as well as the **Blue Lagoon**. (Or you could take this in on your last day, as you head back to the airport.) We'll provide lots of ideas to enjoy Reykjavik with its museums, waterfront, culture, and great restaurant scene. Typically you'll spend your first and last night here - perfect for a last night out, some shopping, or a chance to party till it gets dark. **Overnight at Grand Hotel Reykjavik**

Day 2: GOING NORTH (390 km/242 miles)

Explore the saga valley of Borgarfjörður in West Iceland and climb Grábrók volcano in the Bifröst area. Continue to Skagafjörður, valley of the horses and sagas. Here you find the Glaumbær turf farm & folk museum. It was also home of Gudmar, a woman who made it to the American continent in 1002. Across the fjord is the Viðimýri church, one of the most beautiful examples of traditional turf church architecture. **1 night at Hotel Norðurland in Akureyri.** **Optional activities: Seal watching in Northwest Iceland or horseback riding in Akureyri.**

Day 3: AKUREYRI - LAKE MÝVATN (130 km/81 miles)

Akureyri is the capital of North Iceland and we recommend a visit to the old town, the modern church and botanical garden. Continue to Goðafoss, the waterfall of the Gods. Lake Mývatn offers a wide spectrum of volcanic and geological features, abundant bird life and a wealth of walking trails.

Venture into the Eastern highlands, if you have 4WD, perhaps take a day tour to Askja.
1 night at Hotel Laxá, Lake Mývatn

Optional activity: Early morning whale watching & fjord cruise from Akureyri.

Optional activity: Nature Baths at Lake Mývatn ("blue lagoon of the North").

Optional activity: Guided Bike & Bath Tour at Lake Mývatn incl. entrance to Nature Baths.

Day 4: GOING EAST (280 km/173 miles)

Travel east over Jökuldalsheiði moorland plateau, lava and sand desert. We recommend a detour to Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall, subject to season. Egilsstaðir is the center of East Iceland, located at Lögurinn Lake not far from Hallormsstaður woods and Hengifoss, Iceland's 2nd highest waterfall. Continue to the small village of Fáskrúðsfjörður in the East Fjords and stay at one of Iceland's most charming hotels.

1 night at Fosshotel Eastfjords in Fáskrúðsfjörður.

Optional activity: Whale watching in Húsavík (requires a detour of about 100km/62 miles)

Day 5: VATNAJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK (420 km/260 miles)

Travel the scenic route along the dramatic fjord landscape and fishing villages of East Iceland before reaching Vatnajökull, Europe's largest glacier and National Park. The glacial lagoon, Jökulsárlón, may be your best chance in life to touch a genuine iceberg. We recommend a boat tour between icebergs on Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon and a short hike in Skaftafell National Park.

1 night at Laki Cottages in Kirkjubæjarklaustur.

Optional activity: Boat trip on glacial lagoon.

Day 6: SOUTH SHORE (240 km/149 miles)

A beautiful drive with many natural wonders awaits you today as you head across the Laki lava field, pass the waterfalls Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss. The bird cliffs of Dyrhólaey and Reynisfjara are simply amazing. We recommend also a stroll on the black lava beaches of Vík and a visit to the folk museum and turf houses at Skógar.

Have lobster by the sea in Stokkseyri.

2 night at Hotel Örk in Hveragerði.

Optional activities: Glacier hike on Sólheimajökull or a snowmobile tour on Mýrdalsjökull glacier.

Day 7: SOUTH ICELAND ACTIVITY DAY

The village of Hveragerði is heaven for outdoor activities and surrounded by volcanic mountains and beautiful green valleys with geothermal springs and even some natural hot rivers to take a bath in the wilderness. We recommend a South Iceland activity challenge day or simply explore the nearby seashore villages.

If you are up for more sightseeing by rental car, the Thjórsárdalur valley is well-known for its numerous excavations of old viking farms, which were buried by the ash of an eruption of Hekla volcano in the year 1104. The farm at Stöng is especially worth seeing. In this area are two beautiful waterfalls, Hjalparfoss that is easy to reach and Háifoss waterfall that is a bit off the beaten track. A short walk leads to the ravine Gjáin that offers a surrounding with waterfalls, lava formations and wonderful vegetation. This is an enchanting spot and not to be missed. This round trip is about 170 km / 105 miles.

Optional activities: Horseback riding or guided hike with bathing in a natural hot river, or mountain biking & splash tour.

Day 8: GOLDEN CIRCLE (195 km/121 miles)

Today's program is called Golden Circle with Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir hot springs and Thingvellir National Park, each worth seeing for one or more unique aspects. Take some time to explore Reykjavik, Iceland's capital.

Last night at Grand Hotel Reykjavík. **Optional activities: Horseback riding, river rafting or visit to Fontana geothermal steam baths.**

Day 9: GOING HOME (49 km/30 miles)

Departure. Possibly stopping at the Blue Lagoon

Optional activity: Blue Lagoon, depending on time of departure.





B Car Toyota Auris
fine for 2 people,
2WD, good for Rt 1

5 Door
Manual
5 seater
3 suitcases
Not allowed in the highlands



F Car
Toyota RAV4 small
4WD, fine for 2

5 Door
Manual
5 seater
3 suitcases
Suitable for highland



I Car
Toyota Land Cruiser
for 5, can get you most anywhere!

5 Door Manual
5 seater
5 suitcases
Suitable for highland

Automatic transmissions are available for an additional fee

See prices next page

CHECK TYPE

Activity

	USDPrice	Youth Discount
Blue Lagoon entrance fee valid May & September 2016 w.towel	64	14-15: -50%, 0-13: free
Blue Lagoon entrance fee valid June-August 2016	74	14-15: -50%, 0-13: free

Reykjavik Area

Horseback riding for beginners from Reykjavik, Lava Tour, riding 1 ½ to 2 hours	95	
Whale watching Reykjavik 09:00-12:00 (May-Sept), pick up starts at 08:15	99	
Sea angling Reykjavik 11:00-14:00 (May 1 st -Aug 31 st), pick up starts at 10:15	132	
Reykjavik Bike Tour 10:00-12:30 (May 15 th -Sept 30 th). No pick up	54	

West & Northwest

Bird watching & fjord cruise from Stykkisholmur 15:30-16:50 (May 25 th to September 15 th)	58	16-20: -50%, 0-15: free
Seal watching Northwest Iceland 13:00-14:45 (May 15 th – September 15 th)	72	6-16: - 50%, 0-5: free

Akureyri, Myvatn, Husavik

Horseback riding for beginners from Akureyri at 10:00, 14:00 and 17:00, riding 1 ½ hours. Minimum age is 12 years	99	
Whale watching from Akureyri at 09:00, 13:30 and 20:30. Duration 3 hours	106	
Bike & Bath Tour incl. entrance to Nature Baths at Lake Myvatn 18:00-21:00 (June-August). Duration: 2,5-3 hours.	120	
Nature Baths at Lake Myvatn ("the blue lagoon of the North"), entrance fee	-38	
Whale watching Husavik 09:00 and 10:00, duration 3 hours (May-September)	99	

Southeast & South

Boat trip Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon ca. 30 minutes (May-September) based on flexible arrival and taking the next available boat. No reservation needed	50	
Snowmobile tour, 1 hour, on Vatnajökull glacier incl. transfer from main road at 14:00, total duration of the tour is 3 hours and 15 minutes. Surcharge USD 75 for a single use of a snowmobile	199	
Glacier hike Sólheimajökull 12:00-15:30 (May-September) about 2 hours on the ice	140	
Snowmobile tour, 1 hour, on Myrdalsjökull glacier incl. transfer from main road at 15:00 (June-August) and 12:30 (May-September), total duration of tour is 2 hours. Surcharge USD 85 for a single use of a snowmobile.	230	

Golden Circle

Horseback riding in Hveragerði, at 14:00 or 15:30, riding 1 hour	75	
River rafting 10:00-13:00 (May 15 th to September 15 th) about 1 ½ hours on the river	130	n/a minimum age 12 years
Guided hiking tour from Hveragerði & bathing in a natural hot river 10:00-15:00 (May-September)	130	
Guided mountain biking & splash tour 10:00-16:00 (June-August)	166	
Fontana geothermal steam baths entrance fee	40	

Drive Around Iceland -- 9 days/8 nights with activities

Total minimum driving mileage for this tour:

.1753 km / 1.086 miles from/to Keflavík airport

Note that we did not calculate any driving on day 7. For each optional activities calculate about 2-4 hours (see more details under "Trip Guide")

These tours are available from May 1st to September 30th and readily bookable when there is space at the hotels. While this self-drive hotel package does not allow change of itinerary or accommodation, extra nights can be added in Reykjavík at the beginning or end of the trip.

Optional Activities

For this and many of our "Nice & Easy" self-drive hotel packages we can book in advance a large selection of optional activities, if booked when the main tour is booked

Prices per person in US Dollars; Double Occupancy

Prices per person	Toyota Auris	Toyota RAV 4	Toyota Land Cruiser
9 days/ 8 nights	2WD	4WD	4WD
Summer	B car \$3306	F car \$3965	I car \$4531
May& Sept	B car \$2793	F car \$3223	I car \$3583

Finer Print: Price includes international airfare from the US east coast*, 8 nights in double rooms with private bath, breakfast every day, 9 days of a car of selected size with manual transmission, unlimited km, very basic CDW, all pick up and drop off fees, our Reykjavik walking guide and a detailed driving tour itinerary.

***Flights Price includes round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and US departure taxes to Iceland, from Icelandair's east coast gateways** - Boston, New York, Newark and Washington Dulles International. We can also book flights from Icelandair's other gateways: Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle, Portland, Anchorage, Toronto, Edmonton, and Halifax, which may add to the price. Not all gateways have daily departures but we can arrange additional nights' accommodations before or after your tour.

***Not included** are Travel Insurance, meals other than breakfast, gas, tolls or any activities - although we're happy to book these for you.

Finest print. Please note that our tour prices are subject to revision until you book your tour by making a deposit.

The seats with our contract rates for air sell out very quickly, so later bookings may be subject to a surcharge. While we make every effort to keep prices on our webpages and their PDFs up to the minute, things can change quickly. We welcome phone calls or email about prices and any other details

Nature fees: There may be a new Nature Fee imposed by Iceland's government to support its many natural wonders. The fee will probably not be large but it will be an additional cost for travelers. Will know if/when it happens!

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