



The Viking Challenge



Explore this fascinating land through these exciting experiences

...2016

The Viking Challenge Classic offers a lot of Iceland in a little time! This 8 day package lets you really experience Iceland's magical landscape (by hiking, riding, rafting, and trekking through it!) and includes some unique Icelandic fun -glacial trekking, Icelandic horses, whale watching, the Blue Lagoon all from comfortable accommodations in Reykjavik. The activities aren't terribly hard, just exciting. In addition to fun, they provide insight into Iceland's unique nature, geology and culture. The Viking Challenge is for those who enjoy getting tired while experiencing a fascinating country!

The Daily Itinerary:

Sunday:

Leave home

Leave North America for short overnight flight on Icelandair.

Monday:

Welcome to Iceland!

Early arrival at Keflavik Airport and you'll be met and taken into Reykjavik and dropped at your hotel. If there's room for an early check, in you can do so, otherwise you can leave your luggage and set out to see some of Iceland's capital city. We'll provide our Reykjavik guide with ideas on what to see and do, where to eat, shop and relax

Whale Watching

in the afternoon you can head to the old harbor for your Elding Whale watching tour. Before or after the tour you can enjoy the multimedia show at the pier - it includes lots of info as well as images, videos and facts about the whales and marine life. Summer season is great for whale watching, as the wildlife in the bay is at its highest peak. This is the time when the minke

whales are at their most abundant, along with the white-beaked dolphins, harbour porpoises and humpback whales, giving you the chance to enjoy and understand them in their natural environment. There are also occasional sightings of other species like Humpback whales, Killer whales/Orcas and even Fin whales.

The sighting success on previous tours is 91.40% however the cetacean abundance is unpredictable and varies with the food availability of our shores. Duration: 2.5-3.5 hrs

Dress warmly and don't be shy to also put on our warm overalls

Tuesday:

Golden Circle tour with Fontana Steam Bath soak

Today you'll visit the Golden Circle trio of wonders -- Pingvellir National Park, site of a parliament from Viking times until ?? and one of the few places on earth where the mid Atlantic Rift can be easily seen and its spreading easily measured. Next it's a stop at Geysir hot springs, the locale of the presently

resting Geysir that gave the world the name "geyser". The active Stokkur geyser here erupts every 5 or 10 minutes with a rush of boiling water. Then it's on to the Gullfoss waterfall, if the sunlight is right you'll see the golden color of its water from the rock the glacier upstream grinds into it (and often the light will make a rainbow in the sky). After lunch you'll experience the newly-restored and historic steam baths at Fontana where you can soak all cares away. A light lunch included. 10 hours.

Wednesday and Thursday

Two day tour to south coast waterfalls, the Glacial Lagoon at Jokulsarlon and a hike on the glacier Vatnajokull

This overnight tour takes you to the extraordinary Glacier Lagoon Jokulsarlon, on the borders of Vatnajokull National Park. You'll probably get a chance to touch and see icebergs in a variety of styles that have "calved" from the glacier- from white streaked with charcoal-black soot, to translucent formations resembling glass and gorgeous chunks of powder blue.

These tours (as is common with adventure touring everywhere) are subject to the guides assessment of conditions - if conditions aren't suited for a particular activity the itinerary may be rearranged, as traveler safety always comes first.



Thursday (Continued)

You'll spend the night in a comfortable country hotel with a lovely restaurant to purchase dinner. The next day, your total glacier encounter continues with a hike on a glacier in Skaftafell National Park. Expert guide and safety foot gear are provided. After a day of touring, you'll be dropped off at a hotel in Hveragerdi, having experienced a lot of Iceland's south and east coasts!

Friday

A morning on an Icelandic horse, an afternoon on white water

This morning you'll have a 2 1/2 to 3 hour ride on one of Iceland's famous horses (less experienced riders have a shorter option). You might gain a sense of the historical importance of good riding horses in the long history of this pastoral nation. After lunch you'll experience one of Iceland's glacial rivers as you raft down the Hvita (White) river - lots of rapids, gorges, and fun! Lunch included. 10 hours.

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Dates

The tour runs from Sundays through Mondays from June 1 through August 31, 2016



Saturday

A hike up a volcano and a night in the city

More unusual geology. With a hike through areas known for its geothermal activity, you'll be guided along little known trails to the top of a volcano that offers great views in many directions. Afterwards you'll exchange the hotel at Eldhestar for a nice hotel in Reykjavik for overnight and your chance to check the Reykjavik night scene.

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Prices

Prices vary by accommodations; Choose what sort of accommodation you'd like!

\$ price per person, double occupancy

3 star options near city center

\$3,464

4 star options near city center

\$3,877

Finer Print: Price includes international airfare from the US east coast*, airport transfers 7 nights in double rooms in a choice of hotels, all with private baths, 6 days of guided hiking and touring, with any special equipment needed, 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches during day tours, plus lots of useful travel information. Please note that late bookings may affect the price, or require that the sequence of the tour be rearranged.

***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, dinners, 5 lunches - a stop will be made to purchase on days when it's not included; 7 dinners, other tours not specifically included.

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

Our contract rates for air aren't always available as we get close to travel dates. 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 details are settled.

Sunday

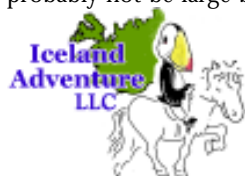
A soak in the wonderful Blue Lagoon and touring the Reykjanes peninsula

The Blue Lagoon has just completed another upgrading renovation in time for your visit. Strangely splendid in a lava and moss landscape, and most relaxing. A short excursion through the Reykjanes countryside with visits to fishing villages and some geothermal wonders. Back in Reykjavik for a last night out!

Monday

Time to say good bye ...

When it's time to leave your shuttle transfer will return you to Keflavik International Airport for your return flight.



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