



# Landscapes of Wild Iceland

## 8 days | 10 days with West Iceland & Reykjavik extension

With its thundering waterfalls, moody, black-sand beaches, and glacial lagoons painted every shade of blue, lceland could be a made-up place straight from a blockbuster movie. But it's 100 percent real. And this week, it's your own personal (and pristine) playground. Begin your Iceland experience in the country's "green" capital, Reykjavik. Then, venture beyond the city's borders, to dramatic landscapes of the Golden Circle, south coast, and Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon—known for its rippling rock walls and snaking freshwater river. Craving even more of Iceland's untamed beauty? Opt to explore the stunning ice tunnels of Langjökull Glacier on the extension to West Iceland.



#### Your tour package includes

6 nights in handpicked hotels
6 breakfasts
2 lunches
2 dinners with beer or wine
7 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

### Included highlights

Reykjavik Thingvellir National Park Gullfoss Skógafoss waterfall Eyjafjallajökull volcano Seljalandsfoss Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon

#### Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including wet, slippery gravel, and paved paths with some uphill climbs.

#### Group size

15-35

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## **Overnight Flight** $\rightarrow$ 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board an overnight flight to Reykjavik.

## $\textbf{Reykjavik} \rightarrow 2 \text{ nights}$

## Day 2: Arrival in Reykjavik & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch Welcome to Iceland! Meet your fellow travelers at a welcome lunch. Then, get a feel for Reykjavik, often called the greenest city on Earth, on a walking tour with your Tour Director.

- View iconic Hallgrim's Church and admire works by famous Icelandic artists Ásmundur Sveinsson and Einar Jónsson.
- Walk past the Leif Erikson statue and hear about Iceland's Viking history.
- See Tjörnin lake (locals affectionately call it "the pond"), the Parliament House, and modern City Hall.
- Head to the Old Harbour to marvel at Harpa concert hall, a modern performance venue that opened in 2011 and quickly became one of the city's most iconic structures.

Enjoy free time for the rest of the day in the city, or add an excursion.

+ Blue Lagoon Spa Visit

## Day 3: Free day in Reykjavik

Included meals: breakfast Spend a free day in Reykjavik or add an

excursion.

+ A Day on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula

## $\textbf{Selfoss} \rightarrow 1 \, night$

## Day 4: Selfoss via the Golden Circle

Included meals: breakfast, lunch Leave the bustle of Reykjavik behind as you travel around the Golden Circle, a driving route that connects some of Iceland's most magnificent natural wonders.

• Stop at Thingvellir National Park to see the Althing (or Alþingi in Icelandic), an open-air governmental assembly that was established in 930 and continued to meet until 1798.

- Visit family-owned Friðheimar Farm, and sip coffee and tea as you tour its horse stables and learn about Icelandic horse breeding.
- Head inside Friðheimar Farm's expansive greenhouse, where tomatoes and other produce grow sustainably using geothermal energy.
- Sample tomatoes and sit down for lunch—including several tomato-based dishes—inside the greenhouse.
- Explore the Great Geysir geothermal area, located in the Haukadalur Valley.
- Discover Gullfoss, or the "Golden Waterfall," a natural wonder and one of the most powerful waterfalls in Europe.

Continue to Selfoss and enjoy a free evening.

## **South Coast Region** $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

## Day 5: Sightseeing tour of the South Coast

Included meals: breakfast, dinner Continue on to the South Coast, a lowland region of lush farmland, striking waterfalls, beaches, glaciers, and picturesque villages.

- Make a photo stop at Eyjafjallajökull volcano to marvel at breathtaking views (weather permitting).
- View coastal mountain scenery as you travel to Seljalandsfoss waterfall.
- Take a short walk behind the falls led by your Tour Director.
- View Skógafoss waterfall and join your Tour Director for an optional hike up a staircase to a viewpoint at the top of the falls.
- Marvel at Sólheimajökull glacier and the iconic, black-sand Reynisfjara beach.
- Try to spot puffins perched on the cliffs along Dyrhólaey Arch.
- Enjoy free time for lunch in the remote, seaside village of Vik.

This evening, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Please note: The order of today's events may be changed due to hotel location and weather. Puffins are difficult to view and are seasonal in the area from April–August.

## Day 6: Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon & Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon

#### Included meals: breakfast

Travel east today, admiring the stunning landscape and stopping for an amphibious boat ride en route.

- Set off on a cruise through Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, whose pristine waters lap against a black-sand beach.
- Try to spot wildlife as you pass between giant icebergs and head toward Breiðamerkurjökull glacier.
- Listen along as your guide explains to your group how the glacier lagoon was created.

Please note: Warm layers, including a waterproof top layer, gloves, hat, scarves, and sturdy shoes, are recommended.

This afternoon, make your way to the majestic and serpentine Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon.

- Stop for free time to explore the Skaftafell National Park Visitor Center.
- Walk to the canyon lookout to view the dramatic canyon and the river that runs through it.
- Hear about the history of the canyon and how it was created thousands of years ago by glacial river erosion.

## $\textbf{Reykjavik} \rightarrow 1 \text{ night}$

## Day 7: Transfer to Reykjavik

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner Return to Reykjavik this morning and enjoy free time to explore the city on your own. Tonight, celebrate your trip with your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

## **Flight Home**

## Day 8: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures) Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

## + West Iceland & Reykjavik extension

Just when you think things can't get any more impressive, you can extend your stay alongside your Tour Director to see the wonder that is West Iceland. With its lava fields, cascading waterfalls, and abundant animal life, the region is an out-of-this-world gem.

## West Iceland $\rightarrow$ 1 night

### Day 8: West Iceland & Langjökull Glacier

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel to West Iceland this morning, stopping en route to admire West Iceland's dramatically varied landscapes.

- Marvel at Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring.
- Admire Hraunfossar, clear falls that stream over a lava field, and see the nearby cascades of Barnafoss.
- Visit Reykholt, a historic village that was home to medieval writer and chieftain Snorri Sturluson.
- Drive in a specially modified snow truck on the Langjökull Glacier, Iceland's second largest, and walk through the glacier's interior ice tunnels.

This evening, sit down to an included dinner with your group.

## $\textbf{Reykjavik} \rightarrow 1 \text{ night}$

## Day 9: Transfer to Reykjavik

Included meals: breakfast Travel back to Reykjavik and enjoy free time for the rest of the day or add an excursion. + The Lava Tunnel

## **Flight Home**

Day 10: Departure Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures) Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

## Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **goaheadtours.ca/ICP | 1-800-754-5066** 

#### Day 2: Blue Lagoon Spa Visit

\$219CAD (4.5 hours, departs in the afternoon) Travel to the Blue Lagoon, a famed geothermal spa known for its restorative properties. The lagoon's lightblue water is a mix of freshwater and seawater, and is warmed deep in the Earth before being sourced and pumped into the lagoon by a nearby geothermal plant. Relax in the lagoon's spa, admire the surrounding lava field, and soak in beneficial minerals as you float weightlessly in the ethereal water. Please Note: On some departures, travelers may visit the Sky Lagoon instead of the Blue Lagoon if it is closed or Go Ahead feels there is a safety risk due to seismic activity, dangerous air quality, or magma accumulating beneath the Blue Lagoon surface. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 45 days prior to departure.

#### Day 3: A Day on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula

\$309CAD (12 hours, departs in the morning) Nicknamed "Iceland in miniature," the Snæfellsnes Peninsula boasts all the stunning scenery the country is famous for, including glaciers, lava flows, and dramatic seaside cliffs. Spend the day exploring the region and you'll see why author Jules Verne chose the area for the setting of his famous sci-fi work, "Journey to the Center of the Earth". With your Tour Director, set off to explore Snæfellsjökull National Park, whose natural landscape is dominated by the massive Snæfellsiökull Glacier. Pay a visit to the small, uninhabited hamlet of Búðir, which is situated in the lava fields of Búðahraun. (Be sure to snap a photo of its lone church, which sits amid the lava fields.) Then, continue on to rural Arnarstapi, a breathtaking fishing village that was once an important trading post, and take in views of nesting birds and basalt cliffs. Afterwards, walk the pebbly, black-sand shores of Djúpalónssandur beach. Then, travel back to your hotel, making your way through charming fishing villages and stopping to view the impressive Mount Kirkjufell mountain along the way. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

#### **Extension excursion options**

#### Day 9: The Lava Tunnel

\$215CAD (3 hours, departs in the afternoon) Head outside of Reykjavik, to one of Iceland's longest and best-known lava tubes. Descend into the impressive inner tunnel, which was formed roughly 5,200 years ago as a result of the Leitahraun eruption. Explore inside the tunnel, where impressive lighting showcases the powerful force of the eruption. In wintertime, water drips from the tunnel's ceiling and freezes in the form of beautiful ice sculptures. Please note: This activity involves 1 hour of walking through the cave on surfaces including some stairs and flat boardwalks. Warm layered clothing, gloves, sturdy shoes, and hats without brims are recommended due to unpredictable weather. Helmets and headlights will be provided. This excursion is not suitable for people with mobility challenges due to steep stairs and uneven surfaces. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms