



# Iceland: The Golden Circle & Ring Road

11 days | 14 days with Norwegian Fjords extension

Some of Earth's most astounding and extreme landscapes can be found in Iceland, where every corner of the country offers something new. Learn about fascinating maritime history and taste traditional fare as you journey from the culturally rich capital to the most remote parts of the coast. Glacier-fed waterfalls, boiling mud pools, moss-covered cliffs—see it all on this small group Adventure Tour through the Land of Fire and Ice.



## Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 liquor tasting
- 3 tastings
- 16 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Reykjavik
- Thingvellir National Park
- Gullfoss
- Skógafoss waterfall
- Reynisfjara beach
- Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon
- Djúpivogur & Bulandsnes Sanctuary Walk
- Mývatn Nature Baths
- Víðgelmir lava tube
- Langjökull Glacier

## 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

12–22

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board an overnight flight to Reykjavik.

## Reykjavik → 1 night

### Day 2: Arrival in Reykjavik & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: 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 Hallgrím's Church and glimpse the artwork of Ásmundur Sveinsson and Einar Jónsson, both famous Icelandic artists.
- Walk past the Leif Erikson statue to hear about Iceland's Viking history.
- See Tjörnin lake, the Parliament House, and the modern City Hall.
- Head to the Old Harbour to see the Harpa concert hall.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Reykjavik or add an excursion.

+ Blue Lagoon Spa Visit

## Selfoss → 1 night

### Day 3: Selfoss via the Golden Circle

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch*

Leave the bustle of Reykjavik behind as you travel around the Golden Circle, a ring of some of Iceland's most magnificent natural wonders.

- Stop at Thingvellir National Park to see the Althing, an open-air governmental assembly that was established in 930 and continued to meet until 1798.
- Tour the horse stables at Friðheimar to learn about Icelandic horse breeding during a presentation served with coffee and tea.
- Sample tomatoes and sit down for lunch at Friðheimar Farm, where the produce is grown fresh in a greenhouse heated by geothermal energy.
- 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 → 2 nights

### Day 4: 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 by the Eyjafjallajökull volcano to marvel at breathtaking views (*weather permitting*).
- View coastal mountain scenery as you travel to the Seljalandsfoss waterfall for a short walk behind the falls led by your Tour Director.
- View Skógafoss waterfall and opt to join your Tour Director on a hike up a staircase to a viewpoint overlooking the top of the falls.
- Marvel at the Sólheimajökull glacier and iconic black sands of Reynisfjara beach.
- Enjoy free time for lunch in the remote, seaside village of Vik.
- Pass Eldhraun lava field and Skaftafell National Park.

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 5: Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel to the East Fjords region, 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.

- Board your coach again for a short drive to Fjallsarlón Glacier Lagoon, whose surface is dotted with floating icebergs.
- Spend an hour enjoying an easy walk along the lagoon, and up-close views of the lagoon and glacier.

This afternoon, travelers can choose between returning to Reykjavik for free time, visiting Skaftafell National Park, or adding an excursion. Sit down for an included dinner with your group this evening.

*Please note: The order of today's events may change based on road conditions and weather.*

+ Falljökull Glacier Hike

## East Fjords Region → 1 night

### Day 6: East Fjords Region via Djúpivogur

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Make your way through the East Fjords region to the town of Djúpivogur and explore with your Tour Director.

- Visit Langabúð, the oldest house in town which is now a heritage museum, and sample their homemade cakes.
- Enjoy free time to explore the coastal town and admire the stunning views of Búlandstindur mountain.
- View the Eggs of Merry Bay, an outdoor installation of 34 granite eggs that line the bay as a tribute to the area's native birds.
- Visit the world-renowned Bulandsnes Bird Sanctuary.
- Take a scenic walk around the marshland, ponds, beaches, and dunes to see where shelducks, northern shovelers, and horned grebes breed.

Continue along the scenic South Coast through the East Fjords region to Egilsstaðir, enjoying views of towering mountains plunging vertically into sea.

## Akureyri Region → 2 nights

### Day 7: Akureyri Region via Dimmuborgir, Mývatn Nature Baths & Goðafoss

*Included meals: breakfast*

Make your way north toward the Akureyri region, stopping to admire breathtaking waterfalls and volcanic landscapes as you go.

- Stop at the Dimmuborgir lava fields and walk among the towering lava formations scattered throughout the area.
- Put on your bathing suit and relax in the Mývatn Nature Baths, a series of thermal pools heated by the area's geothermal energy (*Entrance includes access to changing rooms, lockers, showers, and a cafe.*)
- Marvel at the beauty of Goðafoss waterfall, one of Iceland's most famous cataracts, before ending the day in Akureyri.

*Please note: The order of today's activities may change due to weather and road conditions.*

### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Siglufjörður

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, liquor tasting*

Get to know more about Icelandic culture during a visit to town of Siglufjörður.

- Learn about the country's maritime history as you follow a local guide through the Herring Era Museum.
- Enjoy a tasting of herring, one of Iceland's most important culinary staples, washed down with Brennivín schnapps.

Spend a free afternoon in the Akureyri region or add an excursion.

+ Akureyri Fjord Whale Watching

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## Húsafell → 1 night

### Day 9: Húsafell via Víðgelmir lava tube

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Drive through the landscapes of West Iceland to the Víðgelmir lava tube.

- Take a guided tour of this cave, which is the largest in Iceland, as you discover the unique geology.
- Hear how the cave was formed over 1,000 years ago and learn about the humans who lived in the cave during the Viking Age.

Later, arrive in Húsafell and sit down for an included dinner with your group.

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## Reykjavik → 1 night

### Day 10: Reykjavik via Langjökull Glacier, Hraunfossar & Barnafoss

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Travel back to Reykjavik, making several stops en route.

- Drive in a specially modified snow truck on the Langjökull Glacier.
- Walk through the interior ice tunnels of Iceland's second-largest glacier.
- Take a scenic walk to view the serene Hraunfossar and powerful Barnafoss waterfalls.
- Walk along platforms over the Deildartunguhver hot springs, Europe's largest and most powerful hot springs.
- Stop in Reykholt and learn about Snorri Sturluson, a poet, writer, chieftain, and Iceland's most renowned historian.

Tonight, celebrate your trip with your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

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## Flight Home

### Day 11: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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## + Norwegian Fjords extension

There's one word you could use to describe seeing the midnight sun during summer nights, or coasting through fjords flanked by hundred-foot-high cliffs. It's "wow." Fly to Bergen and tour Norway's prettiest places to see what we mean.

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## Bergen → 3 nights

### Day 11: Flight to Bergen

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly from Iceland to Bergen, Norway, called "the gateway to the fjords," where you'll enjoy a free evening to explore.

### Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Bergen

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join a local guide to discover historic sites in and around Bergen.

- Walk through the Hanseatic era alleyways and courtyards in the UNESCO-listed Bryggen harbor district.
- Pass by Bergenhus Fortress and the bustling fish and flower market.
- Admire views of the city center and harbor.
- Take a cable car ride up Mount Ulriken for a hike along the mountain paths, which offer incredible views of Bergen and the surrounding fjords.

### Day 13: Free day in Bergen

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Bergen or add an excursion. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Scenic Norway: Fjord Hike & Boat Cruise

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## Flight Home

### Day 14: 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/IRT](http://goaheadtours.ca/IRT) | 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 light-blue 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.

fjord and mountains. After you've worked up an appetite, spend free time eating lunch and exploring Flåm. Meet back up with your group and get ready to see the fjords from the water. Hop aboard a high-speed inflatable Zodiac boat for a 90-minute cruise through the UNESCO-listed Nærøyfjord and the beautiful Aurlandsfjord. See the breathtaking Sagfossen waterfall and the small villages that dot the narrow waterways. The local guides on the boat will talk about the history of the fjords while pointing out wildlife, like seals and eagles. After the cruise, make your way back to Bergen by bus. Travelers prone to motion sickness and seasickness should take the proper precautions due to the possibility of choppy waters. Travelers should also be prepared for extensive walking along dirt paths and some uneven terrain.

## Day 5: Falljökull Glacier Hike

\$205CAD (3.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Transfer to the rugged region of the Skaftafell Nature Reserve, located in Vatnajökull National Park, Europe's second-largest National Park. Skaftafell Nature Reserve boasts breathtaking scenery, from waterfalls to birch forests, and is home to Falljökull Glacier. After a safety presentation, strap on your crampons and head out with your certified glacier guide who will teach you all about the Falljökull Glacier, which is an extension of the mighty Vatnajökull, Europe's largest glacier. Learn about the glacier's formation, movement, and importance as you hike through fascinating ice formations, periwinkle blue ridges, and deep crevasses. Please note: Travelers must be at least 10 years old to join this excursion. An ice pick, crampons, helmet, and harness are provided. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 8: Akureyri Fjord Whale Watching

\$215CAD/\$225CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Take in the beauty of northern Iceland's varied landscape and keep your eyes open for wildlife as you enjoy a three-hour cruise on the Akureyri Fjord. As you cruise on the idyllic waterway, a local guide will tell you more about the fjord's ecosystem and history, and you may spot minke whales, orcas, humpback whales, dolphins and porpoises. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from April through September.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 13: Scenic Norway: Fjord Hike & Boat Cruise

\$310CAD/\$320CAD\* (10 hours, departs in the morning)

Spend the day journeying through Norway's fjord country, a region of otherworldly natural beauty. Travel from Bergen to Flåm, which is located on Aurlandsfjord. You'll soak in panoramic views of the fjord from the Stegastein viewpoint. Then, set off on an hour-and-a-half-long hike near Aurland to admire views over the

\*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 purchased on tour. 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](http://goaheadtours.ca/terms)