



Iceland – Northern Lights and Golden Circle Adventure



Cost: \$2,078.00 USD per member/double occupancy

Nonrefundable deposit: \$500.00 per member

Travel Insurance – highly recommended. Travel Medical Insurance – required.

What's Included:

- Roundtrip nonstop economy Icelandair flights Boston / Reykjavik
- Lava caving (Leiðarendi Cave)
- Visit to an Icelandic horse farm
- Golden Circle sightseeing
- Þingvellir National Park visit
- Geysir Hot Spring visit
- Gullfoss waterfall visit
- Northern Lights hunting (2 nts)
- Southern coast drive including Skógarfoss waterfall and Seljalandsfoss waterfall
- Transport to/from all included activities and between all destinations

The information regarding this trip has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However, it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between S.E.E. Mates Ski & Travel Club, the tour operator, or group participants. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. Occasionally, itineraries change as improvements that stem from past travelers, comments to the tour operator and their own research. Ultimately, the goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience.

Itinerary Notes

Please note that the weather near the Arctic Circle can be variable, especially in winter. Occasionally this will mean that we need to amend our itinerary to keep you safe. We will always endeavour to deliver a tour as close to the itinerary described as possible and ensure you see as much as possible, despite any bad weather.

Day 1 – Overnight flight Boston to Reykjavik

Day 2 Reykjavík – Early morning arrival

Group transfer from airport to hotel. Free time until approx. 6 p.m.

Your Welcome Moment: 6 p.m. Meet and Greet with our local guide/trip leaders and other S.E.E. Mates group members to learn more about our adventure.

Optional Activities - Day 2

Pre-book reservations and enjoy your free time at the Blue Lagoon Hot Springs en route from the airport.

Harpa Concert Hall Reykjavík

Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre is one of Reykjavik's greatest and most distinguished landmarks. Situated by the old harbor, the award-winning building serves as a concert hall and boasts a wide variety of hosted events where all musical genres play a part.

Accommodation

Hotel Cabin (or similar)

Day 3 Reykjavík/Álftröð

Travel from Reykjavík to explore a lava cave in the Bláfjöll Mountains. In the afternoon stop at an Icelandic horse farm before returning to Álftröð. In the evening, head out near the guesthouse in search for Northern Lights. The Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon, and sightings will be dependent on weather conditions. S.E.E. Mates and tour operator cannot guarantee that travelers booked on this tour will experience the Northern Lights.

Private Vehicle - Reykjavík - Þingvellir 45m40km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Lava Caving by the Blue Mountains

Þingvellir

Go beneath the earth's surface to discover how Iceland was created. Walk and crawl through the Raufarhólshellir cave that was carved out by flowing volcanic lava, and marvel at the multi-coloured rock formations left in its path.

Private Vehicle

Selfoss - Hveragerði 30m38km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private Vehicle

Hveragerði - Álftröð 42m46km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Meet Icelandic Horses at a Farm

Brautarholt

The Icelandic horse is a very unique breed. Although small and at times pony-sized, Icelandic horses are long-lived and hardy. At our guesthouse, stop by the farm and learn all you need to know about the Icelandic horse, with a focus on its gait and unique character.

Optional Activities - Day 3

Horseback riding

Hveragerði 1h-2h30m

7900-11500ISK per person

Saddle up and journey along the longest river in Iceland, Thjórsá. You will take the route once travelled by Vikings. Prepare to be awed by nature as you witness abundant and diverse birdlife and rugged Icelandic landscapes as far as the eye can see. Helmets and warm overalls are provided. This activity will be contingent on the weather

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Accommodation

Alftrod Guesthouse (or similar)

Guesthouse

Day 4 Álfröð

Head to Þingvellir National Park. Visit sights like the Geysir Hot Spring and Gullfoss waterfall. Opt to visit a natural hot spring. In the evening, embrace your inner chef and prepare dinner together at the guesthouse. Afterwards, head out for another Northern Lights hunt around the guesthouse.

Private Vehicle

Álfröð - Þingvellir 1h68km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Thingvellir National Park Visit

Þingvellir

Stop at Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site, to see the tectonic faults created by North American and Eurasian tectonic plates shifting apart. The Oxara river cuts through the largest rift in the valley, Almannagja, and leads to the Oxarafoss waterfall. Iceland's parliament was also established in the area in 930. The park was later created to protect the remains of the open-air assembly grounds. One of the most-visited sights in Iceland, the park is an excellent spot for camping, hiking and snorkeling between the tectonic plates.

Private Vehicle

Þingvellir - Gullfoss 1h70km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Gullfoss Waterfall Visit

Gullfoss

Discover one of the most impressive waterfalls in Iceland, Gullfoss and complete the circuit known as the Golden Circle. This massive waterfall cascades over three "steps" before spilling into a large crevice.

Fed by a glacier lake, the water passing through the falls can be a dark grey depending on how much sediment gets pushed through the river.

Geysir Visit

Geysir

See a variety of geothermal pools and the erupting hot spring Strokkur. Geysir is one of the oldest geysers recorded in the world, but is most often dormant. Strokkur erupts a spray of boiling hot water straight into the air about every ten minutes.

Private Vehicle

Geysir - Álfröð 45m 40km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Optional Activities - Day 4

Secret Lagoon Hot Spring

Fludir

3000ISK per person

The Secret Lagoon natural hot springs are the Golden Circle's best kept secret. The pool's natural surroundings and steam rising into the air gives the place a magical feeling. Warm water stays at 38-40 celsius all year. There are several geothermal spots and a little Geysir which erupts every 5 minutes. Swimsuit and towel rentals are available

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Accommodation

Alftrod Guesthouse (or similar)

Guesthouse

Day 5 Álfröð/Reykjavík

Travel to Sólheimajökull glacier and take some time to explore the area, or opt for a stunning hike. Drive the scenic southern coast and visit the Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls on the way back to Reykjavík.

Private Vehicle

Álfröð - Sólheimajökull 1h30m 113km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Sólheimajökull

Discover what the Sólheimajökull can tell you about the effects of climate change in Iceland. Opt to take a hike around this beautiful area.

Private Vehicle

Sólheimajökull - Seljalandsfoss 45m 38km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Seljalandsfoss Waterfall Visit

Seljalandsfoss 1h-1h30m

Seljalandsfoss is a 60m (196 ft) tall waterfall located along the popular ring road. Behind the flow of water is a path, allowing visitors to peek behind the curtain of water cascading over the rocks above.

Private Vehicle

Seljalandsfoss - Skógafoss 30m 30km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Skógafoss Waterfall Visit

Skógafoss 1h

Visit Skógafoss, one of the largest and most recognizable waterfalls in Iceland. The 60m (200 ft) high falls forms a constant mist that floats in the air, if viewed in the sunlight the mist can create rainbows. The sound and view of the thundering water cutting through the green hills make the falls a must-see on any trip to Iceland

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Private Vehicle

Skógafoss - Reykjavík 2h 148km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Optional Activities - Day 5

Sólheimajökull Glacier Hike

Sólheimajökull

Equipped with crampons and an ice axe, hike through the dramatic glacier valley and along the black sand flood plains to the edge of the ice. Enjoy stunning, panoramic views of the surrounding mountains, glaciers and the Eyjafjallajökull volcano. The guide will explain the volcanic history of the area and the effects of global warming.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Hotel Cabin (or similar)

Hotel

Day 6 Reykjavík

After breakfast enjoy free time to visit Reykjavík's city center and harbor.

Meals included: Breakfast

Our Icelandic adventure comes to a close as we bid farewell to our neighbors to the north. Our group transfer to the airport will depart at approximately 2 p.m.

My Own Room option is available and now includes extra space on all our private vehicles, and all rooms on tour will be either single or twin-share and have en-suite bathrooms.

Important Notes

1. The landscape of Iceland is unique and unlike most things you've seen. So is the weather. It is unpredictable and changeable, so be prepared to experience a variety of conditions during your time in Iceland. It's not uncommon to experience rain, sun, wind and snow all in the same visit, so please pack accordingly.
2. If you wish to visit the Blue Lagoon, please know that this activity must be done before or after your tour. As this activity is very popular, we recommend booking it in advance.
3. The Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon, and sightings will be dependent on weather conditions. G Adventures cannot guarantee that travellers booked on this tour will experience the Northern Lights.

Group Leader Description

Our private group is accompanied by a group leader. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are traveling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious, and social aspects.

Group Size Notes

Max 12, avg 10.

Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 2 dinners

Transport

Private vehicle, walking.

Solo Travelers

We believe solo travelers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travelers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip.

Accommodation

Hotels (2 nts), Icelandic guesthouse (2 nts).

My Own Room -If you're travelling solo and would prefer to have your own private room throughout the trip, please request accommodation through your S.E.E. Mates trip leader. Please be aware that single room accommodations in European hotels are often smaller, and may not be to the same service level as double-occupancy rooms.

About Accommodation

On this trip you can expect to stay in small family-run hotels or pensions (with the exception of the start and finish hotels, which are often larger city hotels), which will vary a little in standard and facilities: some may not have elevators, air-conditioning or English-speaking staff, but most importantly all are locally-run, with some traditional character, and in excellent central locations to give you maximum time for exploring the sights. You can expect to find clean, safe, simple accommodation in convenient locations.