

ESSENTIAL ICELAND

8 days / 7 nights. Tuesday to Tuesday
Escorted tour – Summer 2024
Period: 4 departures guided in English
From June to September 2024
Number of participants: 2 to 44 pax

Escorted Tour

- Day 1:** Keflavík International airport – Reykjavík
- Day 2:** Reykjavík – Borgarfjörður – Skagafjörður – Eyjafjörður
- Day 3:** Akureyri – Goðafoss – Mývatn – Eyjafjörður
- Day 4:** Húsavík – Dettifoss – Egilsstaðir
- Day 5:** Egilsstaðir – East Fjords – Höfn
- Day 6:** Jökulsárlón – Skaftafell – Kirkjubæjarklaustur or Vík
- Day 7:** South Coast – Golden Circle – Reykjavík
- Day 8:** Reykjavík – Keflavík International airport



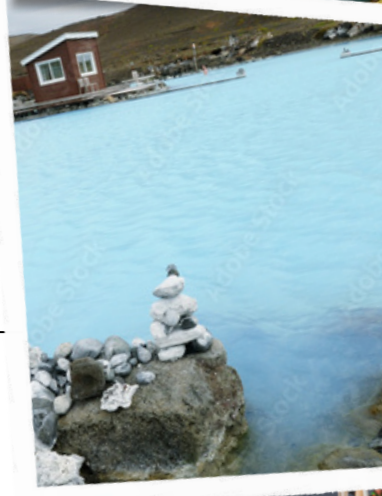
Per Person Rates from June-Sept, 2024 per Person

Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Child Occupancy
June 4-September 3	From \$3,326	From \$4,273	From \$2,000

Summer 2024 Departures guided in English – 8 days & 7 nights, Tuesday to Tuesday.

DAILY Itinerary

DAY 1	<p>Keflavík International airport – Reykjavík / approx. 50 km Arrival at Keflavík International Airport. Transfer by Flybus shuttle without assistance from Keflavík Airport to your hotel in Reykjavík, the northernmost capital in the world. Along the way, you'll pass through lunar landscapes heavily marked by volcanic activity. Day spent at leisure. Meals on your own (not included). Overnight at hotel in Reykjavík.</p> <p><i>Important: There is no Meet & Greet at the airport and your guide will NOT be present on that day. Transfer to Reykjavík and check-in at the hotel is without assistance. Day and evening spent at leisure in Reykjavík.</i></p>
DAY 2	<p>Reykjavík – Borgarfjörður – Skagafjörður – Eyjafjörður / approx. 460 km <i>Pick-up by your guide at the hotel in the morning around 9 a.m.</i> Departure towards the Borgarfjörður region. The road passes through a tunnel under the mouth of the Hvalfjörður fjord and then turns towards the beautiful Hvítá valley, the "white river." Geothermal activity is intense in some places, as can be seen at the Deildartunguhver site, where a series of micro-geysers spout 180 liters of boiling water per second! Further on, the Hraunfossar waterfalls present an idyllic scene where the clear waters of multiple small cascades merge into the milky flows of the Hvítá river. Slightly upstream, around the Barnafoss waterfall, the riverbed narrows, and we feel the vibrations of its tumultuous rapids. We then head north through the Höltavörðuheidi moorlands. The road winds between the waters of the Arctic Ocean and landscapes shaped during the last ice age. Marshy moorlands, rounded mountains, and farmland succeed each other until we reach the Skagafjörður fjord region. Here, we make a stop at the Glaumbær folk museum, a charming traditional turf farm with roofs covered in lush grass! The visit will help you become more acquainted with the harsh life of past Icelandic countryside (included). At the end of the day, we cross the Öxnadalshéiði pass, an immense trench carved by glaciers of the last ice age in the Tröllaskagi mountains, the "Trolls Peninsula." The road opens up to the majestic Eyjafjörður fjord, where we will stay for the next couple of nights. Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included). Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Eyjafjörður and Akureyri area.</p>
DAY 3	<p>Akureyri – Goðafoss – Mývatn – Eyjafjörður / approx. 250 km We leave the area of Akureyri and the shores of Eyjafjörður for those of Lake Mývatn. On the way, we stop at the Goðafoss waterfall, a beautiful site where the Skjálfandi River has created a stunning arrangement of cascades. Once we reach the Mývatn region, we will make multiple stops at sites that are both surprising and magnificent. The area encompasses a wide variety of volcanic landscapes and natural sites, as well as a rich birdlife. We'll take a walk amidst the pseudo-craters of Skútustaðir, then navigate through the labyrinthine lava formations of Dimmuborgir, the "dark citadel." Next, we'll visit the geothermal area of Námaskarð, where numerous solfataras, fumaroles, and bubbling mud pots emit strong sulfuric odours. Finally, we'll explore the volcanic zone of the Krafla volcano, where we'll discover the explosive crater of Víti and the extraordinary geothermal area of Leirhnjúkur. It was here that between 1975 and 1984, a series of volcanic eruptions left behind a series of small craters and a vast expanse of black lava. At the end of the day, before returning to the Akureyri region for the night, we'll visit the Mývatn geothermal baths (included) for a delightful experience in warm, milky waters, in a pool overlooking Lake Mývatn and its surroundings. Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included). Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Eyjafjörður and Akureyri area.</p>
DAY 4	<p>Húsavík – Ásbyrgi – Dettifoss – Egilsstaðir / approx. 350 km Departure towards the Skjálfandi Bay and the charming fishing harbour of Húsavík, where you'll have the opportunity to embark on a whale-watching cruise to spot humpback whales, blue whales, and other white-beaked dolphins that inhabit the bay (optional with supplement). Alternatively, for those not enticed by a whale-watching cruise, there's the option to visit the GeoSea geothermal baths (optional with supplement). We then circumnavigate the Tjörnes Peninsula along a road that overlooks the waters of the Arctic Ocean before descending towards the Óxarfjörður Bay. There, we go for a stroll in Ásbyrgi, an impressive horseshoe-shaped gorge and former bed of the great glacial river Jökulsá á Fjöllum. It's the same turbulent river that we will later discover in its present course, specifically at Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall, which marks the beginning of the stunning Jökulsárgljúfur canyons. Next, we cross the desert regions of Möðrudalsræfi to reach to the more fertile region of Hérað and Lake Lagarfljót. It is said that an aquatic monster lives in the waters of this lake... Perhaps a distant cousin of the Loch Ness Monster? Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included). Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Egilsstaðir area.</p>



DAILY Itinerary

DAY 5

Day 5: East Fjords – Höfn / approx. 260 km

Discovery of the stunning East Fjords region. Chains of mountains with steep slopes and sharp peaks separate sparkling fjords that harbor numerous small fishing communities. The road winds between the sea and the mountains towards the south and the small port of Djúpvogur. Between the Hvalnes and Stokknes capes, we pass through the beautiful Lónsvík bay. Occasionally, along our journey and depending on the season, we might catch a glimpse of a herd of reindeer or observe the graceful flight of swans. As we approach our destination in the Höfn region, we enter the realm of Vatnajökull. With an area comparable to that of the islands of Corsica or Puerto Rico, not only is it Iceland's largest glacier but also the largest in Europe! Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included). Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Höfn area.



DAY 6

Jökulsárlón – Skaftafell – Vík / approx. 280 km

Exploration of Vatnajökull Glacier area, observing numerous glacial tongues along our route. At Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, the glacier breaks into stunning icebergs that drift peacefully towards the ocean ("Diamond Beach"). The lagoon is situated within a magnificent amphitheatre of glaciers, dominated by the majestic peak of Hvannadalshnúkur, Iceland's highest point (2110m). There, you can embark on an amphibious boat for 30 to 40 minutes, allowing you to cruise through the lagoon amidst the icebergs (optional with supplement). Further to the west, before crossing the Skeiðarársandur sand plains and reaching the towering cliffs of Lómagnúpur, Iceland's highest at 670m, we discover Skaftafell National Park. Under the gaze of Hvannadalshnúkur, this area is a true oasis bordered by the glacial tongues of Vatnajökull on one side and vast volcanic sand plains on the other. Later on, we cross the beautiful region of Kirkjubæjarklaustur. Here, we come across the vast Eldhraun lava field, a result of the major Laki eruption that occurred in 1783 and was arguably one of the greatest disasters in Iceland's history. As we approach the Mýrdalsjökull glacier and the village of Vík, the southernmost in Iceland, we traverse new expanses of black sands. Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included). Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Vík or Kirkjubæjarklaustur area.



DAY 7

South Coast – Gullfoss – Geysir – Thingvellir – Reykjavik / approx. 300 km

Exploration of the Vík region and its enchanting landscapes, featuring majestic peaks crowned by enormous glaciers, endless shores covered in volcanic black sand, bird-clad cliffs rising like basaltic organs, and lush farmland. We stop at the shores of Reynisfjara, where ocean waves crash against stunning basalt column cliffs. At Skógar, we discover the powerful Skógarfoss waterfall. Under the watchful eyes of fulmar petrels nesting nearby, we'll feel the powerful mist of the waterfall. We also make a visit to Seljalandsfoss waterfall, as beautiful as it is unique, as it is possible to walk behind it. Before returning to Reykjavík, we make a final detour to explore the sites of the Golden Circle, some of the most famous in Iceland. We visit Gullfoss waterfall, where the Hvítá River plunges into a beautiful canyon in two stages. Nearby, we wander through the Geysir geothermal area, where the geyser Strokkur shoots water and steam up to nearly 20 meters in the air every 5 to 8 minutes. Finally, we take a walk in Þingvellir National Park, amidst a vast rift plain marked by fissures resulting from the separation of tectonic plates. It's here, specifically at the widest and most beautiful of these fissures, Almannagjá, that Viking chieftains gathered starting in the early 10th century to establish the laws of the land. Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included). Dinner on your own (not included). Overnight at hotel in Reykjavík.

Important: Your guide will drop you off at the hotel upon arrival in Reykjavík but will not be present in the evening or the following day. Evening in Reykjavík spent at leisure.



DAY 8

Reykjavik – Keflavík International Airport / approx. 50 km

Transfer without assistance with Flybus shuttle from your hotel to Keflavík International Airport for your return flight.

Important: Your guide will not be present on this day. Transfer to the airport is without assistance.



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