Iceland at a Glance: Aurora, Golden Circle & the Blue Lagoon

REYKJAVIK

6D 5N | 25–30 PAX | STARTS REYKJAVÍK | NOT INCLUDED

Explore Iceland's defining geological landscapes over six well-paced days. Begin in Reykjavík before bathing in the Blue Lagoon and heading beyond the city for an evening aurora hunt. A locally guided Golden Circle journey covers Þingvellir's tectonic rift, Geysir, Gullfoss, Fridheimar greenhouse and Kerið crater, while the South Shore brings the LAVA Centre, Seljalandsfoss, Skógafoss and Skógar Museum. A free day leaves time to discover compact Reykjavík independently. Flights are arranged separately; accommodation, breakfasts, selected dinners, transfers, touring and tipping are included. Northern Lights sightings depend on darkness, solar activity and cloud cover, with late autumn and winter departures generally offering the strongest conditions.

DAY

01

REYKJAVÍK · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Arrive Reykjavík — the world's northernmost capital

You arrive at Keflavik International Airport (KEF), approximately 50 kilometres southwest of Reykjavík. A private or shared transfer brings you to the hotel in the city. Check-in from 14:00. Reykjavík is the world's northernmost capital and a walkable city — if you arrive with daylight left, Laugavegur street and the harbour area are worth the short walk.

Airport Transfer — Private or SIC from Keflavik to Reykjavík. Your tour leader meets you on arrival. The drive takes approximately 45 minutes.

Note on flights — Flights are not included. Arrange your own arrival and departure into Keflavik (KEF). All tour departures are in winter or late autumn — dress for sub-zero temperatures from day one.

OVERNIGHT

ODDSSON Hotel

DAY

02

REYKJAVÍK · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 4

Reykjavík, the Blue Lagoon — and aurora hunting after dark

The morning covers Reykjavík on foot before the coach heads south to the Blue Lagoon. The afternoon in the lagoon is the day's centrepiece: geothermal seawater at 37–39°C in an outdoor pool set into a black lava field.

Reykjavík Orientation — Photo stops at Hofdi House (site of the 1986 Reagan–Gorbachev summit), the Sun Voyager sculpture on the harbourfront, Hallgrímskirkja (the 73-metre Lutheran church that dominates the city skyline), Skólavörðuhólt hill, the Viking Mural, Rainbow Street and the Viking Maritime Museum.

Árbær Open Air Museum — A collection of over 20 historic buildings relocated to a farmstead site in east Reykjavík, preserving 19th and early 20th-century Icelandic domestic and working life. Entrance included. Allow 45–60 minutes.

Blue Lagoon (Bláa Lónið) — A geothermal spa fed by water from the Svartsengi power station, heated by the volcanic activity below the Reykjanes Peninsula. The milky blue colour comes from silica and algae suspended in the water.

Aurora Hunting — After dinner, your tour leader drives you to a location outside the city with minimal light pollution to watch for the Northern Lights. The aurora is visible when solar activity is sufficient and the sky is clear. Both conditions are required; sightings cannot be guaranteed.

MEALS

Breakfast · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Reykjavík

DAY

03

GOLDEN CIRCLE · OVERNIGHT 2 OF 4

The Golden Circle — tectonic plates, geysers and a crater lake

The Golden Circle is a 300-kilometre route through the geological highlights of southwest Iceland, and today you cover it with a local guide. The three main stops — Þingvellir, Geysir and Gullfoss — are within an hour of each other but completely different in character.

Þingvellir National Park — A UNESCO World Heritage rift valley where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates have been pulling apart for 10,000 years, creating the visible fissure and escarpment that runs through the park. The site was also the location of the world's first parliament (the Althing), established in 930 AD. Walk through the rift with your guide.

Geysir Hot Spring Area — The geothermal field that gave the English word 'geyser' to the language. The original Geysir is largely dormant; Strokkur, 50 metres away, erupts every 4–10 minutes to a height of 15–40 metres.

Gullfoss (Golden Falls) — A two-tiered waterfall on the Hvítá River dropping 32 metres total, the largest volume waterfall in Europe.

Fridheimar Greenhouse — A family farm in Reykholt growing tomatoes year-round using geothermal heat from the volcanic bedrock.

Kerið Volcanic Crater — A 6,500-year-old volcanic crater lake in the Western Volcanic Zone, with rust-red crater walls descending to a vivid blue-green lake.

MEALS

Breakfast · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Reykjavík

DAY

04

SOUTH SHORE · OVERNIGHT 3 OF 4

South Shore — the LAVA Centre, Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss

The South Shore drive runs east from Reykjavík along the base of the volcanic highlands, with the sea to the south and the glaciers of Mýrdalsjökull and Eyjafjallajökull visible on the skyline. The LAVA Centre in Hvolsvöllur is one of the best volcano interpretation centres in Iceland; Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss are two of the most photographed waterfalls in the country.

LAVA Centre, Hvolsvöllur — An interactive exhibition on Iceland's volcanic geology, earthquake activity and the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull eruption that grounded European aviation for six days. The simulated eruption experience is the highlight. Entrance included. Allow 60–90 minutes.

Seljalandsfoss — A 60-metre waterfall dropping over ancient sea cliffs that are now several kilometres inland, pushed back by volcanic lava flows. A path runs behind the curtain of water — the standard experience, though it requires waterproof clothing and careful footing on wet rock. Allow 30–45 minutes.

Skógafoss — A 25-metre wide, 60-metre high waterfall on the Skógá River. One of the most powerful in Iceland. Allow 20–30 minutes.

Skógar Museum — A folk museum covering Icelandic rural life from the 9th century to the 20th, housed in a series of reconstructed turf buildings. Entrance included. Allow 30–45 minutes.

MEALS

Breakfast · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Reykjavík

DAY

05

REYKJAVÍK · OVERNIGHT 4 OF 4

Free day in Reykjavík — the city at your own pace

The day is yours in Reykjavík. No coach, no programme. The city is compact — the old harbour, the Laugavegur shopping street, the Hallgrímskirkja tower (the lift is worth it for the view), and the flea market at Kolaportíð are all within walking distance of the hotel. If you want to spend the money, the Perlan Museum's aurora planetarium show is the most convenient indoor aurora experience in Iceland.

Note: No transportation is provided today. The city is walkable; taxis and local buses operate if needed.

Optional activities (own expense): Perlan Museum, whale watching from the Old Harbour, Lava Show, Magic Ice Bar, Reykjavík City Museum.

MEALS

Breakfast

OVERNIGHT

Reykjavík

DAY

06

KEFLAVÍK

Check out Reykjavík — transfer to Keflavik and departure

After breakfast, check out and a private or shared transfer returns you to Keflavik International Airport for your departure flight. Allow at least 2.5 hours before departure given the 45-minute transfer and airport processing. The tour ends at the airport.

MEALS

Breakfast

YOUR TRIP AT A GLANCE

What's Included

DEPARTS FROM	FLIGHTS	GROUP SIZE
Reykjavík	**Not included**	**25–30 pax**

INCLUDED

- check 5 nights accommodation at 3-star hotel
- check 5 daily breakfasts at hotel
- check 3 dinners at restaurant or packed meal
- check Private or SIC return airport transfers
- check Transportation as per itinerary
- check English-speaking local guide for Golden Circle tour
- check Orientation tour by Tour Leader in Reykjavík
- check Aurora hunting excursion
- check Árbær Open Air Museum entrance
- check Blue Lagoon entrance
- check Þingvellir National Park entry
- check Fridheimar Greenhouse visit
- check LAVA Centre entrance
- check Skógar Museum entrance
- check Tipping for guide and driver
- check City and tourist taxes
- check Tour Leader throughout

NOT INCLUDED

- Air ticket (unless stated as included)
- Travelling visa
- Dinner on first and last day
- Lunch daily
- Personal and travel insurance
- Attraction entrance fees (unless stated as included)
- Porterage
- Personal expenses