



New Year's Auroras, Volcanoes and Glacier Lagoon

Ring in the New Year in Iceland as you enjoy a winter trip full of adventure, icy landscapes and the chance to see the elusive Northern Lights.



YOUR
ADVENTURE
AWAITS

5 days/4 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Keflavik - Reykjavik

The Flybus shuttle brings you from Keflavik International Airport to the accommodation in Reykjavik where you spend the night. We provide you with ideas how to explore Iceland's capital on your own, dinner suggestions too! Food lovers will be pleased and perhaps even impressed by the number of diverse restaurants in Reykjavik. Many award winning chefs create delicious Icelandic cuisine that is characterized by an imaginative use of local ingredients such as fresh seafood, organic lamb and wild game; but be sure to try the fabulous Icelandic hot dog and pizza too!

Day 2: Golden Circle

At 08:30 meet your tour guide and start the escorted tour program with a short introduction to Icelandic geology while watching a striking film at the Reykjavik Volcano House documenting the eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull and Fimmvörðuháls in 2010, which caused millions of people to be stranded worldwide as thousands of flights were cancelled. These films give a good insight into the general geology and volcanology of Iceland. At the Volcano House you can experience a hands-on geological exhibition where you can examine various pieces of pumice, ash and lava from Icelandic volcanoes. Later on we depart from Reykjavik and drive to Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site, and where the Althingi, the oldest legislative assembly in the world was founded. This is one of Iceland's most fascinating places both geologically and for the role it plays in the country's history and sense of national identity. Thingvellir is also remarkable for reasons of natural science, as the site is part of a fissure zone running through Iceland, and is situated on the tectonic plate boundaries of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The faults and fissures of the area make evident the rifting of the earth's crust. Exploring the hot springs at Geysir is like watching a geography lesson in real life: natural springs bubbling away in the ground until the pressure becomes too much - and they explode in spectacular style. Geysir and Strokkur are the two biggest of the geysers there. While Geysir is no longer active, Strokkur still spouts every 5 to 15 minutes to the delight of visitors. Next we travel to Gullfoss, "the golden falls", which is a double waterfall that tumbles 34 meters into the Hvítá river. Gullfoss is one of Iceland's most beautiful waterfalls. The explosion crater called Kerið is filled with water and resembles an ancient amphitheatre. In the evening, you hear about the Northern Lights from your tour guide. Naturally, once darkness falls, you are out in the garden waiting for the Northern Lights. We stay for one night in a countryside hotel.

Day 3: Vatnajökull National Park & Glacier Lagoon

A long drive brings us to a world of glaciers, ice and icebergs. We travel to Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon filled with floating icebergs. We explore this extraordinary site and perhaps see some seals swimming in the arctic waters. You can walk on the black sandy beach where large icebergs get stranded. The Vatnajökull National Park is about 12,000 square kilometers and it is the largest National Park in Europe. In this area we find Iceland's highest mountains, an alpine environment and Europe's largest glacier. Tonight you can enjoy a movie presentation about Northern Lights as a part of the Northern Lights educational program. Be careful not to go to bed too soon in this remote and quiet location, or you may just miss out one more chance of seeing the Northern Lights shimmering and dancing across the



night sky. We stay for one night at Fosshotel Núpar in the Vatnajökull region.

Day 4: South Coast & New Year's Dinner

Today, we head across the Eldhraun lava field to the village of Vík where we make a photo stop. We take a stroll on the black lava beach and see the bird cliffs at Reynisfjara beach in South Iceland. We pass the glacier Mýrdalsjökull and the infamous volcano Eyjafjallajökull and continue to Skógafoss waterfall which is 62 meters high and belongs to the most impressive waterfalls in the country. Further west we reach the high but narrow Seljalandsfoss waterfall which is 65 meters high and plunges over the mountain. There is a trail that goes behind the fall which is interesting - if you are prepared to get wet! In the evening we return to Reykjavik for one last night. A transfer bus will bring you at 18:00 to the New Year's Eve 4-course festive dinner at the Panoramic restaurant Út í Bláinn at Perlan. The restaurant is located on the top floor and offers amazing panoramic views of Reykjavik. Between 20:30-22:30 we take you to one of the bonfires in Iceland's capital. An evening tour around Reykjavik on New Year's Eve is an Icelandic tradition. Back at Perlan, we celebrate with music and sparkling wine, and at midnight we experience the "crazy" and the one of a kind fireworks in Iceland's capital. Return transfers to the hotel are offered at 01:00 and 02:00.

Day 5: Departure

Individual transfer by Flybus airport shuttle from your guesthouse accommodation in Reykjavik to Keflavik Airport.

Details

Group Size: 30

2018-19 Dates:

December: 28

2018-19 Pricing:

US\$2,060 - twin
US\$2,060 - triple
US\$2,435 - single

Extra nights in Reykjavik:

From US\$106 - per person, twin or triple room

From US\$181 - per person, single room

Prices shown are per person in US\$, based on 1 person in a single room, 2 people sharing a twin room or 3 people sharing a triple room. Pricing is subject to change based on exchange rates in effect at time of booking.

Trip Code:

008201-20

INCLUDED

- Round-trip airport transfers between Keflavik and Reykjavik
- Fully escorted 3-day bus tour with English speaking guide
- 4 nights of accommodation in tourist class hotels and cottages
- Breakfast daily
- Meals: 2X 2-course dinners; 2X midnight refreshment (days 2 and 3)
- Entrance to Kerið volcano crater
- Multi-media presentation at the Volcano House in Reykjavik
- Northern Lights program over 2 evenings combining lectures, presentations, film and guided searches for the Aurora
- Use of equipment such as non-slip snow and ice-gripper spikes for shoes and a flashlight

NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to/from Iceland
- Optional tours not mentioned in itinerary
- Travel Insurance
- Gratuities
- Items of a Personal Nature

TOUR NOTES

This special New Year's tour allows you to ring in 2019 in Iceland while also visiting popular sites such as the Golden Circle route, the South coast and Vatnajökull national park. You see cascading waterfalls, smoking geysers, colourful volcano craters, a spectacular ice lagoon with floating icebergs and black lava beaches, all set against a backdrop of glistening glaciers and restless geology. There is always a thrilling potential for the night sky to be decorated with the jewels of the amazing Aurora Borealis. Imagine the excitement to search for the most spectacular - and natural - light show on earth.



Daily driving: Total mileage without airport transfer is 910 km (564 miles) which is an average of 303 km (188 miles) per day. You spend about 4 hours per day on the bus, depending on road conditions, traffic and daily distances. On some days the driving might be longer than on some other days.

Accommodation:

Reykjavik - Hotel Cabin

South Iceland - Hotel Borealis

Southeast Iceland - Fosshotel Nupar near Kirkjubæjarklaustur

NATURE FEES: There is a possibility that some of the nature attractions around Iceland might charge an entrance fee during the trip. These entrance fees are not included in the tour price and need to be paid by all tour members additionally on the spot, when entering any of these nature sites. Locations, amount of entrance fee, form of payment and other details are not known at the present time and are subject to change.

CHANGE OF PROGRAM: Itineraries may be subject to change at short notice during severe weather conditions and certain outdoor activities/day trips may be cancelled during the winter season in Iceland. In these rare cases, where situations of force nature apply, excursions/activities cannot be refunded but the local guides will try their best to find reasonable alternatives where and whenever possible.

Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.

ROUTE MAP



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Prices listed on our website are stated in Canadian Dollars unless otherwise indicated. Tour details, inclusions and prices were valid at the time of publication but are subject to change without notice due to currency fluctuations, tax increases and at the discretion of the supplier(s). Current prices will be re-quoted for you at the time of booking. By air, land or sea, we can take you anywhere - contact us for your quote today!