

Iceland: Northern Lights Circle

Experience Iceland & its Winter Glory



This tour will take you to the top attractions around Iceland's famed Ring Road during the tranquil winter season. By day, you will get to see roaring waterfalls, vast glaciers, black sand beaches and the stunning glacier lagoon. By night, you can relax with your fellow explorers at cosy, carefully selected countryside hotels which are far from the bright city lights, giving you a better chance to see the northern lights dance and flicker above.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Watch the northern lights dance and flicker in the sky
- ❖ Visit the massive floating icebergs at the glacier lagoon
- ❖ Marvel at the moon-like landscapes of the Lake Mývatn area
- ❖ Walk the quaint streets of Akureyri, the unofficial capital of north Iceland
- ❖ Photograph the jagged basalt columns & sweeping black sand beaches
- ❖ Tour the famous Golden Circle attractions
- ❖ Roam beautiful Borgarfjörður, a scenic slice of West Iceland
- ❖ Enjoy the cascading waterfalls of Seljalandsfoss & Skógafoss
- ❖ Stay at Magma Hotel, one of the 10 best-rated hotels in Iceland

Day 01 – Reykjavik

On arrival at Keflavik International Airport, you will be greeted by a driver who will transfer you to your hotel in the city centre of Reykjavík. After settling in, the rest of the day is free for you to explore the vibrant capital city with its abundance of museums, restaurants and bars to suit all tastes. If you're interested in checking out Icelandic design or experiencing the city's thriving coffee culture, head to the main street, Laugavegur, and enjoy its various shops and cosy cafes. At 18:00, you will meet your group and guide for a welcome drink and a short introduction about the itinerary and some useful information about the coming days.

Overnight at **Storm Hotel** or similar.

Day 02 – Wonders of The Golden Circle

After Breakfast this morning, drive to around the famous Golden Circle, a popular route containing some of the best-known natural sites in Iceland. Highlights include Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO heritage site; the Geysir geothermal hot spring area and the powerful Gullfoss waterfall. The tour will also visit the geothermally-heated greenhouses at the Friðheimar tomato farm, where we will get to taste the fresh tomato products.

Overnight at **Hótel Selfoss** or similar.

**Please note that the northern lights are a natural phenomenon. If weather conditions and visibility are not favourable, the guide will inform you about the matter.*

Day 03 – Waterfalls, Volcanic Beaches & Northern Lights.

Breakfast at the Hotel.

Today, you will explore majestic waterfalls, black sand beaches and learn about the unique geology of Iceland. You will start with a visit to the Lava Centre, a one of a kind interactive exhibition about Iceland's volcanic activity, its frequent earthquakes and how Iceland evolved over millions of years. Next up is the fairy tale-like Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where you can walk behind the icy cascade on a footpath. Close by your guide will take you to Skógarfoss, an impressive 60-metre high waterfall located at the foot of a mountain range.

The last stop before continuing to your accommodation is at the black sand volcanic beach near the village of Vík í Mýrdal. Here, you will be able to see the spectacular rock arch and steep cliffs of along with the Reynisdrangar basalt columns just off the shore.

Next, you will travel to your carefully selected charming boutique hotel, situated far from the city lights to give you the best chance of seeing the northern lights. Enjoy dinner at Magma Hotel with the group.

Dinner and Overnight Magma Hotel.

Day 04 - The Glacier Lagoon & Diamond Beach

Breakfast at the hotel. The tour will head to the spectacular Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon, famous for its floating icebergs in shades of milky white and bright blue. On a clear day, you may even get a good view of Breiðamerkurjökull glacier behind the lake. Next to the glacier lagoon, we will stop at the Diamond Beach where you will see large chunks of ice that have washed up on shore after being shaped and polished in the surf of the glacier lagoon. It's truly a beautiful sight and a great photo opportunity!

After some time at the Diamond Beach, you will be driven to your accommodation for the night. A delicious local dinner will be served, and after, you can end the evening by putting on some warm clothes to gaze at the sky waiting for the northern lights to appear.

Dinner and Overnight at **Hótel Framtíð** or similar.

Day 05 – The Mystical East Fjords & Myvatn Nature Baths

Today, after breakfast you will get to experience a slice of Iceland that few travellers get to explore. Your group's drive takes you along majestic East Iceland, with gorgeous scenery that includes tranquil fishing villages, narrow fjords, rugged tundra and sweeping landscapes. If you are lucky, you might spot a reindeer or two as they come down from the mountains to stay close to the sea during the winter months.

Among other highlights, you will stop in the small villages of Stöðvarfjörður and Fáskrúðsfjörður, the latter known for its French heritage and a fascinating northern lights photo exhibition. The final destination of the day is the otherworldly Lake Mývatn area. Here, you have the option of either relaxing at the hotel after today's drive or going to visit the warm alkaline geothermal lagoon and saunas at the Mývatn Nature Baths, with a view to mountains and lava fields (optional: not included).

The Lake Mývatn area is known for being one of the best places in Iceland to view the northern lights due to the altitude and the lay of the land. We therefore highly recommend that you are on the lookout for the Aurora Borealis tonight!

Overnight at the night at **Hótel Laxá** or similar.

Day 06 – Lake Myvatn & Charming Akureyri

After Breakfast, Start the day by exploring the unusual, moon-like landscapes of the Lake Mývatn area, including the Námaskarð pass and the Skútustaðagígar pseudo craters—sights that are even more surreal in wintertime. You will also have a chance to see Goðafoss, the Waterfall of the Gods, which is among the most beautiful falls in the country. While the waterfall is not very tall, the cascade is divided into two horseshoe-shaped falls, making it unique among Icelandic waterfalls. You will then have some free time in Akureyri to explore on your own. Akureyri is a charming town with museums, shops, cafes and a picturesque harbour area, before heading to Skagafjörður, where you will dine and stay at Hofstaðir (dinner is included).

Overnight at **Hotel Hofstaðir** or similar.

Day 07 – West Iceland & Return to Reykjavik

Breakfasts at the Hotel.

Before heading back to Reykjavík, you will get the chance to explore the incredible western part of Iceland along beautiful Borgarfjörður. Your guide will stop at Deildartunguhver, the most powerful hot spring in Europe, the beautiful and the spectacular twin waterfalls of Hraunfossar and Barnafoss. Hraunfossar is a thrilling series of waterfalls that seemingly originating in a field without a river or lake. The water is actually streaming through rivulets in the Hallmundarhraun lava field. Meanwhile, Barnafoss is more like a series of rapids caused by the water of Hvítá entering a narrow passage. Next, you will be driven to the historical sites at Reykholt, which is rich in Saga history. Reykholt is the home of 13th century writer, poet and scholar Snorri Sturluson.

After being dropped off at your accommodation, you can spend the evening at your leisure in the city centre of Reykjavik.

Overnight at the **Storm Hotel** or similar.

Day 08 – Departure From Reykjavik

Breakfast at the Hotel and check out. The trip ends this morning after breakfast, A shuttle Bus will transport you to the Airport.

*** Return Home with wonderful memories ***

Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: From EUR 2100

Single supplement: From EUR 500

- *Different dates have different price. Please check with us for the correct pricing*

2019 Tour Dates:

- 31 January
- 07,21 February
- 07,14,21,24 March
- 03,06,10,13,17,20,24,27 October
- 03,10,17,24 November

Price Includes:

- ❖ Accomodation for 7 Nights
- ❖ Daily Breakfast and 3 Dinners
- ❖ Return airport transfers
- ❖ Professional English speaking Guide
- ❖ Transportation in a premium mini coach
- ❖ Entrance Fees: Northern Lights Photo Exhibition in Fáskrúðsfjörður, Friðheimar Farm, Skógar Folk Museum, Lava center
- ❖ Taxes and Services
- ❖ Iceland Travel Guide.

Price excludes

- ❖ Air ticket to Reykyavik & back
- ❖ Visa & Travel insurance
- ❖ Meals and Sightseeing not mentioned
- ❖ Items of a personal nature
- ❖ Any Services not included in Inclusions.
- ❖ 5% GST

Notes:

- ❖ To ensure comfortable seating for everyone on our tour, we need to limit the size and amount of luggage on the van. Each guest is allowed one suitcase or large bag that can be stored in the back of the van and one smaller item (e.g., a small backpack or daypack) to keep inside the van for daily essentials like camera, wallet, medications and so forth. Unfortunately carry-on suitcases (cabin bags) are too large to store inside the van in the overhead racks.
- ❖ Please note that the programme is dependent upon weather and road conditions, and may be altered if conditions are not favourable. In the case of major changes to the programme, you will be notified and we will do our best to make sure that your experience will not be affected.
- ❖ Triple rooms are not available for this tour, only single and double rooms.
- ❖ Group normally 5 to 16, plus tour leader. Min age 16 yrs
- ❖ Please note that the northern lights are a natural phenomenon and sightings cannot be guaranteed. You will stay in a rural hotel to maximise your chances of seeing the northern lights.

Map of Iceland



Notes:

- Standard check in at hotels is at 14h00 onwards. Where necessary we will request an early check-in however, this is not guaranteed. The same applies to check out, which is at 12h00.
- Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, rate of exchange fluctuations.
- Please note that your passport should be valid for more than 6 months beyond the date of travel and that you must have atleast 2 blank pages on your passport.
- Payment to be made in INR at the prevalent ROE
- **Price based on a minimum of 14 people travelling together**

Terms & Conditions

BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of 50% of the tour cost per person will be payable at the time of booking. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Odyssey Tours & Travels.
2. At the time of making the booking, please send a copy of the first page of your passport
3. Balance payment is to be 5 weeks prior to the date of travel.
4. All rates are subject to a revision if there is a fluctuation in the currency rates.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

1. Should you be forced to amend / cancel the booking you must advise us in writing.
2. Payment of the booking deposit constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions.
3. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:
 - More than 4 weeks before the scheduled tour arrival date: 20% cancellation fee
 - Less than 4 weeks before the scheduled tour arrival date: 50% cancellation fee
 - Less than 2 weeks before the scheduled tour arrival date: 100% cancellation fee
4. Cancellation of a reservation due to any visa being rejected will amount to cancellation charges being levied as per the scale mentioned below and Odyssey Tours & Travels will not be responsible for any visa rejection by the respective consulates.
5. Refunds due can take upto 5 weeks to process.