

## Explore the Pearls of Iceland

**With so much to discover and explore in Iceland, this comprehensive tour highlights the natural wonders, the majestic landscapes and the unique character of Iceland. This is a classic circle tour that provides the perfect combination of culture, nature and adventure!**

**Culinary Focus in Iceland:** On this inspiring journey around the island we sample dishes from some of the best culinary traditions around Iceland. The stops are carefully selected not only for their Viking hospitality, charm and character but also for their beautiful, natural settings.

### July 24 - Arrival in Keflavík – Warm Welcome in Reykjavík

Meet your driver guide in the arrival hall of the airport who will take you to your private vehicle. The route leads from Keflavik airport to Reykjavik for check-in at your accommodation. Duration of transfer, approx. 45 min.

\*Please note that early check-in cannot be guaranteed unless you purchase the previous night as well\*

#### Warm Welcome

We will start the tour with a lunch at a local household, after lunch we'll take a short overview city sightseeing tour, ending with a walking tour of the city centre.

Reykjavik is a colorful walking city especially when accompanied by a private guide who is a connoisseur of the city and can cater the sites to particular tastes. Enjoy a customized tour set at the your own pace where we can focus on history, art, culture (or even shopping!)

Let us know beforehand and we'll make sure the tour suits your taste.

#### Culinary focus highlights:

During the warm welcome tour, enjoy a visit to a local family for lunch. Learn all about the Icelander's way of life!

Overnight at Radisson 1919 in Reykjavík (Borg fully booked)

### July 25 Reykjavík City

Enjoy a day in Reykjavík. Visit museums and the local swimming pool (to really experience the city as a true local)

#### Recommended museums:

National Museum – Arbaejarsafn Museum – Culture House and Saga Museum (in Perlan)

Overnight at Radisson 1919 in Reykjavík

### July 26 Þingvellir - Geysir - Gullfoss – Rangá

We depart from Reykjavik to Þingvellir National Park to explore the grounds of the ancient parliament site, Alþingi, on the shores of Iceland's largest lake. Here we see the dramatic continental drift between the American and Eurasian tectonic plates. We travel on to Iceland's famous Gullfoss, or 'Golden Falls', and the nearby Geysir hot spring area to see the famous Geysir, and numerous hot springs and boiling mud pools.

**Culinary focus highlights:** Enjoy a truly unique experience in the geothermal fields, where we sample rye bread, baked underground by hot springs.

Overnight in Rangá Hotel

### July 27 Landmannalaugar Highlands - Skaftafell National Park

Today we drive through areas where we see the famous and active Mt Hekla volcano before our journey takes us to the amazing Landmannalaugar. The whole area is famous for its natural beauty which consists of many geological elements, the most obvious being the rhyolite mountains and vast lava fields.

We stop in Landmannalaugar to explore the area. Our driver guide lead us into the vast lava fields of the area where we experience the amazing lunar like landscape first hand (great hiking possibilities if you are up for a hike!).

Those who dare can bathe in the natural hot pool located in the area (right beside the mountain huts so very primitive changing facilities!).

The tour continues down to Skeiðarársandur sands to Skaftafell National Park.

Overnight in Guesthouse Fire and Ice at Hofn

### July 28 Glacier hike - Glacier Lagoon - Vatnajökull - Höfn

Start the day with an amazing glacier hike tour on one of Vatnajökull's glacier tongues.

Continue to the stunning Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon to see floating icebergs and curious seals. Boat trip on the lagoon. Drive up to Vatnajökull glacier for a snowmobile tour.

Throughout the day we are afforded magnificent views of the mighty Vatnajökull Glacier.

End in Hofn, a town known for their Icelandic lobster.

Overnight in Hofn Hotel

### July 29 ATV Tour - East Fjords - Egilsstaðir

Again we start our day with some great adventures – today we'll try out ATV'S in the black sand. After an hours fun we drive from Höfn through Almannaskarð pass, stop and admire the majestic coastline. Continue to the towering mountains plunging vertically into the sea that form the magnificent East Fjords. Explore Petra's renowned collection of local stones and minerals.

Overnight in Egilsstaðir Guesthouse, located by the Lagarfljot lake

### July 30 Askja - Lake Mývatn Area – Nature Baths

Explore the empty vastness of the highland desert plateau Möðrudalsöræfi, heading to the Lake Mývatn area. On the way to Myvatn we'll take a route through the highlands to visit the famous Askja. Late afternoon arrival with a visit the beautiful Nature Bath sfor a swim in their otherwordly blue water!

**Culinary focus highlights:** We stop for at Vogafjós Cowshed Café which is known for its homemade local food, such as smoked lake trout, smoked lamb, mozzarella and feta cheeses made from the farm's cow milk. We will learn how the trout and lamb are smoked on the premises using long-standing and traditional methods. Taste the local delicacies.

Overnight at Hotel Reyhlið, in the Mývatn area.

### July 31 Lake Mývatn Area - Akureyri

Today we explore the lake Myvatn area. Visit Námaskarð pass with its boiling mud pools and vibrant colors. Stop at the peculiar lava formations at Dimmuborgir, the pseudo craters at Skútustaðir and Laxá salmon river. One of Mývatn area's claims to fame is that it is home to more species of ducks than any other place on Earth, with very diverse birdlife in general

Travel towards the bustling northern port of Akureyri making a stop at the magnificent Goðafoss waterfall and the old turf farm Laufás. Akureyri has some of the finest timber buildings in the country, beautifully restored to their original glory.

Overnight at Hotel Reyhlið, in the Mývatn area.

### August 1 Skagafjörður – Horses - Snæfellsnes

Majestic mountains and narrow passes lead to Skagafjörður for an introduction of the unique Icelandic horse that has a special fifth gait - the tölt. Horseriding tour with a local horse breeder. Towards the village of Blönduós built on both sides of the river Blanda with Hrótey Island a protected nature reserve located in this popular salmon river. Drive from Blönduós to Búðir Hotel on the Snæfellsnes peninsula.

Overnight at Hotel Búðir

### August 2 Snæfellsnes Peninsula – Boat tour on Breidafjörður Bay

Travel around the amazing Snæfellsnes peninsula, known for its good energy and vibrant atmosphere. Drive through charming fishing with a stop at Djúpalónssandur and Arnarstapi. We recommend hiking between Arnarstapi and Hellnar (45 min, easy hike, trail, uneven surface). Embark on a unique adventure tour out on the Breidafjörður bay. The tour includes sightseeing among the uncountable islands on the bay, bird watching (incl. puffins, eider ducks, shags, kittiwakes and if lucky – the majestic white tailed eagle!), explore the unique rock formations of the islands and taste fresh shellfish which is brought on board by a special net-plough.

#### Culinary focus highlights:

Visit a local shark farm for a real “fear factor” experience!

Overnight at Hotel Budir

### August 3 Langjokull glacier – Caving in Surtshellir

Today we drive from Búðir and head towards Reykjavík. But before we go back to the city we'll make a two night stop at the amazing Hotel Glymur.

En route to Glymur we'll visit the Barnafoss and Hjalparfoss waterfalls, Deildartunguhver hot spring and Surtshellir Cave for a caving experience.

Overnight in a Villa at Glymur Hotel

### August 4 Whale Fjord – Kayaking

Enjoy a leisurely morning at Glymur or go hiking.

Drive the so called Whale Fjord, whose name is derived from the large number of whales which could be found and caught there. Until the 1980s, one of the biggest whaling stations in Iceland was located in the Fjord.

Sea-Kayak on the whale fjord.

Visit the town of Borgarnes where we learn more about the Icelandic Sagas.

There are also great hiking possibilities in the area if you are interested in doing some hiking.

Overnight in a Villa at Glymur Hotel



### **August 5 Glymur – Reykjavik // Glymur – Blue Lagoon - Airport**

Leisurely morning in Glymur

Drive back to Reykjavik and enjoy an afternoon in Reykjavik

Overnight in Borg Hotel in Reykjavík

### **August 6 Blue Lagoon Farewell\***

Transfer to Keflavík Airport via Blue Lagoon.

Enjoy the drive with your private driver through rugged lava fields to the Blue Lagoon, a unique natural pool of mineral rich geothermal water located in the middle of a lava field in the pure and beautiful Icelandic wilderness. The Blue Lagoon is known for its special properties and its beneficial effect on the skin and attracts visitors from all over the world in search of health, relaxation and an exotic experience. We stop for a refreshing bath or swim in the pleasantly warm mineral-rich water, reputed for its healing properties. Continue to Keflavík Airport.

Check in at airport 2 hrs before departure

