



The Grand Tour

Small group tour around Iceland
 11 days - full, but not rushed
 Including Snæfellsnes Peninsula & West Fjords
 Ferry trip to West Fjords, daily easy walks
 Lava cave & boat trip between floating icebergs
 3 National Parks, multimedia presentation at
 Eyjafjallajökull volcano info center
 Visits to small local museums, cultural experiences
 & a horse show



Adventure.com

...2016

Mountains, rivers, glaciers, icebergs, hot springs and volcanoes are all here to explore in this vast trip around Iceland. You'll have days of adventure, and evenings to relax. Iceland is like one big National Park with icebergs on the east coast, lush green lands in the west, dramatic mountains and fjords in the north. A bit of walking, and a few contrasting boat trips make this the perfect trip for those who want to see the great array of land-and sea-scapes on this small island.

Tuesday:

Travelers from North America leave for Iceland usually on an overnight flight with an early morning arrival at Keflavik Airport in Iceland.

Wednesday:

Welcome to Iceland! (31 miles)

A day to rest and/or explore the city After an early arrival in Iceland, you'll take a shuttle to your hotel in Reykjavik. Then you'll have the day to rest and explore Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital. We'll provide lots of ideas for what to see and places to eat-meals are on your own today.

Thursday:

Golden Circle (180 miles)

Classic highlights ighlights today! Exploring at Gullfoss, the beautiful double "Golden Falls" and a walk

through the active geothermal area of Geysir, where Strokkur "the churn" spouts up to 70 feet every five to seven minutes. A visit to the ancient Viking Parliament area and UNESCO world heritage site of Þingvellir National Park tops the day off before travelling along the scenic shores of Hvalfjörður fjord.

Overnight in Borgarfjörður, West Iceland.

Friday:

Snæfellsnes Peninsula & lava cave (118 miles)

The Icelandic sagas that show much of Icelander's history are made alive in the settlement center in Borgarnes. The Snæfellsnes Peninsula capped by the 1,446 meter Snæfellsjökull, a cone-shaped volcano and glacier, dominates this area of fishing settlements and geologic oddities offering many classic Icelandic photo opportunities. Jules Verne's "Journey to the Center of the Earth" can be experienced on your descent (by

stairs) into the lava formed cave beneath the glacier and volcano's cone. The lava cave tour takes approximately one hour. Overnight in the Grundarfjörður area.

Saturday:

Iceland's Westernmost Point (90 miles)

The morning car ferry Baldur from Stykkishólmur to Brjánslækur in the West Fjords is an early morning departure to cross Breiðafjörður bay, stopping on the island of Flatey, one of the many islands seen on the crossing. Looking back, the glacier Snæfellsjökull will be visible all during the sail. there's a stop at the folk and transport museum in Hnjótur, and then it's on to the remote and sparsely populated region around the famed bird cliffs of Látrabjarg, the westernmost point of Iceland (and Europe) where you can see puffins from mid-May till mid-August. You'll take a memorable walk in the wilderness to the top of the highest bird cliffs in Iceland. Látrabjarg is known in the world for its density of northern birds. Puffins,



razorbills, guillemots, fulmars, cormorants, kittiwakes and other cliff birds flock either in hundreds, thousands and even in millions. This is a place where you can get very close to the seabirds and even if you're not into bird watching, you are entertained by the comic puffins and mesmerized by the sheer number of birds. Overnight near Látrabjarg or Patreksfjörður.

Sunday:

Beautiful West Fjords (242 miles)

In and out of scenic fjords, beautiful beaches, and passing through small fishing villages on to the majestic fjord Arnarfjörður, and its high mountains. In this fjord is the unique waterfall Dynjandi with its seven levels of plunging water, declared the country's most beautiful waterfall by the people of Iceland. Then it's over a mountain pass and along the southern shores of the West Fjords, a route less travelled, characterized by sheer cliffs, deep cut bays and narrow stretches of coastal lowland. Overnight at the remote Vogur Country Lodge in West Iceland. This is a truly peaceful and beautiful place close to Breiðafjörður Bay, giving you the feeling of being all alone in Iceland.

Monday:

Heading North (/217 miles)

Today starts off-the-beaten path, past abandoned farms, beautiful little country churches and Icelandic horses. At Haukadalur, there's a rather authentic replica of the homestead of Erik the Red, the famous explorer who founded the Icelandic colony in Greenland. His son Leif-the-Lucky, born in Haukadalur, Iceland, was the first European to set foot in North America. Now the excavated and reconstructed farm in Haukadalur is a living Viking museum, a fun, informative and a photogenic place. The landscape is dominated by mountains, lakes, valleys, sea and wide open

spaces. We head north and stop at a local farm for a horse show where we learn about the unique qualities of Iceland's special breed. Afterwards we travel through the fertile farmlands and fjord landscapes of North-west Iceland before we visit to the charming town of Akureyri, Iceland's second largest city. Overnight in the capital of North Iceland.

Tuesday:

Geological wonders and nature baths (93 miles)

Today, explore Goðafoss, the waterfall of the Gods, and lake Mývatn, known for its rich bird life and extraordinary volcanic lava landscapes. Visit pseudo craters, walk in the lava field Dimmuborgir, climb up to the rim of the ash crater Hverfjall, see the hot springs and bubbling mud pools of Námaskarð, and travel to the crater lake Víti in the Krafla geothermal fields. In the afternoon relax and soak at the Mývatn Nature Baths. Overnight near lake Mývatn.

Wednesday:

The secrets of the East (180 miles)

Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall is on today's itinerary, huge quantities of water and foam. After that it's into the uninhabited highlands to East Iceland. The isolated village Bakkagerði has only 120 inhabitants and is a charming village, built snugly next to the steep mountainside. Driving to Borgarfjörður Eystri is dramatic and rewarding. The colorful mountains are simply unique and impressive. And a traditional Icelandic fishing village, that still relies on small boat fishing. There is an art gallery in the village, displaying the



work of Jóhannes Kjarval. He is a well-known Icelandic painter who grew up in Borgarfjörður Eystri and his home town and its landscape have much influenced his work. Borgarfjörður Eystri is home to an extensive population of elves – judging by the 172 local folk tales involving elves. On the outskirts of the village is Álfaborg, a protected site where the queen of elves is believed to live within a uniquely shaped rock castle. The elf-stories provide a fascinating lecture especially for the younger generation.

Thursday:

Fjords, glaciers, and ice (242 miles)

It's a day to admire the dramatic fjord landscape and its tiny fishing villages at the end of twisty roads in the East Fjords and to visit an interesting stone collection. In the afternoon Vatnajökull Europe's biggest glacier that is visible all over Southeast Iceland. Past the town of Höfn, we stop for a boat ride amongst the floating icebergs on the glacial lagoon at Jökulsárlón. The night is spent near Skaftafell on the southern part of Vatnajökull National Park.

Friday:

Vatnajökull National Park and the South (211 miles)

Skaftafell at the Vatnajökull National Park, covered by ice and nestled below Iceland's

highest mountain, Hvannadalshnjúkur, starts this day. Walking close to one of the many glacial tongues in the area, unique to most of us – a kodak moment. Crossing a sandy desert and driving along the south coast, always between the sea, mountainous cliffs, glaciers and waterfalls. A stroll along the black lava beach and bird cliffs near the village of Vík reveals geological oddities.. At the Eyjafjallajökull Information Center they show how it is to live next to a glacier and an active volcano. A stop at the Skógafoss and the Seljalandsfoss waterfalls. Farewell dinner at a nice gourmet restaurant in Reykjavik and the last night is spent in Iceland's capital, and perhaps -if you dare- even it's night life!!.

shopping, or soak in a warm swimming pool. If you're taking an afternoon flight, you'll need to leave for Keflavik Airport between 1 and 2 PM

Nature fees: There may be a Nature Fee imposed by Iceland's government to support its many natural wonders. The fee will probably not be large but it will be an additional cost for travelers. Will know if/when details are settled!



Dates/Prices for the Grand Tour in 2016

All Grand Tour dates below include post tour travel days.

Leave N America - Return N America

Saturday:

Time to say good bye ...

A few last hours, in the morning, to explore Reykjavik (31 miles)

Travelers on early flights will make an early departure via Flybus to the airport, while those leaving late afternoon will have time to explore a bit of Reykjavik, do some

Tues 2 June - Sat 11 June
 Tues 16 June - Sat 25 June
 Tues 30 June - Sat 9 July
 Tues 14 July - Sat 23 July
 Tues 28 July - Sat 6 Aug
 Tues 9 Aug - Sat 20 Aug
 Tues 25 Aug - Sat Sept 3

Price per person

# in party	Price per person
1	\$6,476
2	\$5,646

Finer Print: Price includes international airfare from the US east coast*, airport transfers and any pre and post tour accommodations needed. The tour itself includes 10 nights with private bath**, 10 breakfasts 8 dinners, 3 National Parks, the settlement center in Borgarnes a cave on Snaefellsness, ferry across the West Fjords, the folk museum at Hnjotur, Erik the Red's museum, horse show, the Nature Baths in Lake Myvatn, Petras, Stone Collection, boat tour on Jokulsarlon, the Eyjafjallajökull Volcano Information Center.

***Flights** Price includes round trip airfare, including fuel surcharge and US departure taxes to Iceland, from Icelandairs east coast gateways - Boston, New York, Newark and Washington Dulles International. We can also book flights from Icelandairs other gateways: Minneapolis, Denver, Seattle, Portland, Anchorage, Toronto and Halifax, which may add to the price. Not all gateways have daily departures but we can arrange additional nights accommodations before or after your tour.

****Rooms and meals** During the tour, you'll spend all nights in double rooms in country hotels, guesthouses, & farms, with private baths. Most hotels on this tour are simple tourist class hotels, set in stunning locations. You'll have an Icelandic breakfast buffet every day, and there will be 3 course or buffet dinner on 8 nights. You'll get to sample some of the many fine dining options in Reykjavik and Akureyri.

Not included are Travel Insurance, lunch and dinner on pre-and post-tour days in Reykjavik, lunch while on the tour, (there will be a stop made every day to purchase this), dinners in Akureyri and Reykjavik, and any additional expenses or travel you may choose. **Finest print.** Please note that our tour prices are subject to change until you book your tour with a deposit.



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