

Iceland



Northern Lights Exploration

Northern Lights

2017 - 18

8 Days

Adventure.com

Take in the best of Iceland's winter with the ORIGINAL Northern Lights program!! These Northern Lights Exploration Tours include the highlights of Iceland and maximize the chances of seeing the elusive Northern Lights. A seven night stay with breakfast, PLUS our special six night Northern Lights Academy, a combination of evening presentations, lectures, film and guided searches for the the Northern Lights. Experience Icelandic winter as good as it gets. Heading to the countryside away from the big city lights; and going from Snæfellsnes Peninsula in the west to the Vatnajökull glacier in the southeast. You'll experience a lot of Iceland's impressive sights.

- Climb a volcano crater**
- See Europe's largest glacier and icebergs in its lagoon**
- Visit a traditional shark farmer, turf farmsteads and churches**
- Relax in the Blue Lagoon and learn about living next to Eyjafjallajökull volcano**
- See Icelandic horses, taste freshly baked hot spring bread and cruise on a broad Icelandic fjord**
- Six evenings of Northern Lights Academy programs**
- This small group tour has a max of 16 travelers - also available with a larger group**

Day Zero, **Mon:** Leave US on overnight flight to Iceland, for the small group tour. Larger group tours depart US on Thursday and Saturday

Day 1, **TUE:** Welcome to Iceland
Individual transfer by Flybus shuttle bus from Keflavik Airport to your accommodation in Reykjavik where you spend the night. We provide you with ideas how to explore Iceland's capital on your own and some dinner suggestions as well.

Day 2, **WED:** Reykjavik City Tour & Borgarfjordur Saga Valley
At 09:00 meet your tour guide who shows the group the highlights of Iceland's exciting capital. Then it's west to Borgarfjordur and the Saga valley. You'll have a chance to climb the Grábrók volcano crater and to warm up at Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring. Hraunfossar is a series of waterfalls pouring through the layers of a wide lava field. Barnafoss – the Children's falls, is nearby with its own

tragic tale. Two nights in Borgarnes, West Iceland. The afternoon includes a lecture about Northern Lights. After dinner, you can step into the hotel garden in search of the Northern Lights followed by a hot cup of chocolate or tea.

Day 3, **THU:** Snæfellsnes Peninsula & Fjord Cruise
The Snæfellsnes Peninsula "the peninsula of the snowy mountain" juts out from Iceland's west coast, like a long arm. A rugged mountain chain runs its length. You travel to the charming fishing town of Stykkishólmur for a cruise in Breiðafjörður fjord. After a light lunch, a uniquely Icelandic "treat" awaits at Bjarnarhöfn, where they make Hákarl - fermented shark. Depending on road and weather conditions, visit the fishing village of Grundarfjörður, a place with impressive geology. One of the most photographed mountains in Iceland, Mt. Kirkjufell, is here. On the drive the guide gives you some practical tips on how to photograph the Auroras as part of the

Northern Lights Academy program. Once darkness falls, you'll go out in the hotel garden to chase the Northern Lights and to soak in the hotel's outdoor hot tubs.

Day 4, **FRI:** Golden Circle, Geothermal Taste & Icelandic Horses
Today's travel is along Hvalfjörður fjord. The first stop is at an Icelandic wool outlet store, just to see what they do with all those sheep! Continue inland to Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site on the Golden Circle route. You'll see steam rising from the Geysir geothermal fields as you approach. There are a variety of hot springs and bubbling pools. The original geyser is now dormant. It's been replaced by Strokkur "the Churn" which erupts at 5-10 minute intervals. The chef of the restaurant *Geysir* invites you to taste freshly baked hot springs bread, served with Icelandic butter, some geothermally boiled eggs and herring. It is best served with a small very cold glass of Geysir

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Schnapps. On your travel to Gullfoss, a double waterfall that tumbles 100 feet into the Hvítá river and attracts tourists and travellers in summer and winter. In the afternoon, you learn about the Icelandic horse, its special qualities and history and visit a geothermal greenhouse, before reaching your accommodation in South Iceland. Tonight, step into the darkness and search for the elusive Northern Lights, best enjoyed from a comfortable hot tub in the garden of the hotel, amidst the peace and stillness of rural Iceland.

Day 5, **SAT: South Iceland & Eyjafjallajökull Volcano**

Today's travel is along the South coast. At the Eyjafjallajökull Information Center you will learn about living next to a glacier and an active volcano. Then it's a visit to one of Iceland's finest folk museums with an outstanding collection of farm and domestic artifacts from Iceland's past and several turf-built houses. Nearby is Skógafoss waterfall which is nearly 180 feet high and one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country. In the afternoon you'll take a stroll on the black lava beach and along bird cliffs at Reynisfjara. The next 2 nights are near Kirkjubæjarklaustur near Vatnajökull National Park. Very dark and ideal for a Northern Lights search.

Day 6, **SUN: Skaftafell National Park & Vatnajökull Glacier**

Today's program is about glaciers, ice and icebergs. Travel to Jökulsárlón, a glacial lagoon filled with floating icebergs, where you might see seals swimming in arctic waters. Explore the black sandy beach where large icebergs get stranded. Then visit the tiny turf church at Hof and spend time at Europe's largest national park, with Iceland's highest mountains, an alpine environment, and Europe's largest glacier. In the evening enjoy a film presentation about the Northern Lights as part of the Northern Lights Academy program. Don't 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.

New: Optional Ice Cave Tour

offered between **November 15th and March 15th** Experience a spectacular crystal ice cave in Europe's largest glacier, Vatnajökull. Beautiful caves of ice are formed by rivers of melt water during the summer time. It is dangerous to visit in the spring and summer due to a threat of collapse, but it's fine in the colder months. The tour takes about 2,5 hours with 5-15 minutes hike (one-way). You need good hiking boots, warm clothing to keep you dry from the dripping water. Minimum age is 10 years old. The ice cave tour can only be booked with the guide on day 2 of this tour. You will have to fill in and sign an order form, no cancellations. The price is 23000 Kronur (about \$220) per person; subject to change. Payment is due to the ice cave tour operator on day 6 in Icelandic Krona – cash only! Meet the local guide at the glacier lagoon at 14:00 and you will be brought back to the hotel after the ice cave tour. The ice cave explorers will miss out on some of the of programs, as there is no time for everything, but the stop and visit at the Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon are included for all group members.

Day 7, **MON: South shore, Reykjavik & Blue Lagoon**

Crossing Eldhraun lava field to the village of Vík with a photo stop. The black lava beach, high bird cliffs and pounding waves is very impressive. A stop at Seljalandsfoss waterfall which plunges from the mountain is next, giving you a chance to walk behind it - if you don't mind getting wet. In the afternoon you'll return to Reykjavik and have about 2 hour break to explore Iceland's capital on your own, visit museums, do some shopping or rest up all this touring. In the evening you'll be taken for a soak in the famous Blue Lagoon, followed by an Icelandic dinner at a local restaurant followed by one last nocturnal tour to seek more Northern Lights. Around midnight you'll reach Reykjavik for one last night.

Day 8, **TUE: Departure for Home**

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

Daily travel: Total mileage without airport transfer is about 1.585 km (983 miles) which is an average of 265 km (164 miles) per day. You spend about 3,5 hours per day on the bus, depending on road conditions, traffic and daily itinerary. On some days the driving might be longer than on some other days.



Your visit to Jökulsárlón, the glacial lagoon, may give you a chance to actually touch an iceberg.

NOTE: 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.

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It's Winter! In rare cases, a change of itinerary might be necessary during winter programs in Iceland, should snow, road and weather conditions not allow to follow the scheduled itinerary, and certain outdoor activities might be cancelled. In this case no refund will be given, but GJ-Travel will do its best to find reasonable alternatives whenever possible.

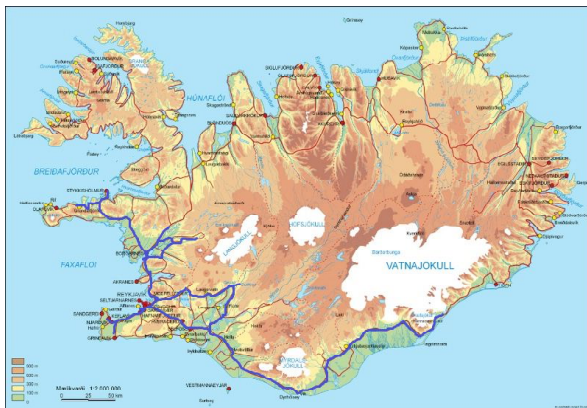
Price includes international airfare from Icelandair East Coast gateways: BOS, JFK, Newark, PHL and Orlando-MCO, airport transfers on arrival and departure, 7 nights in comfortable hotels around the country, 6 nights of the Northern Lights Academy with presentations, films and lectures and a guided search for the northern lights. Fully guided 6 day tour, including the many activities listed in itinerary, including entry to the Blue Lagoon. Meals included are breakfast every day, 1 light lunch in Stykkisholmur and a farewell dinner at the Northern Light Inn. You'll have the use of ice gripper spikes for your shoes, and a flashlight. There will be a stop each day to purchase lunch at a simple cafe or road side shop. **Not included** are travel insurance, meals other than breakfast except those listed above, and any additional travel or activities that you may choose to add



Accommodations: You'll stay in comfortable hotels, with private bath and breakfast every day. In Reykjavik you'll stay at the Centerhotel Arnarhvoll for first and last night, Icelandair Hotel Hamar for 2 nights in West Iceland, 1 night at the Fosshotel Hekla in South Iceland; 2 nights at the Fosshotel Nupar in Kirkjubæjarklaustur and Vatnajökull National Park. All hotels subject to change. Dinners can be purchased at the hotels at a special rate for Northern Lights Explorers. There will be fixed price 2 course dinner featuring fish, meat or a vegetarian entry for 7200 ISK (about \$70 per person) The hotel restaurants will not have ala carte menus available during the winter months.

Our travel dates list the day that travelers need to leave the US. Your arrival day in Iceland is a transfer day and unscheduled - we provide some ideas for exploring Reykjavik. The guided coach tour starts the day after your arrival at 9 AM.

The Northern Lights Exploration series are designed to spend 6 evenings in the countryside to maximize the chances of seeing the elusive Northern Lights. The Northern Lights are in the northern hemisphere from September through April but are only visible when the sky is clear and free of clouds, so sightings are not guaranteed. Like many natural wonders, the Northern Lights are ephemeral – they may be visible, they may appear for a bit and then be gone. But it is worth the patience which is much required. They are a fall and winter event, and you may spend considerable time outside while looking for them. It is best to dress very warmly, in layers, with good footwear, gloves, hats and whatever else makes you comfortable while you await patiently this truly outstanding event. For the best photos we recommend using a tripod.



Finest Print: Please note that the price is subject to revision until you book your tour by making a deposit. Air prices are very vulnerable to timing - we can sometimes get great deals, or seats may require a surcharge if it's a late booking. The prices listed on print material may not be the latest price. We will make every effort to keep prices on our webpages and their PDFs up to the minute. We welcome phone inquiries about prices and any other details.

Dates & Prices

for 16 person tour

Price per Person

\$4782 Single

\$4226 Double

\$4226 Triple

2018 Departures

depart return

Jan 8 - Jan 16

Jan 15 - Jan 23

Jan 29 - Feb 6

Feb 5 - Feb 13

Feb 12 - Feb 20

Feb 19 - Feb 26

Feb 26 - Mar 6

Mar 5 - Mar 13

Mar 12 - Mar 20

Mar 19 - Mar 27

Mar 26 - April 3

These Dates and Prices are for the 16 passenger small group tours. Other departures with 45 passengers are available with departure from US on Saturday and Thursday with lower prices. Call or Email for details.

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