

HIDDEN POWERS AND NORTHERN LIGHTS HUNT

WINTER ESCORTED TOUR

6DAYS/5NIGHTS



GUARANTEED DEPARTURE WITH 2 PARTICIPANTS – MAX 36 PEOPLE

Go solo and make friends as you please! Nov 12th 2020, Jan 21st Feb 11th March 9th 2021
departures offer a special discount for people traveling on their own.

This extraordinary journey allows you to witness first-hand Iceland's amazing natural forces and experience the powers of Iceland's world-famous southern coast. We'll show you beloved places such as Geysir, Gullfoss waterfall, the Glacial Lagoon/Diamond Beach, Eyjafjallajökull Volcano and the Blue Lagoon. Several overnights are in excellent locations for northern lights hunting.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Let us provide you with a great introduction to Iceland and its unique wonders
- We'll take you to view first-hand many of the classic natural wonders, including the **Golden Circle** area, the **Glacier Lagoon** and **Reynisfjara Beach**
- Enjoy a glimpse into Icelandic life with activities like meeting Search and Rescue team members and a visit to a geothermal bakery
- Discover and learn about Iceland from our hand-picked local guides, who are passionate and knowledgeable about Iceland

Map



ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN ICELAND

Arrival at the Keflavik airport. Shuttle transfer to your hotel.

If you are arriving earlier in the day, you might consider adding a day tour. We'd be happy to make suggestions based on your interests. One of our favorite activities after a long flight is to visit one of the neighborhood geothermal pools. It is so refreshing to relax in the warm water, breathing in the fresh Icelandic air. It's a great way to get to see Icelandic daily life and maybe meet a few locals. It's also nice to take a stroll in the old city center, perhaps visiting one of the museums or relaxing with a cup of coffee in a cozy café.

Dinner this evening is at your leisure. Reykjavik offers a multitude of restaurants and/or coffee-houses, making dinner a great way to get better acquainted with Iceland's capital.

Accommodation in Reykjavik for 1 night

DAY 2: THINGVELLIR – GEYSIR – GULLFOSS

Northern Lights Centre – National Park with Geological Wonders (UNESCO) – Lively Geysers – The Famous Golden Falls

Start the adventure by visiting the fascinating **Aurora Reykjavik** Northern Lights Centre. You'll get a great introduction to northern lights, how they are formed and the folklore surrounding them. You'll also get tips about how to capture northern lights on film. It's also possible to get assistance from the staff in adjusting your camera's settings for northern lights photos.

Then head onwards to **Thingvellir National Park** (UNESCO World Heritage site) where the world's oldest parliament met for centuries on the shores of Iceland's largest lake. This is a place that makes us Icelanders very proud of our heritage, and your guide will show you some of the amazing sites here. You might even have the rare chance to walk between two continents!

Continue on to the geothermal fields of **Geysir** with bubbling mud pools and the high-spouting Strokkur hot spring. Last but not least, visit the dramatic two-tiered **Gullfoss** waterfall, a spectacular sight in winter when frozen mid-cascade. Stop at Skalholt, Iceland's capital "city" during the Middle Ages and now a culture center with a beautiful church.

During the day you will also visit the town of Laugarvatn. The town is built around three hot springs, and the residents have cleverly harnessed the hot springs for heating, greenhouses and even cooking. You'll visit a unique outdoor geothermal bakery where sweet Icelandic rye bread is baked in the hot sands. You'll have the chance to taste some of the freshly baked bread, hot from the ground. It's especially delicious slathered in sweet Icelandic butter. (B,D)

If weather conditions are right, your guide will take you on a northern lights hunt on foot in the area outside your hotel tonight, or on the evening of Day 3 or 4.

Accommodation in South coast area for 1 night

DAY 3: ICELAND'S SOUTH SHORE

Waterfalls – Lava Centre – Glacial Views – Black Sand Beaches

Breakfast at your hotel. Drive along the **South Shore**, an area of Iceland that is especially beautiful to view in the winter. This is one of the main farm regions of the country, and the road will pass by typical Icelandic farms, often with Icelandic horses roaming in the fields. This part of Iceland is home to the wonderful **LAVA Centre**, an interactive, high-tech educational exhibition depicting volcanic activity, earthquakes and the creation of Iceland over millions of years. Enjoy both the exhibit and viewing an interesting film about Icelandic volcanoes at the Centre's cinema. Continue onwards. If the skies are clear you might see the area's two most famous volcanoes in the distance: **Mount Hekla** (last eruption 2000) and **Eyjafjallajökull** (last eruption 2010). You might also possibly catch a glimpse of Westman Islands archipelago off the coast of Iceland.

Stop at the spectacular waterfalls **Seljalandsfoss** and **Skogafoss**. If trail conditions are right, you might be able to walk behind the ribbon-like Seljalandsfoss falls. Skogafoss is a beautifully shaped waterfall that makes a perfect backdrop for a selfie. It has an interesting history geologically, and it just may also be hiding some buried treasure from the Middle Ages.

***Winter 2020 - 2021 departures** - We'd like you to meet some of our best countrymen with a visit to an **Icelandic Search and Rescue (ICE-SAR)** base. We Icelanders are very proud of our rescue teams. Thousands of Icelandic volunteers dedicate themselves to work for ICE-SAR rescue teams and assisting in accident prevention programs. Their joint mission is to prevent accidents and save human lives. ICE-SAR serves in both Icelandic and international rescue efforts. You'll meet some members of the team and get an introduction to the unique ICE-SAR program.*

All departures - Head onwards, passing **Myrdalsjökull Glacier**, to visit **Reynisfjara** beach. Take a walk on the black sands, admiring the extraordinary rock formations and thundering waves of the Atlantic Ocean. Cross **Eldhraun**, a vast lava field created from a very destructive 18th-century eruption as you head into Southeast Iceland. The snows of winter make this landscape into something very mysterious. (B,D)

Accommodation in Kirkjubæjarklaustur area for 2 nights

DAY 4: VATNAJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK – JÖKULSARLON GLACIAL LAGOON

Western Europe's Largest National Park – Glacial Lagoon with Icebergs – Europe's Largest Glacier

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you will be in a world of glaciers! You'll be visiting the southern area of **Vatnajökull National Park**, named after Europe's largest glacier. The total park area covers almost 14% of Iceland, making it the largest national park in Western Europe! Drive through vast sand plains created by glacial outwashes as you head east. Visit **Jökulsarlon Glacier Lagoon** where you can enjoy the breath-taking sight of icebergs floating in the fantastic 180m (591 ft.) deep glacial lagoon (make sure that camera is loaded and ready!) Nearby is the dramatic beauty of the **Diamond Beach**, where shrinking icebergs settle on the black sands before they drift out to sea.

Then view **Svinafellsjokull**, one of the most beautiful glacial “tongues” that are slowly creeping down from Vatnajokull. Visit the national park’s famous **Skafatafell** area, a site of outstanding natural beauty dominated by several magnificent glaciers. After an amazing day, return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

DAY 5: HVERAGERDI – BLUE LAGOON – REYKJAVIK

Greenhouse Village – Thundering Waves – Geothermal Lagoon

Breakfast at your hotel. Head back along the beautiful South Coast, enjoying a different view of the winter landscapes. Visit the village of Hveragerdi, which is one of the few sites in the world located directly in the middle of a geothermal area. Hveragerdi is often called "The Flower Village" because of its many flower greenhouses heated by hot water from nearby springs.

Turn onto a southern coastal road and follow alongside the shoreline with its breath-taking sea waves, passing through a deserted community that once was a flourishing center for the region.

The trip then takes you through the surreal landscapes of the **Reykjanes peninsula**, where you can enjoy a dip in the famous **Blue Lagoon**, a unique wonder of nature with pleasantly warm, mineral-rich water in the middle of a black lava field. Return to Reykjavik, where the evening open for you to enjoy your own activities (B)

Accommodation in Reykjavik for 1 night

DAY 6: FAREWELL TO THE LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

Breakfast at your hotel. *Please note that this might be a light breakfast if you are taking an early morning departure flight.* Shuttle transfer to the international airport for your departure flight. (B)

ACCOMMODATION OR SIMILAR

Accommodation or similar	Quality category	Comfort category
Reykjavik	Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura	Fosshotel Raudaura
South coast area	Hotel Stracta	Hotel Selfoss
Kirkjubaejarklaustur area	Hotel Klaustur	Fosshotel Nupur / Hotel Kria
Reykjavik	Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura	Fosshotel Raudaura

Hotel category

Comfort category hotels are equivalent to 2-3 stars hotel with private facilities

Quality category hotels are similar to 4* or best available accommodation in the countryside (3*+)

PRICE PER PERSON IN CAD FOR 2020-2021 SEASON

Comfort category Departures	Double	Single	Triple*
Nov 5 Dec 17.2020	1729	2195	1719
Feb 11** Mar 25.2021	1819	2335	1789

Quality category Departures	Double	Single	Triple*
Oct 8, 15, 22, 27, 29.2020	2005	2635	upon request
Nov 12**, 17, 19, 26 Dec 10.2020 Jan 14, 21**, 26 Feb 16, 23, 25 Mar 4, 9**, 16, 18, 23 Apr 1, 6.2021	1905	2489	upon request

****Solo travel option on the following dates, 15% discount on sgl room price**

INCLUSIONS

- Guided Coach Tour from day 2 to day 5
- Return shuttle transfer from /to airport
- Expert professional English-speaking local guide from day 2 to day 5
- Free Wi-Fi on board motor coach
- Accommodation 2 nights in a standard room with facilities in Reykjavik
- Accommodation 3 nights in a standard room with facilities in the countryside
- Icelandic breakfast (except arrival day)
- 3 Two-course local-cuisine dinners in the countryside (main course and dessert) with coffee/tea (Day 2, 3, 4)
- Entrance fee to the Aurora Reykjavik Northern Lights Centre (day 2)
- Visit to outdoor geothermal bakery and taste of steam-baked rye bread (day 2)
- Entrance fee to the LAVA Centre and volcano film at the LAVA Centre Cinema (day 3)
- Visit and introduction to an Icelandic Search Rescue Team Base on one of the days during your trip
- Blue Lagoon admission, including towel rental, silica mud mask and one drink (day 5)
- Use of crampons/cleats (if needed) for walking on snow/ice covered surfaces
- Great photo stops
- Seat rotation during the tour
- Northern Lights guided hunt on foot one selected evening
- Northern Lights hunting kit (use of blanket and headlight)
- Customer care service during office hours
- 24-hour Iceland Travel emergency line assistance while you are in Iceland

NOT INCLUDED: Breakfast on arrival day, International airfare, baggage portorage at airport/hotel, personal travel insurance (highly recommended), swimsuit at the Blue Lagoon (rentals available), beverages, snacks, lunches, dinners unless otherwise noted in itinerary, guaranteed early check-in (check-in time for most hotels in Iceland starts between 14:00 and 16:00 (2:00pm and 4:00pm), guaranteed late check-out, any service not specifically listed under "included".



****Prices in this document are for information only; they were issued at press time, for the current year. Please note that due to exchange rates and temporary promotions, they can increase or decrease at any time. Contact your travel agent for the price and promotion of the moment.**