

Ultimate Iceland Road Trip

ITINERARY GUIDE

Visit the Land of Fire and Ice with this 10 day/9-night Ultimate Iceland Road trip available May through September

Not sure where to start with planning your vacation? Rather than following a strict schedule with a group of strangers on a crowded bus (Fully-Escorted), our Self-Drive tours will provide you with a perfect, experienced itinerary around Iceland giving you freedom to move at your own pace.

Tour Inclusions:

- 9 nights 3* hotel/guesthouse ensuite with breakfast daily
- Included tours and attractions:
 - Blue Lagoon Entrance (at beginning or end of tour)
 - Aurora Reykjavik, Northern Lights Center
 - Your choice of: Whale Watching and fjord cruise from Akureyri, Whale watching in Husavik, OR Horseback riding in Akureyri
 - Your choice of: Entrance to Fontana geothermal steam baths OR Nature baths at Lake Myvatn
- Car rental with pick-up and drop-off at Reykjavik airport.
- Detailed 60-80 page driving itinerary
- All accommodation taxes/fees
- 50% off Mi-Fi personal Wi-Fi hotspot rental rebate
- Traveler Hotline available 24/7

Iceland

- ★ CAPITAL CITY ① OVERNIGHT STAY
- BEGIN TOUR
- END TOUR



All items listed in **BLUE** are optional, so you may choose how to spend your time.
All items listed in **RED** are included in your package.
Please note: some red attractions/tours are listed as a choice between two.

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Day 1: *Arrival and 1 night at Grand Hotel Reykjavik or similar*

Explore the city at your leisure! Visit the **Aurora Reykjavik Northern Lights Center**, enjoy a hot dog at the infamous Bæjarins Beztu Pylsur, or see the cathedral, Hallgrímskirkja.

*Optional activity: **Blue Lagoon**, depending on time of arrival.*

Day 2: *Explore the Snæfellsnes peninsula. 1 night at Hotel Framnes or similar in Grundarfjörður.*

The Snæfellsnes Peninsula (the peninsula of the snowy mountain) juts out from Iceland's west coast, like a long arm with a clenched fist at its tip, in many ways a microcosm of the whole island. Craters, lava flows, an ice cap, glaciated peaks, fjords, sandy beaches and high cliffs are its landscapes.

A rugged mountain chain runs its length, capped by the 1,446m Snæfellsjökull, a mystical cone-shaped strato volcano secretly known for being the entrance to the centre of the earth can be found according to Jules Verne. The south side of the peninsula is farming country yet has conserved much of its extensive marshlands, which are an important habitat for birds. Fringed by golden sand beaches, the wild and windswept coast is pounded by surf as it faces the full onslaught of an unforgiving Atlantic. The north side of Snæfellsnes is more sheltered and has fjords which make a good anchorage for fishing vessels.

*Optional activity: **Bird watching and fjord cruise** (only available May 25th - Sept 15th from 3:30pm to 4:50pm)*

Day 3: *Sites of West Iceland and Skagafjörður, valley of the horses and sagas. 1 night at Hotel Nordurland or similar in Akureyri.*

Stykkishólmur is a charming fishing town offering amazing view over Breiðafjörður fjord with thousands of small islands. Continue along the north shore of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula to Haukadalur, a rather authentic replica of the homestead of Eirik the Red, the famous explorer, who founded the Icelandic colony in Greenland. His son Leif-the-Lucky, born in Haukadalur, Iceland, went on to become the first European to set foot in North America. Now the excavated and reconstructed farm in Haukadalur is a living Viking museum which is a fun, informative and rather photogenic place. The landscape is dominated by mountains, valleys, the sea and wide open spaces. Continue to Skagafjörður, valley of the horses and sagas. Here you find the Glaumbær turf farm & folk museum and the Viðimýri church, one of the most beautiful examples of traditional turf church architecture.

Optional activities:

Seal watching in Northwest Iceland (1pm to 2:45pm)

Horseback riding in Akureyri (1.5 hr ride available at 10am, 2pm or 5pm)

Day 4: *Akureyri-Godafoss waterfall-Lake Myvatn. 1 night at Hotel Laxa or similar in Lake Myvatn.*

As the capital of the North, Akureyri has a quaint old town modern church and botanical garden to visit. Continue to Goðafoss, named the waterfall of the Gods. Lake Mývatn offers a wide spectrum of volcanic and geological features, abundant bird life and a wealth of walking trails.

Optional activity:

Nature Baths at Lake Myvatn ("blue lagoon of the North") (June-August open 09:00-24:00 / Sept-May open 12:00-24:00)

Guided Bike and Bath Tour at Lake Myvatn incl. entrance to Nature Baths (6pm to 9pm)

Whale watching and fjord cruise from Akureyri (3 hours available at 9am, 1:30pm, 5:30pm or 8:30pm)

Day 5: *Highland desert, detour to Dettifoss waterfall and the East Fjords. 1 night at Fosshotel Eastfjords or similar in Faskrudsfjordur.*

Travel east over Jökuldalsheiði moorland plateau, lava and sand desert. A great detour along the way is a trip to Europe's most powerful waterfall, Dettifoss, subject to season. Egilsstaðir is the center of East Iceland, located at Lögurinn Lake and not far from Hallormsstaður woods and Hengifoss, Iceland's 2nd highest waterfall. Continue to the small village of Fáskrúðsfjörður in the East Fjords for the evening.

*Optional activity: **Whale watching in Husavik** (3 Hours available at 9 or 10 am)*

Day 6: *Explore a glacial lagoon with floating icebergs and the Vatnajökull National Park. 1 night at Laki Cottages or similar in Kirkjubæjarklaustur.*

Travel the scenic route along the dramatic fjord landscape and fishing villages of East Iceland before reaching Vatnajökull, which is Europe's largest glacier and National Park. For a fun adventure, go for a boat tour between icebergs on Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon and a short hike in Skaftafell National Park.

*Optional activity: **Boat trip on glacial lagoon** (Based on availability)*

Day 7: *South Iceland with glaciers, lava beaches, bird cliffs and waterfalls. 2 nights at Hotel Ork or similar in Hveragerdi.*

A beautiful drive with many natural wonders awaits you today as you head across the Laki lava field, pass the waterfalls Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss. The bird cliffs of Dyrhólaey and Reynisfjara are simply amazing. We recommend also a stroll on the black lava beaches of Vík and a visit to the folk museum and turf houses at Skógar.

Optional activities:

***Glacier hike on Solheimajökull** (Ideal for beginners, 12pm to 3:30pm)*

***Snow mobile tour on Myrdalsjökull glacier** (2 hr tour, 12:30pm or 3pm)*

Day 8: *South Iceland activity day or nature sightseeing by rental car.*

The village of Hveragerði is heaven for outdoor activities and surrounded by volcanic mountains and beautiful green valleys with geothermal springs and even some natural hot rivers to take a bath in the wilderness. We recommend a South Iceland activity challenge day or simply explore the nearby seashore villages.

If you are up for more sightseeing by rental car, the Thjórsárdalur valley is well-known for its numerous excavations of old viking farms, which were buried by the ash of an eruption of Hekla volcano in the year 1104. The farm at Stöng is especially worth seeing. In this area are two beautiful waterfalls, Hjalparfoss that is easy to reach and Háifoss waterfall that is a bit off the beaten track. A short walk leads to the ravine Gjáin that offers a surrounding with waterfalls, lava formations and wonderful vegetation. This is an enchanting spot and not to be missed. This round trip is about 170 km / 105 miles.

Optional activities:

Horseback riding in Hveragerdi (1 hour ride at 2pm or 3:30pm)

Guided mountain biking & splash tour (June-Aug only from 10am to 4pm)

Day 9: *Golden Circle with Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir hot spring and Thingvellir National Park. 1 night at Grand Hotel Reykjavik or similar.*

Explore the infamous Golden Circle which includes Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir hot springs and Thingvellir National Park before returning to Reykjavik for your final evening in Iceland.

Optional activities:

Horseback riding in Hveragerdi (1 hour ride at 2pm or 3:30pm)

River rafting (10am to 1pm)

Entrance to Fontana geothermal steam baths (Open 11am to 9pm daily)

Day 10: *Departure*

Head home after an amazing experience traveling through Iceland!

Optional activity: Blue Lagoon, depending on time of arrival.