



TERRA NOVA

8 days | 7 nights

# Highlights of Iceland

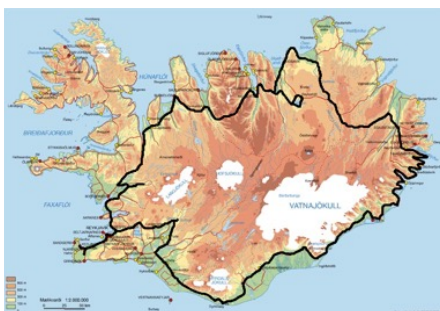


**Day 1:** Keflavik Airport – Reykjavik | **Day 2:** Reykjavik – Borgarfjörður – Skagafjörður – Akureyri | **Day 3:** Akureyri – Goðafoss – Myvatn – Akureyri | **Day 4:** Húsavík – Ásbyrgi – Dettifoss – Egilsstaðir | **Day 5:** Egilsstaðir – East Fjords – Höfn | **Day 6:** Jökulsárlón – Skaftafell – Vík | **Day 7:** South Coast – Golden Circle – Reykjavik | **Day 8:** Reykjavik – Keflavik Airport

## DAY 1: ARRIVAL

Arrival at Keflavik International Airport and transfer to hotel in Reykjavik.

Driving distance approx. 50 km  
Overnight in Reykjavik



## DAY 2: REYKJAVÍK – BORGARFJÖRÐUR - AKUREYRI

After breakfast we start our roundtrip of Iceland by heading towards Borgarfjörður. We visit Reykholt and the splendid waterfalls of Hraunfossar and Barnafoss. Then we stop at Deildartunguher; Iceland’s largest hot spring (in terms of water production per second). From Borgarnes we drive to the North of Iceland through the Skagafjörður region, an area known for horse breeding and many Icelandic horses can be seen grazing in the fields of the Skagafjörður valley. As we approach the village of Varmahlíð we make a short detour and visit the Glaumbær

museum, which is one of the best preserved turf farmhouses in Iceland, located just north of Varmahlíð (not included in price).

Then we continue until we reach Akureyri, the major town in North Iceland with its impressive church and botanical garden.

Driving Distance: Approximately 480 km  
Overnight in Akureyri area

### Optional: Glaumbær Museum

In Skagafjörður, stop at Glaumbær Museum, a charming traditional turf farm and its roof covered with a beautiful soft grass! This visit will allow us to better understand the rough life of the Icelandic countryside just a century ago. Included with supplement: Entrance fee.

### Optional: Whale watching from Akureyri

Located inside the beautiful Eyjafjörður Fjord, Akureyri is an ideal starting point for a whale watching cruise. We take advantage of our stopover in the “capital of the North” to go on a search for minke whales, humpback whales and other species such as white-beaked dolphins. Duration: Approx. 3hrs / Included with supplement: Whale watching cruise.

## DAY 3: AKUREYRI - MYVATN – AKUREYRI (approx. 250 km)

Heading for a day excursion to Myvatn, we stop en route at the Godafoss waterfall, the waterfall of the pagan gods. Then to the Myvatn area where we spend the day



exploring the wonders around the lake, which is one of Iceland’s most interesting regions with fantastic volcanic formations, geothermal activity and the lake itself, teeming with bird life, particularly ducks.

We take a walk at the Dimmuborgir lava formations and also a look at the Skutustadur pseudocraters. We visit the amazing boiling mud pools and steam vents of Námaskard, and then the Krafla area, where a series of volcanic eruptions took place from 1975-1984. Drive back to hotel for a second overnight stay.

### Optional: Mývatn Nature Baths

Stop at Mývatn geothermal baths. Delicious experience in warm, milky waters, in a basin overlooking Lake Mývatn and its region. Included with supplement: Entrance fee and towel rental.

Driving Distance: Approximately 250 km  
Second overnight in Akureyri area



#### **DAY 4: AKUREYRI – HÚSAVIK – ÁSBYRGI – DETTIFOSS – EGILSSTAÐIR**

In the morning we drive to the charming fishing village of Husavik and from there we continue round the attractive stretch of coastline of Tjörnes peninsula until we arrive at Ásbyrgi, a horse-shoe-shaped gorge, reputed to be the hoof print of Odin's eight-legged horse Sleipnir.

Then we make our way to the mighty Dettifoss, Iceland's and Europe's most powerful waterfall, which thunders 44 meters into a deep gorge. You will literally feel the earth tremble beneath your feet so be careful around the edges as they may be slippery. In the afternoon we continue our trip through the desert highlands of Mödrudalur to the village of Egilsstaðir, on the banks of Lake Lögurinn, in the centre of Eastern Iceland. If you are lucky you might catch a glimpse of the Lagarfljótsormurinn, a large creature that lives in Lake Lögurinn...

Driving Distance: Approximately 360 km  
Overnight in Egilsstaðir area

#### **DAY 5: EAST FJORDS - HÖFN**

Today's journey takes us south through the sheltered East Fjords and their small fishing villages.

We pass the villages of Reydarfjörður and Fáskrúðsfjörður before we arrive in Stöðvarfjörður where a local lady has collected an impressive number of minerals and stones, presented in Petra's Stone Collection (entrance not included).



Next we drive through Breiddalsvík and make a stop in Djúpivogur, before we finally head to Iceland's Southeast Region to the village of Höfn, also known as the lobster capital of Iceland.

Driving Distance: Approximately 270 km  
Overnight in Höfn area

#### **Optional: Petra's Stone & Mineral Collection**

Stop in the village of Stöðvarfjörður to visit the stone and mineral collection of Petra, a lady from the region whose name predestined her to devote her life to the collection of beautiful stones and minerals that abounds in the East Fjords. Included with supplement: Entrance fee.

#### **DAY 6: HÖFN – JÖKULSARLON – SKAFTAFELL – VÍK**

This is a day with views of some of the country's most spectacular landscapes. We start with a drive along the southern side of Vatnajökull, Europe's largest ice-cap, to the glacial lagoon Jökulsárlón, where we can observe numerous icebergs that fill the lagoon drift away to the sea.

Next we explore Skaftafell National Park, a breathtaking area right under Vatnajökull Glacier and known for its unique natural features. Many wild flower species thrive in the shelter of the birch forest found on the lower slopes of the mountains. Here you can choose between many different hiking trails through the park and visit beautiful waterfalls like Svartifoss (approx. 1 ½ hour hike – 4 km round trip).

From Skaftafell we continue over the Skeidarársandur black sand plains to Kirkjubæjarklaustur village and then on towards the village of Vík. When we reach Vík we can go for a stroll on the beach. The black sand beaches of the south coast are famous and you can take a walk on them in the little village of Vík or in Reynishverfi. You need to be careful though because the strong waves have been known to swift careless observers out to sea.

Driving Distance: Approximately 280 km  
Overnight in Vík area

#### **Optional: Jökulsárlón boat cruise**

Go on board an amphibian boat for a cruise of 30-40 minutes among the icebergs of Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon. Duration: 30 to 40 min / Included with supplement: Amphibian boat tour with local English-speaking guide.



#### **DAY 7: SKÓGAR – GULLFOSS – GEYSIR - REYKJAVIK**

Today we start with a visit to the picturesque waterfall Skógarfoss. Next we stop at the waterfall Seljalandsfoss waterfall, that you can actually walk behind.

After that we proceed to three of the country's most famous sites along the „Golden Circle.“

The first of these is Geysir, where the hot spring Strokkur ejects its water column high into the air every 5-10 minutes and where numerous small springs boil and bubble. Then we continue to Gullfoss, surely the country's most famous waterfall, before we drive to Thingvellir National Park. This is a historical site where the Icelandic parliament was founded in the 10th century. Thingvellir is also one of the geological wonders of the world and there you will see astonishing fissures and lava fields. After visiting this remarkable site, we continue to Reykjavik.

Driving Distance: Approximately 290 km  
Overnight in Reykjavik

#### **Optional: Lava Center**

Stop at the Lava Center in Hvolsvöllur, an interactive museum on volcanic activity in Iceland, earthquakes and the creation of the island over the last 15 million years. Included with supplement: Entrance fee

#### **DAY 8: DEPARTURE**

Transfer to Keflavik International Airport for your return flight.

Driving Distance: Approximately 50 km