



TERRANOVA

8 days / 7 nights

Essential Iceland



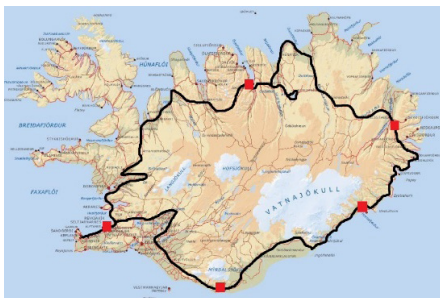
Number of participants: Guarantee from min 2 pax – max pax pr departure 44 pax

Escorted tour with English guidance – Summer 2024 (Tuesday to Tuesday)

June 4-11 | July 2-9 | August 6-13 | August 27-September 3

Day 1: Keflavík International airport – Reykjavík

Arrival at Keflavík International Airport. Transfer by Flybus shuttle without assistance from Keflavík Airport to your hotel in Reykjavík, the northernmost capital in the world. Along the way, you'll pass through lunar landscapes heavily marked by volcanic activity.



Important: There is no Meet & Greet at the airport and your guide will NOT be present on that day. Transfer to Reykjavík and check-in at the hotel is without assistance. Day and evening spent at leisure in Reykjavík. Meals on your own (not included)

Driving distance approx. 50 km
Overnight at hotel in Reykjavík

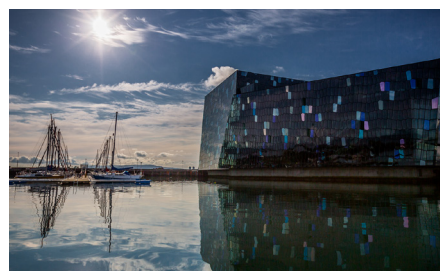
Day 2: Reykjavík – Borgarfjörður – Skagafjörður – Eyjafjörður

Pick-up by your guide at the hotel in the morning around 9 a.m.
Departure towards the Borgarfjörður region. The road passes through a tunnel under

the mouth of the Hvalfjörður fjord and then turns towards the beautiful Hvítá valley, the “white river.” Geothermal activity is intense in some places, as can be seen at the Deildartunguhver site, where a series of micro-geysers spout 180 liters of boiling water per second! Further on, the Hraunfossar waterfalls present an idyllic scene where the clear waters of multiple small cascades merge into the milky flows of the Hvítá river. Slightly upstream, around the Barnafoss waterfall, the riverbed narrows, and we feel the vibrations of its tumultuous rapids.

We then head north through the Höltavörðuheiði moorlands. The road winds between the waters of the Arctic Ocean and landscapes shaped during the last ice age. Marshy moorlands, rounded mountains, and farmland succeed each other until we reach the Skagafjörður fjord region. Here, we make a stop at the Glaumbær folk museum, a charming traditional turf farm with roofs covered in lush grass! The visit will help you become more acquainted with the harsh life of past Icelandic countryside (included).

At the end of the day, we cross the Öxnadalsheiði pass, an immense trench carved by



glaciers of the last ice age in the Tröllaskagi mountains, the “Trolls Peninsula.” The road opens up to the majestic Eyjafjörður fjord, where we will stay for the next couple of nights. Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included).

Driving distance approx. 460 km
Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Eyjafjörður and Akureyri area.

Day 3: Akureyri – Goðafoss – Mývatn – Eyjafjörður

We leave the area of Akureyri and the shores of Eyjafjörður for those of Lake Mývatn. On the way, we stop at the Goðafoss waterfall, a beautiful site where the Skjálfandi River has created a stunning arrangement of cascades. Once we reach the Mývatn region, we will make multiple stops at sites that are both surprising and magnificent. The area encompasses a wide variety of volcanic landscapes and natural sites, as well as a rich birdlife.

We'll take a walk amidst the pseudo-craters of Skútustaðir, then navigate through the labyrinthine lava formations of Dimmuborgir, the “dark citadel.” Next, we'll visit the

geothermal area of Námaskarð, where numerous solfataras, fumaroles, and bubbling mud pots emit strong sulfuric odours. Finally, we'll explore the volcanic zone of the Krafla volcano, where we'll discover the explosive crater of Víti and the extraordinary geothermal area of Leirhnjúkur. It was here that between 1975 and 1984, a series of volcanic eruptions left behind a series of small craters and a vast expanse of black lava.

At the end of the day, before returning to the Akureyri region for the night, we'll visit the Mývatn geothermal baths (included) for a delightful experience in warm, milky waters, in a pool overlooking Lake Mývatn and its surroundings.

Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included).

Driving distance approx. 250 km
Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Eyjafjörður and Akureyri area.



Day 4: Húsavík – Ásbyrgi – Dettifoss – Egilsstaðir

Departure towards the Skjálfandi Bay and the charming fishing harbour of Húsavík, where you'll have the opportunity to embark on a whale-watching cruise to spot humpback whales, blue whales, and other white-beaked dolphins that inhabit the bay (optional with supplement). Alternatively, for those not enticed by a whale-watching cruise, there's the option to visit the GeoSea geothermal baths (optional with supplement).

We then circumnavigate the Tjörnes Peninsula along a road that overlooks the waters of the Arctic Ocean before descending towards the Öxarfjörður Bay. There, we go for a stroll in Ásbyrgi, an impressive horseshoe-shaped gorge and former bed of the great glacial river Jökulsá á Fjöllum. It's the same turbulent river that we will later discover in its present course, specifically at Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall, which marks the beginning of the stunning Jökulsárgljúfur canyons.

Next, we cross the desert regions of Möðrudalsræfi to reach to the more fertile region of Hérað and Lake Lagarfljót. It is said that an aquatic monster lives in the waters of this lake... Perhaps a distant cousin of the Loch Ness Monster?

Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included)

Driving distance approx. 350 km
Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Egilsstaðir area

Day 5: East Fjords – Höfn

Discovery of the stunning East Fjords region. Chains of mountains with steep slopes and sharp peaks separate sparkling fjords that harbor numerous small fishing communities.

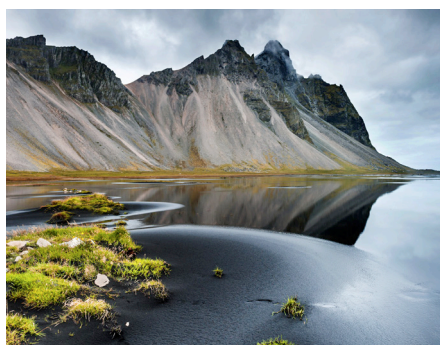
The road winds between the sea and the mountains towards the south and the small port of Djúpvogur. Between the Hvalnes and Stokknes capes, we pass through the beautiful Lónsvík bay. Occasionally, along our journey and depending on the season, we might catch a glimpse of a herd of reindeer or observe the graceful flight of swans. As we approach our destination in the Höfn region, we enter the realm of Vatnajökull. With an area comparable to that of the islands of Corsica or Puerto Rico, not only is it Iceland's largest glacier but also the largest in Europe!

Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included).

Driving distance approx. 260 km
Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Höfn area

Day 6: Jökulsárlón – Skaftafell – Vík

Exploration of Vatnajökull Glacier area, observing numerous glacial tongues along our route. At Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, the glacier breaks into stunning icebergs that drift peacefully towards the ocean ("Diamond Beach"). The lagoon is situated within a magnificent amphitheatre of glaciers, dominated by the majestic peak of Hvannadalshnúkur, Iceland's highest point (2110m). There, you can embark on an amphibious boat for 30 to 40 minutes, allowing you to cruise through the lagoon amidst the icebergs (optional with supplement).



Further to the west, before crossing the Skeiðarársandur sand plains and reaching the towering cliffs of Lómagnúpur, Iceland's highest at 670m, we discover Skaftafell National Park. Under the gaze of Hvannadalshnúkur, this area is a true oasis bordered by the glacial tongues of Vatnajökull on one side and vast volcanic sand plains on the other.

Later on, we cross the beautiful region of Kirkjubæjarklaustur. Here, we come across the vast Eldhraun lava field, a result of the major Laki eruption that occurred in 1783 and was arguably one of the greatest disasters in Iceland's history.

As we approach the Mýrdalsjökull glacier and the village of Vík, the southernmost in Iceland, we traverse new expanses of black sands.

Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included).

Driving distance approx. 280 km
Dinner (included) and overnight at hotel in Vík or Kirkjubæjarklaustur area

Day 7: South Coast – Gullfoss – Geysir – Thingvellir – Reykjavik

Exploration of the Vík region and its enchanting landscapes, featuring majestic peaks crowned by enormous glaciers, endless shores covered in volcanic black sand, bird-clad cliffs rising like basaltic organs, and lush farmland.

We stop at the shores of Reynisfjara, where ocean waves crash against stunning basalt column cliffs. At Skógar, we discover the powerful Skógarfoss waterfall. Under the watchful eyes of fulmar petrels nesting nearby, we'll feel the powerful mist of the waterfall. We also make a visit to Seljalandsfoss waterfall, as beautiful as it is unique, as it is possible to walk behind it.

Before returning to Reykjavík, we make a final detour to explore the sites of the Golden Circle, some of the most famous in Iceland. We visit Gullfoss waterfall, where the Hvítá River plunges into a beautiful canyon in two stages. Nearby, we wander through the Geysir geothermal area, where the geyser Strokkur shoots water and steam up to nearly 20 meters in the air every 5 to 8 minutes. Finally, we take a walk in Þingvellir National Park, amidst a vast rift plain marked by fissures resulting from the separation of tectonic plates. It's here, specifically at the widest and most beautiful of these fissures, Almannagjá, that Viking chieftains gathered starting in the early 10th century to establish the laws of the land.

Important: Your guide will drop you off at the hotel upon arrival in Reykjavík but will not be present in the evening or the following day. Evening in Reykjavík spent at leisure.

Stop en route for lunch (lunch not included).
Dinner on your own (not included)

Driving distance approx. 300 km
Overnight at hotel in Reykjavík

Day 8: Reykjavik – Keflavik International Airport

Transfer without assistance with Flybus shuttle from your hotel to Keflavik International Airport for your return flight.

Important: Your guide will not be present on this day. Transfer to the airport is without assistance.

Driving distance approx. 50 km