# ICELAND & NORTHERN LIGHTS



www.mytravelxp.com hello@mytravelxp.com 1300 168 910





# Iceland Northern Lights & Golden Circle Tour

**Duration:** 7 days

Stay: 6 nights hotels

Travel style: Independent & escorted tour

Booking code: ICENLL7M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

# 7 Days Iceland Golden Circle, South & West Coast

# About the holiday

Discover the true magic of Iceland by visiting the three main national parks of the country, go on ice and lava caving and search for Northern Lights!

On the first day your journey heads for the famous Golden circle. You will visit the classic destinations like Thingvellir, the site of the old Icelandic parliament and a UNESCO World Heritage site, the legendary Geysir and Gullfoss, also known as the Golden Waterfall. To add even more to your experience on this fun filled day, you will also visit the volcanic crater called Kerid.

For the next two days the journey continues along Iceland's south coast to discover its stunning glaciers, lava fields, volcanoes, strong rivers and waterfalls. You will also see an amazing black beach scattered with icebergs, next to Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon. The stunning Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon is where huge icebergs float in ice cold water and seals swim around them. The highlights for this part of your tour is a visit to the unique Blue Ice cave in Vatnajokull.

The last part is a fairy-tale adventure around the West Iceland and Snæfellsnes peninsula. Less than 3 hours from Reykjavik, this area combines all the wonders of Iceland in one place: the sea crashing upon the sandy shores, jagged lava fields, volcanic craters, waterfalls, imposing cliffs for hiking and photography, and small fishing villages for those who are curious about Icelandic culture. A visit to the Vidgelmir Lave cave (biggest one of its kind in Iceland) is included in the tour.

Join this 7-day adventure for an unforgettable experience. Included is accommodation, entrance to Blue Ice Cave and Vidgelmir Lave Cave with all safety gear provided and entrance to the Kerid Volcanic Crater.

#### Travel dates

Departs daily from October 2024 to November 2025

Note: Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date and please contact us for travel at other times of the year.

Want to stay longer or see more of Iceland & Scandinavia? Call our office on 1300 168 910 for current rates & travel deals.



# Tour package includes:

Accommodation - 6 nights in comfortable hotels, standard twin share rooms

2 nights Reykjavik - one night pre- & post-tour

4 nights on tour - all rooms with private bathrooms

**Guided tour** - Operates on days 2-6 as per the itinerary

Professional tour guided in English

Transportation in a minibus

Pick-up & drop-off within Reykjavik

4 breakfasts at hotels on tour

Ice caving expeditions, with all safety equipment provided

Lava caving expeditions, with all safety equipment provided

Entry fee to Kerid Volcanic Crater

Free WiFi on the bus & USB chargers next to every seat

#### Package excludes:

Flights to Reykjavik - contact for the latest airfare deals

Airport transfers

Daily lunch & dinner

Sightseeing not specified in the inclusions

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Gratuities for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by hotels, tour company & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

For more info, phone 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

# **Itinerary:**

#### DAY 1, Arrive in Iceland

Arrive in Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital, surrounded by incredible landscapes and countless natural wonders. Make your own way from the airport to your hotel for your pre-tour overnight stay.



#### DAY 2, Golden Circle & Kerid Volcanic Crater

On the first day of the tour you will visit Golden Circle - Geysers, Gullfoss Waterfall and Thingvellir National Park. We want to add something unique to your experience and that's why we will also visit the Volcanic Crater Kerid.

First on the agenda is a visit to Thingvellir National park. It lies within the belt of volcanic activity and fissures which pass across Iceland, a part of the mid-Atlantic ridge, the junction of the American and Eurasian tectonic plates. It is a nice feeling to stand with your right foot in Europe and the left one in America. This amazing place is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is shrouded in the history of Iceland and the Vikings of the past.

Next stop is the Geysir - the biggest geysers of Haukadalur are Strokkur and Geysir itself, which gives the others their name. Strokkur erups every 5 to 10 minutes, throwing a column of water into the air to a height of 20 to 30 meters. Here you can also buy some refreshments or lunch.

From Geysir we drive to Gullfoss. Known as the Golden Waterfall, this is one of the most amazing waterfalls in Iceland, powerful and beautiful as it rushes down from two tiers into an ancient valley.

Last on the agenda is a visit to the Volcanic Crater Kerid. The crater is 270 m wide and more than 55 m deep. There is a lake in the bottom of the crater which gives it a magical and colourful appearance. After enjoying this fantastic creation of nature, you stay overnight on the South Coast, where you can admire famous Northern Lights (if the weather conditions will allow to do so)

After exploring four incredible attractions located on the Golden Circle Route you will arrive in Hveragerði, a town renowned for its vibrant geothermal activity. Not only will you have the chance to witness a smaller version of Geyser, but you can also indulge in a relaxing dip in the warm, naturally heated waters.

**Be sure to pack your swimwear** and end your day in the famous Icelandic geothermal pools! There is no better way to enhance your evening! Hot Tubs are located at or by your hotel and entrance is included.



#### DAY 3, South Coast Waterfalls & Black Beach

After overnight stay on the countryside, you will drive along route 1 passing through small towns and enjoying the beauty of the Icelandic South Cast. Your first stop will be at the famous Seljalandsfoss waterfall, which is located beneath the Eyjafjallajokull volcano. Remember to ask your tour guide all about the colossal eruption back in 2010. Close by is the beautiful but less known waterfall Gljufrabui.

Next up is the stunning Skogafoss, a drop of 60 m (200ft) of natural raw power that must be seen to be believed. You will then have the additional pleasure of visiting the secret waterfall of Írafoss.

Then it is on to Reynisfjara, a black sand beach nestling under Mt. Reynisfjall - seasonal home to numerous puffins that dive from its cliffs out to sea. Black basalt has been shaped into amazing different formations, most notably the famous Reynisdrangar. Beware the might of the Atlantic Ocean which looms with its powerful waves.

At the end of the day, your accommodation awaits in a countryside. On the way there and during the night, we will look out for the best way to see Northern Lights if conditions are favourable.



#### DAY 4, Glacier Lagoon & Blue Ice Cave

Today, you set off in the morning for a totally unique experience. A visit to a natural stunning Blue Ice cave will be the highlight of the day.

You start by driving to the Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon. This famous lagoon is filled with huge chunks of ice that have cracked off Breiðamerkurjökull glacier and float slowly out to sea. Some icebergs wash on shore, lying on the vivid black sand like diamonds on satin and from there, your Ice cave adventure will begin.

The ice caves only form in the winter when glacial water freezes to create this unique natural phenomenon. Each season, the local glacier experts find the best caves to visit in an enjoyable and safe way.

From the glacier lagoon, they drive you through the best of Icelandic highlands in a special Super Jeep to the ice cave. There you will have about an hour to explore and enjoy the magical blue caves. Please do not forget to bring your camera!

After this unforgettable adventure, you drive back to the Jokulsarlon where you join the bus again. From there, you drive to the Hofskirkja Turf Church!

On the way back to Reykjavik, you will of course be able to enjoy the beautiful nature of the South Coast and to make a quick stop in Vik village for some refreshments, while keeping an eye out for the Northern lights if conditions are right.

# DAY 5, The Silver Circle of West Iceland

Today we'll take you to Borgarfjordur, thought to be the location for many of the famous Icelandic Sagas. Deep in the heart of the wild landscapes here, you'll see Deildartunguhver - the most powerful hot springs in Europe, which pumps out more than 180 liters of boiling water every second.

The next stop will be at Reykholt, which is an historic site in Iceland's folklore, featured in the writings of Snorri Sturluson, a famous poet and local chieftain. Snorralaug (Snorri's Pool) is an old-time hot spring, where locals have bathed for hundreds of years. Snorralaug is now a protected archaeological treasure, and there is also a traditional timber church here to look at too.

Awe-inspiring waterfalls at Hraunfossar are next on the itinerary. Magnificent stretch of waterfalls that runs for nearly a kilometre over a rugged lava field. There is another waterfall nearby, known as Barnafoss, or the "waterfall of the children". Once there was a stone arch making a natural bridge over the Hvita river here. Many years ago, two children from a nearby farm were drowned when they tried to cross it. Their heartbroken mother had the bridge destroyed to save others from the same sad end.

For lunch you will stop at Husafell. Set between two glaciers, Husafell is an entrancing place filled with Viking history, with traditional turf houses and little elf huts to amuse the children too. This is a charming spot, with thick birch tree forests and pretty waterfalls, and it has been an inspiration for local artists. As well as that, the "Husafell Stone" can be found here, a legendary "lifting stone", once used to test the strength of the locals and still used in strongman competitions today.

#### Choose your activity during booking process:

From Húsafell you will be taken to the **Viðgelmir Lava Cave**. Explore an astonishing lava cave system deep underground. Filled with fascinating ice formations, stalactites, and stalagmites, this multi-coloured marvel is one of the most extensive lava tunnels in the world. You'll see its best features on this **thrilling 90-minute tour**.

Relax like a Viking in the fabulous Canyon Baths deep in the Deildargil canyon. Enjoy a 4WD journey with stunning views of beautiful canyon waterfall called Langifoss to reach a second secret canyon. Then you can lie back in the warming waters of an authentic stone-walled spa and enjoy unforgettable views!



#### DAY 6, The Magnificent Snaefellsnes National Park

Day 6 begins with a scenic drive towards the Snæfellsnes Peninsula - by many called "Iceland in miniature". There are not many places here in Iceland where you can see so many kinds of geology packed into such a small area.

There are very good reasons why Snaefellsnes was on the Lonely Planet TOP 10 Regions in World 2015 list. While driving along shores of the peninsula you will pass by lovely and charming fishing villages, biggest strato-volcano in Iceland called Snaefellsjokull, walk on top of the cliffs and have an opportunity to spot wild seals resting at the Ytri-Tunga Beach.

Djúpalónssandur is another gorgeous black sand beach, where the air is filled with the sounds of birds circling the cliffs and the ocean waves hitting the sand. The most recognizable spot on the peninsula is Kirkjufell (Church) mountain accompanied by a small, but iconic falls. Make sure to have your camera ready to take a picture for your collection!

On the way to Reykjavík you will pass by the Whale Fiord (Hvalfjordur) and the tunnel laying 165 meters below it. Overnight Reykjavík

#### DAY 7, Tour Concludes in Reykjavik

As this marvellous winter adventure comes to an end, it's time to check out of your hotel this morning. If you're flying out today, then please make your way to the airport and we know Iceland joins us in welcoming you back again soon!

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

#### About the tour

- The guided tour operates on days 2-6 of the itinerary.
- Departures takes place between 08:30 09:00 so please be ready from 8:30 at your pick-up location
- Tour is operated under all weather conditions: please bring warm, wind & waterproof clothes
- Lunches & dinners are not included, but scheduled stops will be made so that guests can purchase meals and snacks
- Estimated arrival time in Reykjavík on Day 5 is around 20:00 (Depending on weather and road conditions)
- PLEASE NOTE: If you select option with visit at Canyon Baths, please remember to bring your own towel and swimwear



#### Hiking boots are mandatory

Proper footwear when walking on uneven and slippery surfaces increases your safety and comfort. Please note, that you can be banned from participating in glacier activities when not wearing required shoes. If you do not own proper footwear (solid shoes reaching above your ankle) you can rent them during booking process.

## Luggage allowance

Each guest can bring one small carry-on and checked-in size luggage. For your convenience, it is recommended that you pack lightly for this tour, in a small suitcase or backpack.

# Itinerary in reverse

This package can be booked with Standard & Reversed itineraries. The reverse itinerary starts with two days on the West Coast, following by 3 days on the South Coast. All inclusions and exclusions remain the same.

## Affordable Holidays - How do we do it?

With over 30 years' in the business, we know the travel industry better than anyone and have tracked down the best experiences around the world. We go directly to local suppliers to source the best price and holiday for you. Dealing directly with local operators is why our holidays are more affordable. We work with reputable travel professionals that offer exceptional service and safe travel policies. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will work hard to find the ideal holiday for you - that's My Travel Experience!

# My Travel Experience is a full-service travel company

Want flights, car hire, escorted tours, airport transfers, travel insurance & more? My Travel Experience offers personalised service and unlike online booking companies, we are not a one-size-fits-all travel agency. Our experienced travel consultants can design an itinerary or provide a quote for wherever you want to travel and include any travel services that you want to pre-book.

Plus, we are with you all the way - from your first enquiry, until your departure and when you safely return home. You will always be able to reach us. Email us today on <a href="mailto:reservations@mytravelxp.com">reservations@mytravelxp.com</a> with your preferences for any of our travel packages!

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to us about planning your holiday It's possible to add other sightseeing tours in Iceland or extend the trip

Travel On Demand Pty Ltd Trading As My Travel Experience



## MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

# Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be <u>viewed and downloaded on our website</u>, or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

This is a summary in brief for our customers:

- 1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
  - 2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
- 3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
- 4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
  - 5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

Phone 1300 168 910 Email hello@mytravelxp.com www.mytravelxp.com