



Reykjavik And Keflavik - Auroras, Whales And the Blue Lagoon



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Iceland

BROCHURE CODE: 5303
DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

This 4-night trip has been carefully designed to include the highlights of Iceland, from the natural beauty of the landscape to the rousing city of Reykjavik. Visit the Blue Lagoon, enjoy a whale-watching trip, hunt for the Northern Lights and explore the city or tailor your trip during plenty of free time.

Our Opinion

“ This trip is a great way to combine Iceland’s attractions as you’ll have a taste of the country and the city. Visiting the famous Blue Lagoon is an unforgettable and enviable experience and the diverse entertainment that Reykjavik offers will make the rest of your trip just as exciting. Reykjavik is also one of the best places to see the Northern Lights, so the jeep tour promises to be spectacular. ”

Amy Walkington-Gray



What's included?

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers and transfer between Keflavik and Reykjavik
- **Accommodation:** 1 night Keflavik hotel and 3 nights in Hotel Oðinsve in en-suite rooms
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts
- **The following activities are included:** Blue Lagoon entry, Northern Lights tour, whale watching tour (**the order of activities is subject to change**)

Trip Overview

Iceland offers an endless number of diverse attractions – striking landscapes, unique culture and the vibrant capital of Reykjavik.

This trip is designed to introduce you to the stunning nature of Iceland, as well as the exciting buzz of Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital.

You will spend your first night at the Northern Lights Inn, a cosy hotel with comfortable rooms, delicious food and a balcony especially for viewing the Northern Lights. It is also only a short walk away from the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa and sanctuary of relaxation. Entrance to this is included in the price of your holiday, so you can visit at your own leisure. Make the most of the experience and give yourself enough time to unwind in the cleansing hot water and absorb the surrounding volcanic landscape.

You will then be transferred to the city, where you will be based in Hotel Oðinsve, a boutique hotel in downtown Reykjavik. The hotel is located in a peaceful residential area, yet is only a few steps away from Reykjavik's major museums, shopping streets and restaurants. The hotel places high importance on welcoming and personal customer service, ensuring that you feel at home during your stay.

Spending three nights in Reykjavik will allow you to fully explore the city, while also using it as your base for travelling to more of Iceland's famous attractions. We can help you tailor your trip and add these to your holiday with ease to ensure that you fulfil your ideal itinerary.

We have, however, included two activities to your itinerary that we feel cannot be missed. The first is a whale watching trip to Faxaflói Bay, where frequent sightings of humpback and minke whales occur. The second is an activity that is essential when visiting Reykjavik in winter - a Northern Lights Tour, which will begin straight from your hotel. You will head out into the darkness on a hunt to spot the breath-taking colours and shapes dancing in the dark Arctic sky.

This four night holiday provides you with the chance to experience some unmissable activities and to customise your trip to suit your personal wishes. This is a fantastic trip on an amazing and diverse island.

Image credit: ThorirNK from Vik, Blue Lagoon, Visit Iceland, Iceland Pro Travel

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND TRANSFER

Once you arrive at the airport, you will be greeted and transferred to your accommodation, The Northern Light Inn (approximately a 20-minute transfer).

The rest of the day is left for you to spend at your own leisure. Why not enjoy a delicious three-course dinner in your hotel in the evening? (payable locally).

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

BLUE LAGOON

Staying in Keflavik provides you with the opportunity to experience the amazing, rugged landscape of the Icelandic countryside before heading into the bustle of Reykjavik city. Your hotel is only around half a mile from the famous Blue Lagoon, which you are free to visit at your leisure once you have eaten breakfast at the hotel, as entry is included in your holiday price. There is a free shuttle from the hotel, or if you want to venture out into the snow, it is only a 15-minute walk away.

At the lagoon, you can feel the contrast of the icy air against the warming, misty waters. The experience is great for unwinding and treating your skin to a mineral-rich bathe.

In the early evening, you will be transferred from your hotel to your new accommodation in the centre of Reykjavik. You will spend three nights here, enabling you to personalise your trip to match your preferences and decide which of Iceland's incredible attractions you would like to see.

Included Meals: BreakfastDAY
3

REYKJAVIK AND NORTHERN LIGHTS TOUR

Today you will have breakfast in the hotel and then you are left to your own devices and Reykjavik is so rich in culture, architecture and cuisine that you will find it easy to fill your day. You can visit museums and contemporary art galleries, explore the many cafés, bars and restaurants or admire the modern architecture of the city. Although Reykjavik is so packed with things to do and see, it is a relatively small city and is easy to explore in only one or two days.

Once you feel that you have seen what Reykjavik has to offer, you can use your location as a base to explore more of Iceland's attractions. We can arrange for you to snorkel between continents, or enjoy a hike on ancient glaciers and behind waterfalls. (Details of the available options can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page).

In the evening you will be picked up by your driver and your hunt for the Northern Lights will begin, as you leave the city behind and head out into the darkness with an expert guide. You will travel in a custom-made 4x4 super jeep that is designed to take you off the beaten track and to locations that cannot be reached by most vehicles. With some luck, you will see the phenomenal Northern Lights swirling in the sky.

Remember to wear warm clothes – there is no such thing as too many layers in Iceland in the winter!

Included Meals: BreakfastDAY
4

WHALE WATCHING

After breakfast, you will make your way to the old harbour in Reykjavik, which is within walking distance of your hotel. There are more than 20 species of whale in the waters around Iceland and the island has an extremely high success rate for spotting the ocean's giants.

You will be taken on a three-hour boat tour and will be accompanied by expert guides and crew who know exactly how to give you the best chance of seeing the whales up close. The boat is large and comfortable; since it will be cold, you can enjoy the view from the cosy interior.

Your destination is Faxaflói Bay, where minke and humpback are among the most commonly spotted species. Whales may not be the only thing you see, as white-beaked dolphins and harbour porpoises are commonly sighted on the trip. The experts on board will keep you informed of what you are seeing.

This evening you are free to spend your final night exploring Reykjavik's cuisine scene. If you want some recommendations, feel free to ask our travel experts who will be happy to help.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
5

DEPARTURE

Today, you will have breakfast and be transferred to Keflavik Airport ready for your flight home. You are welcome to ask our Travel Experts for a quotation should you wish to extend your stay in Iceland. You might want to stay in Reykjavik or you may decide to explore other regions of Iceland. They will be happy to advise you on how to tailor the rest of your stay.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Reykjavik - Snorkelling Between Continents

Snorkelling at the Silfra Fissure in Thingvellir National Park is an unforgettable experience as you gaze down through some of the world's clearest water and find your eyes drawn down to the bottom of this crack in the Earth's crust.

This fissure has been created by the tectonic plates that underpin Eurasia and America drifting apart. It is a place where you can literally snorkel between continents.

The water's purity stems from the fact that it started life as glacial melt some 50 kilometres away and has made its way, over numerous decades, through volcanic lava to rest in the fissure.

The price includes all equipment including dry suit, flippers and snorkel and you will be in the water for around 30 minutes.

Please speak to one of our Travel Experts for a quote.

Other options

ACTIVITIES



South Coast, Waterfalls and Glacier Hike

Available on Day 3, this coach trip will have you heading off towards the majestic south coast with its farming lands, thundering waterfalls, powerful volcanoes and majestic glaciers.

Your first stop will be Seljalandsfoss Waterfall where you will have the opportunity to walk behind the wall of water before the tour continues to a gentle hike on the ancient ice of a glacier with a knowledgeable and certified glacier

guide.

After that, you will take a leisurely stroll along the black sand beach of Reynisfjara, which is famed for its basalt rock stacks which rise from the sea. Icelandic legend says they were trolls turned into rock by the rising sun when they came home late after a fishing trip.

The tour then continues with a sightseeing trip that will take in views of the famous volcanoes, Hekla and Eyjafjallajökull, and the Westman Islands, which rise steeply from the ocean just a few kilometres off the coast.

The guides reserve the right to alter the itinerary if weather conditions change and the glacier walk is cancelled. This tour will last around 11 hours and so it will surely be a day to remember.

Image Credits: Iceland Pro Travel

Included Accommodation

Northern Light Inn (Nights: 1)



As the name may suggest, the Northern Light Inn is the ideal base for an Aurora-based trip in Iceland. Staying here puts you at a fantastic vantage point for a prospective display.

It enjoys an enviable position on the island, just a twenty-minute drive from Keflavik Airport and only a short distance from the world famous Blue Lagoon.

If you wish to visit the Blue Lagoon, you can take a two-minute drive in the complimentary shuttle bus or a fifteen-minute walk through the picturesque moss-covered lava fields.

Hotel facilities

- The hotel operates an 'honesty bar' in its beautiful living room with fireplace. The perfect location to exchange experiences with fellow travellers
- In a panoramic setting, the restaurant serves buffet meals and is renowned for its 'Nordic soul food'. Meals include a varied selection of healthy contemporary cuisine coupled with the best of hearty Icelandic classics such as ocean-fresh fish, free-range lamb and home baked goods

Guest bedroom types

DOUBLE/TWIN

The hotel has 32 guest bedrooms in total. The rooms are geothermally heated and have en-suite shower rooms, tea and coffee making facilities, Wi-Fi and TVs. Their simple and bright decoration exudes a modern Icelandic charm and tranquil atmosphere.

Hotel Oðinsve (Nights: 2-4)



Hotel Oðinsve, (pronounced 'O-thin-svee-ah') is a charming four-star boutique hotel located in the heart of downtown Reykjavik. For its much-welcomed guests, it offers modern, comfortable accommodation and an ideal vantage point to access some of the city's best attractions.

The location ensures that just a short walk from the hotel you find yourself at the heart of the island's capital and its varied array of restaurants, cafes, bars and coffee houses. The hotel is also close to the National Theatre, the National Gallery of Iceland, the Icelandic Opera and the two main shopping streets of Reykjavik.

Despite being centrally located, the hotel is also in a quieter residential area so you can still enjoy a peaceful retreat.

Hotel facilities

The hotel building dates back to the 19th century and has recently undergone a refurbishment ensuring it reflects both the traditional Icelandic charm of the region and the modern style of the up and coming city.

The SNAPS restaurant is attached to the hotel, which is a bistro style eatery serving an array of delicious Scandinavian cuisine. Here you can enjoy a delicious and varied buffet breakfast and an à la carte menu in the evening.

Other facilities include a 24-hour reception and free Wi-Fi throughout.

For those guests staying at the hotel with car hire then public parking is available nearby (payable locally).

Guest Bedroom types

DOUBLE/TWIN

The hotel has 43 rooms in total. The décor is modern and bright, emphasising Nordic ambience and comfort, with locally sourced bedding and wooden floors. All the rooms have an en-suite with shower rooms and are fully equipped with TVs, hairdryers and minibars.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

A minimum of one person is needed for this trip to run.

The following group sizes apply to the 'personalise' activities:

South Coast, Waterfalls and Glacier Hike: you will travel by coach (approx. 50-60 people); the glacier walk is always in smaller groups of approx. 12 people.

Snorkelling Between Continents: the transfer vehicle may take up to 12 people with a max of 6 people per guide whilst snorkelling. Please note that there may be other groups in the water at the same time.

Whale watching and Northern Lights excursion: there may be up to 200 people on the whale watching and Northern Lights excursion (maximum 12 per vehicle).

Please note that the Blue Lagoon is also open to the public during your visit.

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum Numbers Required For A Holiday To Operate

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>