



Highlights - Reykjavik, Whales and the Blue Lagoon



HOLIDAY TYPE: Flexible Dates

VISITING: Iceland

BROCHURE CODE: 5301

DURATION: 4 nights

In Brief

This four-night holiday will introduce you to Iceland's wonderfully contrasting country. From dramatic wild countryside to the welcoming city of Reykjavik. Relax in the famous Blue Lagoon, go whale watching, hunt for the Northern Lights and have plenty of free time to tailor your stay.

Our Opinion

“ This holiday is an ideal way to experience some of Iceland's highlights. Spending time amongst the lava fields and soaking in the mineral waters of the Blue Lagoon is an ideal introduction to the island. After you transfer to Reykjavik you'll have time to tailor your stay in what I think is one of the most interesting cities in the world. We include a whale watching trip but if you want to get more active and explore further afield then we can arrange so many exceptional options during your time. ”

Dawn Kitson



What's included?

- **Transfers:** return airport transfers and transfer from Keflavik to Reykjavik
- **Accommodation:** 1-night Hotel Northern Lights Inn and 3 nights Hotel Reykjavik Centrum
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts
- **The following activities are included:** Blue Lagoon entry, whale watching tour (**order subject to change**)
- **A note on flights:** flights are not included in the holiday price so that the best possible fares and schedule can be found at the time of booking. There are low cost and scheduled flights operating this route and our travel experts will happily provide a quotation and arrange the flights as part of the package.

Trip Overview

The appeal of Iceland is almost endless – stunning scenery, a myriad of natural wonders and the vibrant city of Reykjavik.

The aim of this trip is to introduce you to both the striking landscape of Iceland and the wonderfully welcoming city of Reykjavik, the northernmost capital in the world.

Your first night will be spent at the cosy Northern Lights Inn. This hotel offers great food and is ideally situated within walking distance to the Blue Lagoon. Entrance to this world-famous hot spring is included in the trip price so you are free to go at your own leisure. Be sure to give yourself enough time to fully appreciate the delightfully hot mineral-rich water with its contrasting lava field backdrop.

Transferring into the city, your base is Hotel Reykjavik Centrum, situated in the historic part of Reykjavik, renowned for its first-class cuisine. Here, you will have easy access to the numerous shops, restaurants, museums and sights of the city. Reykjavik has the appeal of an international cosmopolitan city, whilst also maintaining its small island hospitality.

With three nights in the city, you will have the chance to fully explore but also use it as a base for additional activities and excursions. Trips out to many of Iceland's most famous attractions can be added to this holiday with ease and so we can really help you to tailor your time and achieve your

ideal itinerary. If you are travelling around the solstice then the country is bathed in daylight 24 hours a day and so you get even more time to enjoy the delights on offer.

We have, however, included one of the 'must-do' activities for you and on your second full day in the city, you will head to the harbour for a whale watching trip to Faxaflói Bay where humpback and minke whales are frequently seen.

This four-night holiday offers you the chance to customise your experience, take in the sights you most want to see and do so from the comfort of a centrally-located hotel. This is an exceptional short break on a remarkable island.

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND TRANSFER

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed and transferred to the hotel (approximately a 20 minute drive away).

The remainder of the day and evening are at your own leisure.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

BLUE LAGOON

Staying out in Keflavik gives you a chance to experience the almost lunar lava landscape of this corner of Iceland. The deep black and jagged lava fields stretch out for miles and it really gives you a sense of the control that Mother Nature holds here.

The world famous Blue Lagoon is only around half a mile from your hotel and entry is included. You are welcome to head there at any time during the day. The hotel offers a free shuttle or it's only 15 minute walk across the lava fields.

At the lagoon you can bathe in the milky blue waters which look all the more vibrant against the backdrop of the lava. These geothermal and mineral rich waters are a real treat for the skin.

In the late afternoon you will be transferred from the Northern Lights Inn to your centrally-located Reykjavik hotel. This marks the start of your three nights here and the chance for you to tailor your time to best suit your preferences on which of Iceland's many wonderful attractions you would like to see during your holiday.

Included Meals: BreakfastDAY
3

EXPLORE REYKJAVIK

Reykjavik is rich in sights to see, places to eat and things to do so you are sure to find much to do to fill your day. You can look at the modern architectural designs of the city, explore the museums and galleries, visit world famous bars and restaurants or simply find a café and watch the cosmopolitan crowd walk by. One of the best features of Reykjavik is that it is fairly small, so you can explore much of it in one day.

You can also use the city as a base from which to explore some of the other wonders of the island. We can arrange for you to visit the Golden Circle, snorkel between continents, try glacier hiking or enjoy a super jeep tour of the black sand beaches of the South Shore; the choice is entirely yours. Details of the available options can be found in the '[personalise](#)' section of the holiday page.

Your evenings are free for you to explore the delights of the city's culinary scene. The seafood on offer in Reykjavik is unsurpassed and Icelandic meat dishes are also exceptional in our opinion - from simple lobster soup served on the harbour to the most exquisite fine dining – there is something for everyone here.

Included Meals: BreakfastDAY
4

WHALE WATCHING

Iceland is famous as a whale watching destination and luckily the majority of tours start from the old harbour in Reykjavik – within walking distance of your hotel.

We include a three hour boat tour for you today and the expert guides and crew will help to give you the best possible chance of seeing these majestic mammals up close. The boat we use is large and comfortable with both exterior decks and a cosy interior for cooler days.

Your destination is Faxaflói Bay and the most commonly spotted species of whale include minke and humpback. White-beaked dolphins and harbour porpoises are also common sights and the onboard experts will keep you updated throughout.

This evening you are free to enjoy the restaurants of Reykjavik (our travel experts will happily make some recommendations for you) before you return to your central hotel for the final night.

Included Meals: BreakfastDAY
5

DEPARTURE

Today you will be transferred to Keflavik Airport for your flight home. If you would like to extend your

stay in Reykjavik then please do not hesitate to ask our travel experts for a quotation. Iceland is a bewitching destination and we'll happily tailor your holiday so you can take in the delights that are on offer in other regions.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Golden Circle Coach Tour

If you would like to enjoy some of Iceland's most famous attractions we can arrange for you to join a coach tour of Iceland's famed Golden Circle on Day 3, led by a professional and educated guide. You will head firstly to Þingvellir, site of Atlantic drift and also the spot where the first Icelandic parliament was formed in 930 AD. You will then head towards Gullfoss, one of the most spectacular natural wonders in Iceland, where you can witness the majestic and thunderous two-tiered waterfall.

At the Geysir Information Centre, you can witness spectacular spouting geysers, including the magnificent Strokkur, which erupts around every five minutes. Afterwards, the trip continues to Skálholt Church which was the seat of religious power in Iceland for centuries and where some of the most dramatic events in Iceland's history took place.

On the way back to Reykjavik you'll get a chance to visit the greenhouses of Friðheimar farm, where you can see the challenges of growing vegetables in this particular climate. This trip lasts for a full day, around eight hours in total. Lunch is not included but can be bought en route.

Image Credit: Visit Iceland

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Golden Circle Premium Tour

The Golden Circle is one of the most well-known areas of Iceland and for good reason. Combining Þingvellir National Park, Geysir and Gullfoss this tour shows off the best of the west, and highlights why Iceland is renowned as a destination of natural wonders.

During this full-day bus tour, you will visit many different sights including the geothermally active region of Geysir where you will see Strokkur erupt with tremendous force.

Then there's the Gullfoss waterfall, known as the 'Golden Falls' which drops an impressive 32 metres over three stages. You get the unique vantage point from above which gives the illusion of a seemingly endless waterfall!

Þingvellir (or Thingvellir) National Park is an area of great cultural, geological and natural significance. It is perhaps best known as the location where the Eurasia and America tectonic plates are slowly moving apart from each other – giving you the chance to walk in between two continents.

Duration: 8 hours



Reykjavik Food Tour

This tour is ideal for foodies who would like to delve deeper into the gastronomic scene in Reykjavik and try some weird, wonderful and delicious delicacies.

Your meeting point for this activity option on Day 3 is the Harpa Concert Hall, not far from your hotel (an approx. 15-minute walk). This activity is a great way in which to see the sights as your guided walking tour will allow you to explore with a knowledgeable guide.

You will stop off at various restaurants to taste their specialities and gain an understanding of some of Iceland's food customs. Make sure you don't have a huge breakfast - this three to four-hour tour is half walking and half eating, so come with an appetite.

NB: Unfortunately special dietary requirements are not catered for during this activity and the meals can contain milk, fish, meat, in some cases alcohol, wheat, nuts, etc and so please bear this in mind when considering the tour options.

A minimum of two participants is required for this trip to operate.

Image Credit: Visit Iceland



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



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 a dry suit, flippers and snorkel and you will be in the water for around 30 minutes.

If you would prefer not to use your hire car to visit Silfra and Thingvellir then we can arrange the transfers from Reykjavik (around 1-hour drive away); please add £45 per person.

Please ask one of our Travel Experts for a quote.

Image Credits: Arctic Adventures

Included Accommodation

Northern Light Inn (summer) (Nights: 1)



Northern Light Inn 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 Reykjavik Centrum (Nights: 2-4)



Located in the historic part of Reykjavik, the Centrum Hotel is ideally situated to give you easy access to some independent exploration of the vibrant city.

After spending some time in Reykjavik, you can unwind in the hotel's private swimming pool as well as the onsite restaurant, Uppsalir, renowned for its first-class cuisine. Nearby, you will find plenty of eateries serving a range of traditional Scandinavian food and international dishes.

HOTEL FACILITIES:

- Stay in touch with loved ones with the use of the hotel's WiFi
- Relax in the leisure and TV room
- Try the local cuisine in the hotel's restaurant
- Enjoy the views from your room's terrace - some overlook the river others will look out to the city

ROOM FACILITIES:

Double/twin room: These comfortable and modern rooms are equipped with ensuite bathroom with bathtub, shower and hairdryer. All rooms also come with air conditioning, tea and coffee facilities, sitting area, terrace and safe.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

A minimum of two people is needed to run this trip.

The following group sizes apply to the activities:

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).

Golden Circle Coach Tour: min 1 / max per coach 65. If numbers exceed 65, additional coaches will be added.

Golden Circle 'Super Jeep' Tour (6 hrs): min 2 / max 12 per vehicle. If numbers exceed 12, additional vehicles will be added.

Reykjavik Food Tour: min 2 / max 12 per group

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.

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 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>