ARTISAN TRAVEL

Self-Drive: Iceland South Coast Short Break



HOLIDAY TYPE:
VISITING:

BROCHURE CODE: 6225
DURATION: 3 nights

In Brief

Discover the wonders of Iceland on an unforgettable South Coast adventure, taking in spectacular waterfalls, dramatic volcanic landscapes, black-sand beaches and magnificent glaciers.







Speak to us on 01670 785 085
bookings@artisantravel.co.uk

ATOL 6865 PROTECTED
ABTA ABTA No.Y6261
AITO 5180 Assured

What's included?

- Travel worry-free – fully organised and run by a trusted, fully regulated UK operator. Read more about our bonding and the types of financial protection that we offer
- Accommodation: 3 nights in standard double/twin rooms at Hotel Ranga (or similar) (upgrades available subject to availability; supplements may apply)
- Rental car for the duration of your stay (please note that a credit card deposit may be required by the car hire provider, depending on the policy booked)
- Meals: daily breakfasts
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Flights are not included – please speak to our Travel Experts for a quote if you wish to include these

Please note, visitors are required to pay a c.ISK888 per room per night tourism tax directly to their hotel. Regulations and costs may change in the future. We have included this amount in our 'from' price, however, the taxes must be paid for locally

Please note, a c. ISK6.95 per kilometre charge is payable directly to the car hire provider on return. Regulations and costs may change. This cost is not included in our 'from' price and must be paid locally.

Trip Overview

Marvel at the magic of Iceland on this short but unforgettable self-drive adventure along the islands spectacular South Coast. From dramatic waterfalls and vast volcanic landscapes to black-sand beaches and breathtaking glaciers, this journey showcases some of the country's most iconic natural wonders.

Collect your hire car and set off from Reykjavík, travelling through the beautiful landscapes of South Iceland. Discover the famous Golden Circle, marvel at the thundering cascades of Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss, and explore the striking black-sand shores of Reynisfjara, with the charming village of Vík along the way.

Your base for three nights is the exceptional Hotel Rangá, a luxurious countryside retreat renowned for its warm hospitality, beautiful surroundings and excellent restaurant. Hotel Ranga is perfectly positioned for exploring the South Coast.

Combining scenic drives, unforgettable natural attractions and a touch of luxury, this is the perfect introduction to Iceland – offering plenty of adventure alongside time to relax and soak up the extraordinary scenery.

Please note: This is an example itinerary and can be adapted to suit you. Accommodation can be

adjusted, and additional nights and activities may be added to suit your preferences.

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1 — SELF-DRIVE: ICELAND SOUTH COAST SHORT BREAK

On arrival at Keflavík International Airport, collect your hire car and begin your Icelandic adventure. Head east through the dramatic volcanic landscapes of the Reykjanes Peninsula, continuing towards the beautiful countryside of South Iceland.

Your destination is the wonderful Hotel Rangá, a beautiful countryside retreat situated beside the East Rangá River. Settle into your surroundings, perhaps enjoy a relaxing soak in one of the outdoor hot tubs, before dining at the hotel's acclaimed restaurant. With its remote setting and minimal light pollution, it's also a wonderful place for stargazing.

Driving route: Keflavík Airport to Hotel Ranga (approximately 143km / 2 hours driving one-way)

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 — DISCOVER THE SPECTACULAR SOUTH COAST

Today we recommend embarking on an unforgettable journey along Iceland's spectacular South Coast, where thundering waterfalls, dramatic glaciers and striking black-sand beaches create some of the country's most breathtaking scenery.

Begin at Seljalandsfoss, one of Iceland's most famous waterfalls, where a walking path leads behind the cascading water. Nearby, discover the hidden waterfall of Gljúfrabúi, tucked away within a narrow gorge.

Head further east to Skógafoss, an impressive 60-metre waterfall, before heading towards the coast and the dramatic cliffs of Dyrhólaey, offering spectacular views across the Atlantic.

Continue your journey to Reynisfjara, Iceland's famous black-sand beach, renowned for its towering basalt columns and striking sea stacks. Finally, finish in the picturesque village of Vík, where you can add a tour of Katla Ice Cave (see our 'personalise' section) before returning to Hotel Rangá for a relaxing evening.

Driving route: Hotel Ranga to Vik (approximately 86km / 1 hour 10 minutes driving one-way)

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 EXPLORE THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

Today, why not explore Iceland's famous Golden Circle, a spectacular sightseeing route showcasing some of the country's most remarkable natural wonders.

Begin at Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates drift apart. Continue to the Geysir geothermal area, where the Strokkur geyser erupts regularly, sending powerful jets of boiling water into the air.

Why not add a visit to the Secret Lagoon (see our 'personalise' section), Iceland's oldest natural swimming pool. Surrounded by steaming geothermal features and beautiful countryside, its naturally warm waters offer the perfect opportunity to unwind and experience one of Iceland's most charming geothermal bathing spots.

A final highlight along this route is Gullfoss, the magnificent Golden Waterfall, where glacial waters cascade dramatically into a deep canyon. If time allows, make a stop at Kerið volcanic crater, with its striking red slopes and vivid turquoise lake.

Return to Hotel Rangá for your final evening and one last opportunity to soak up the tranquillity of the Icelandic countryside.

Driving route: Hotel Ranga to Gullfoss (approximately 92km / 1 hour 15 minutes driving one-way)

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 DEPARTURE

After breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to Iceland. Enjoy the scenic drive back to Keflavík International Airport, returning your hire car in time for your onward flight. Depart with wonderful memories of Iceland's extraordinary landscapes, natural wonders and unforgettable South Coast adventure.

Driving route: Hotel Ranga to Keflavík Airport (approximately 143km / 2 hours driving one-way)

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Katla Ice Cave Tour (Meet in Vík)

Set off on an unforgettable adventure beneath the vast Mýrdalsjökull glacier. Travelling by specially equipped super jeep across the rugged volcanic landscape, you'll reach the entrance to the remarkable Katla Ice Cave, where a world of shimmering ice and dark volcanic ash awaits, sculpted by nature over centuries.

Step inside this extraordinary natural formation and discover the intricate patterns, shifting colours and fascinating textures created by the interplay of ice and volcanic forces. With your knowledgeable guide bringing the landscape to life, you'll gain a deeper appreciation of Iceland's ever-changing glacial environment.

Duration: Approximately 3 hours

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Secret Lagoon

Tucked away in the small village of Flúðir, the Secret Lagoon offers a wonderfully authentic taste of Iceland's geothermal heritage. Steam rises from the surrounding hot springs, while the pool's naturally warm waters invite you to linger a little longer. Unlike Iceland's more contemporary bathing experiences, this charming spot retains a rustic, timeless character, with the changing landscape of bubbling springs and open countryside providing a captivating backdrop. Settle into the soothing waters and enjoy a peaceful pause in your journey, immersed in the quiet magic of Iceland's geothermal heartland. Entry includes a towel.

Duration: admission allows access for 1 hour 30 minutes

Included Accommodation

Hotel Ranga (Nights: 1-3)





As a charming four star hotel, the Hotel Ranga is one of Iceland's most sought after accommodation options, predominantly due to its perfect location. Located away from light pollution, the hotel has an Aurora alert system and has earned an enviable reputation for being a remarkable spot to witness a potential Aurora.

Not counting its Northern Lights potential, the hotel is equally renowned for its wonderful food and charming hospitality. In addition to its comfortable rooms, the hotel also has a range of delightfully themed suites that are always popular with guests. New for this season the hotel had constructed a roll-off roof observatory has room for up to 30 people and is equipped with two high quality 11-inch computerized telescopes perfect for star gazing or Northern Lights viewing.

Hotel facilities

- Breakfast and evening meals are served in the main restaurant, which offers lovely views over the surrounding countryside. When it comes to food you are in splendid culinary hands. The restaurant uses a 'farmers' market' concept to really capture the flavours of the region. They try to make the most of local produce by taking advantage of traditional cooking methods and recipes.
- In the hotel there is also a lounge and bar area which is a great spot for relaxing in the evenings.
- The hotel also has three very popular outdoor hot tubs, which are not only perfect for relaxing in but also provide the ideal vantage point should the Northern Lights make an appearance.

Guest bedroom types

STANDARD DOUBLE/TWIN

The hotel has 24 standard bedrooms. All guest bedrooms are well equipped with TV, telephone, Wi-Fi, bath, shower, hairdryer and mini bar. There are bathrobes and slippers available for guests, ensuring easy visits to the hot tub. The rooms either have a view over the Hekla Volcano or the River Ranga.

DELUXE ROOMS

The hotel has 20 deluxe rooms which have the same facilities as the standard rooms but are larger in size. The majority of the deluxe rooms have a king size bed.

SUITES

Hotel Ranga has four junior suites (decorated with the themes of Asia, Australia, North America and South America) and three master suites which are slightly larger (decorated with the themes of Africa, Antarctica and the Royal Suite). These are all fully equipped with TV, telephone, en-suite bathroom, mini bar, coffee machine and bathrobe and slippers.

Image credits: Hotel Ranga

The Specifics

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