

8 Days - Golden Circle and Ring Road + Hiking day

Product Details

Brand: Multi-day tours,

In our multiday tours we stay out in the countryside and have the opportunity to enjoy more beautiful sights because we don't spend time driving to Reykjavik in the evening. We carefully pick our hotels, where there is good food and atmosphere. The accommodation, breakfast, and two-course gourmet dinner are included. For Northern Lights hunters staying in the countryside away from the light pollution, we often have a good opportunity to see them. On our tours you will get to know everything about the nature, locals, their interesting food and folklore

Tour highlights:

Insert one day of hiking anywhere in this tour! Recommendations are at the bottom of the itinerary.

Day one—Golden Circle sites

- After picking up the group from anywhere in the vicinity of Reykjavik or Keflavik Airport, we stop by **Mosfellsbakarí**—the best bakery in Iceland—on our way out of town to the adventures to come.
- Drive the scenic road by **Hafravatn**, **Nesjavallaleið**, and **Grafningur** to the UNESCO site of Þingvellir (Thingvellir)
- **Þingvellir**, the Fields of Parliament, was founded in 930 AD at the boundaries of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.
- The historical site **Vígða Laug** by **Lake Laugarvatn**.
- **Brúarfoss**, the ever-blue waterfall.
- Geysir spring area, with the erupting geyser **Strokkur**. **Strokkur** spouts every five to ten minutes up to 30 meters or 100 feet up in the air. Sometimes less but when it spouts, it can spout two or three times in a row. Best not to put your camera down!
- **Gullfoss** waterfall is one of Iceland's most iconic tourist attractions. The waterfall is a two-step waterfall where the first one is 11 meters (33 feet) and the second one is 22 meters (66 feet) high.
- **Brúarhlöð**: A tranquil place where the massive river Hvítá from the great waterfall runs through a narrow ravine.
- Walk behind the waterfall **Seljalandsfoss**.
- Drive to our hotel in the south for dinner and a good night's sleep.

Day two—The South Coast to the Vatnajökull National Park

- **Skógafoss**, with its 430 steps to the viewing platform above and **Kvernufoss** waterfalls are a few minutes apart. The hike to **Kvernufoss** is about ten to 20 minutes, depending on how close you want to get.
- **Dyrhólaey**, which translates to "door hill island," is a cape that has a great view over the black sand beach.
- The ever-changing **Reynisfjara** black sand beach and basalt columns.
- **Vík** town.
- **Fjaðrárgljúfur** is a magnificent gorge.
- **Hamrafoss** waterfall is a short stop by the road.
- **Jökulsárlón**, called the Glacier Lagoon, with its majestic icebergs.
- **Fellsfjara**, called the diamond beach, where the icebergs have washed ashore on the black sand beach.
- Staying and dining in the area.

Day three—Further east

- We enjoy the tranquility of the glacier lagoon in front of the **Hoffellsjökull** outlet glacier and witness how far the glacier has advanced and retreated in the past 300 years.
- By **Mt. Vestrahorn** we dance or walk on water. Short walk to the "Viking village" from season three in the TV series **The Witcher** and the beach in front of the picturesque mountain.
- At **Djúpivogur** we visit **Auðun's** stone museum and see the artwork **Eggin í Gleðivík**.
- Driving the mountain road **Öxi** gives a spectacular view over the bay and the lava layers that form the steps in the valley below.
- Staying and dining in the area of **Egilsstaðir**.

Day four—Heading north

- **Rjúkandi** waterfall
- The recently famous **Stuðlagil**. Choose between a two-hour hike or the view from the other side.
- At **Fjallakaffi**, where we will have lunch this day, you have the option to taste the healing **Fjallagrasasúpa** moss soup.
- Iceland's largest waterfall, **Dettifoss**, and his neighbor, **Selfoss**.
- A one-hour hike in **Jökulsárgljúfur**. It is a gorge with basalt columns in all directions.
- We will be staying and dining in the area of **Lake Mývatn** two nights.

Day five—Lake Mývatn

- Hike up to the rim of the **Hverfell** crater.
- **Dimmuborgir** are lava formations unlike anything else. We hike in the area for an hour and a half, visiting, among other things, the **Gatklettur** and the **Elf Church**.
- Here I recommend the steam-baked **rúgbrauð** with **arctic char** from the lake for lunch.
- **Hverir** is a colorful geothermal area. Short hike between the boiling mud pits and steam vents.
- **Víti** (Hell) is a crater by the volcano **Krafla** formed in one single blast in 1724.
- **Höfði** is a forested area by the lake. We hike in the area for half an hour.
- **Grjótagjá** is a former bathing place for the locals but now only for viewing.
- It is nice to end the day by enjoying **The Nature Baths** by Mývatn.
- Staying and dining again in the area.

Day six—The north

- **Skútustaðagígar** are pseudocraters formed when a thick lava flow over a moist area or a lake. The water underneath then boils and expands, finding its way to the surface.
- Homemade **ice cream** made from the milk at the farm is available.
- **Goðafoss** is an iconic waterfall with beautiful nature-sculpted artwork by the side.
- Now it is time for shopping in the **Christmas village** and the **farmers market** on our way to **Akureyri** town.
- In **Akureyri** I recommend trying one of the best geothermal swimming pools in Iceland. It has 50-meter lap swimming lanes, different temperature hot tubs, a steam bath, slides, and a cold plunge.
- We drive the **Öxnadalshéiði** to **Skagafjörður**, stopping for the picturesque view of **Hraun í Öxnadal**.
- Staying and dining in **Skagafjörður**.

Day seven—Going south

- To see how people used to live in Iceland in the past centuries, we visit **Glaumbær**, a turf house complex where people lived until 1946.
- **Borgarvirki** is a fortress, like a castle, built by nature.
- At **Hvítserkur** we see a rock in the ocean that resembles a dinosaur. We often see seals there relaxing on the beach.
- Run up the hills of the **Grábrók** crater to enjoy the view over **Borgarfjörður**.
- **Glanni** waterfall is in the Salmon River, **Norðurá**.
- **Borgarnes** is the town of the famous poet and crazy Viking **Egill Skallagrímsson**. We visit a Viking grave and other historical places.

We are usually back in Reykjavík around 18.00 in the evening

Depending on weather and season, we may change the order of places visited.

Possible add-ons:

Horseback ride from Skálafell in the south. (1h) Day two.

Ice cave in Kötlujökull. (3h) Day two.

Horseback ride from Vík on the black sand beach. (1h) Day two.

Zodiac tour on Jökulsárlón or Fellslón. Available from April to September. (1h) Day two.

Amphibian boat tour on Jökulsárlón. Available from April to September. (1h) Day two.

Ice cave in Vatnajökull. Available from mid-October to March. (3h) Day three.

Vök baths. (2h) Day four.

Horseback ride from Skútustaðagígar by Lake Mývatn. (1h)

Recommended hiking tours:

Hike around the mountain above Moldnúpur in the south. A 4-6 hour hike after day 2.

Fimmvörðuháls is a famous hiking path. It is possible to hike from Skógar to Básar. A 7-9 hour hike after day 2.

Partly Fimmvörðuháls, as long as you like and then go back to Skógar. There are around 20 beautiful waterfalls along the path.

Stóruð hike. About 4-6 hours after day 4.

Mt. Mælifell in Skagafjörður. A 6-hour hike after day 6. From the mountain, 11 glaciers in Iceland can be seen.

The Síldarmannagötur path from Hvalfjörður to Skorradalur. A 6-hour hike after day 7.

The Leggjabrjótur path from Hvalfjörður to Þingvellir. A 6-7 hour hike after day 7.

Mt. Hafnarfjall round the mountains. 5-7 hour hike after day 7.

Mt. Esja. 6-7 hours from Blikdalur down Þverfellshorn after day 7 or before day 1.

There are also shorter hiking tours that can be added to any tour. Just contact us for more information.

An example:

Mt. Hafnarfjall, up and down, is about 3-4 hours.

Mt. Esja, up and down Þverfellshorn, is about 2-3 hours.

There are plenty of geothermal swimming pools and other bathing places to relax after a long hike.



Iceland Tour was Great!

Feb 2024

Our American group of two 70+ age parents and an adult daughter traveled on a private nine-day tour in early February with Gunnar Gunnarsson of Season Tours. Gunnar is one of two owners, the only members of Season Tours, as there are no employees. We thought that touring with an owner would assure the best tour, and our belief was confirmed big time, as he is a total professional.

Gunnar picked us up at Keflavik Airport, stayed with us throughout the tour of the Reykjanes and Snaefellsnes Peninsulas, the Golden Circle, the south coast and southeast Iceland out to Hali, and dropped us at our hotel in Reykjavik, where we spent several days on our own in after the tour. He drove us in a well-appointed and winterized 7-passenger Mercedes van (Season also owns a 13-passenger van) and provided us with mini-spikes that we needed for the many walks and hikes on snow and ice.

A native Icelander, Gunnar speaks fluent English, among other languages and has an extraordinary knowledge of Icelandic history, culture, geology and cuisine, including names and dates. This was confirmed after our tour when we visited the National Museum in Reykjavik where we found how much Icelandic history we had learned (and we knew nothing of Iceland's history before this trip).

We stayed at a range of hotels, from a tiny, rustic family-run inn (that we loved) to a modern 4-star hotel that we loved as well. The one consistency in the wide range of hotels was the quality of the food. Despite all the hiking and climbing we gained weight!

If you are looking for a highly personalized group or family tour we recommend that you contact Season Tours.

Do you love hiking? Add as much hiking you like to our tours. In this tour, you add a day of hiking to the itinerary example of our 7-day tour of the Golden Circle and the Ring Road. Enjoy the sites of the so-called Golden Circle and the attractions by road number one that goes around the main part of Iceland, all in seven days. On the tour you will see glaciers, black and brown sand beaches, waterfalls, ravines, capes, and beautiful rock formations. Dance on water and enjoy the tranquility out in the middle of nowhere. You will learn about the history, folklore, geology, Viking sagas, how the Icelanders changed religion twice, flora, and fauna. Staying out in the countryside in a relaxed environment, far from the light pollution of the towns, gives a great opportunity to see the Northern Lights in wintertime and the never-ending days in summer.