

The Single Gourmet

Iceland Tour Oct 8-15, 2018.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Tuesday Oct 9: Reykjavik

Arrival in Keflavik airport early in the morning and transfer to Reykjavík. Breakfast at Satt restaurant, Hotel Natura. In the afternoon a 3-4 hours city tour. We will see the old harbor, Parliament building, The cathedral and Concert hall Harpa. Enjoy tasting of Icelandic cuisine in visits at Cafe Loki and Restaurant Höfnin by the harbor.

Dinner at Fiskmarkadurinn (Fish Market) in Reykjavík. Overnight at Hotel Alda.

Day 2: Wednesday Oct 10: South Coast of Iceland

Here the journey to the countryside starts. Today we'll enjoy the beautiful south coast of Iceland. We'll see two waterfalls, Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss. After lunchbreak we are going glacier hiking on Sólheimajökull with a licenced glacier guide. After the glacier we will head to the black sandy beach of Reynisfjara and stop at the village of Vik.

Dinner at Hotel Katla. Overnight: Hotel Katla, Vik.

Day 3: Thursday Oct 11: Glacier Day

This is glacier day, with a drive east from Kirkjubæjarklaustur to Skaftafell and Jökulsárlón, that are located in the largest national park in Europe, Vatnajökulsþjóðgarður. We take an exceptional ride among broken icebergs on a duck boat on the Glacier Lagoon, and explore the Diamond Beach, with icebergs on black sand.

Dinner at Restaurant Halldorskaffi, Vik. Overnight: Hotel Katla, Vik.

Day 4: Friday Oct 12: The Golden Circle

Today we'll head west and explore the sights of the famous Golden Circle. First we stop at Kerið crater. We'll see the big and beautiful Gullfoss waterfall and visit the nearby Geysir geothermal area with the spouting hot spring Strokkur. Further west we'll visit Þingvellir, where Icelanders established their parliament in 930. The parliament is located in the Rift Valley, between North American and Euro-Asian tectonic plates.

Dinner at Hotel Hamar. Overnight: Hotel Hamar, Borgarnes.

Day 5: Saturday Oct 13: Snæfellsnes Peninsula

On this day we'll drive to Snæfellsnes Peninsula, where we'll see magnificent beaches, possibly some seals at Ytri Tunga, lava formatted bird cliffs at Arnarstapi, and a black pebble beach at Djúpalónssandur. In the northern section of the Peninsula we'll see Kirkjufell, the most photographed mountain in Iceland.

Dinner at Matur og Drykkur. Overnight: Hotel Alda, Reykjavik

Day 6: Sunday Oct 14: Blue Lagoon and Whalewatching

Today we will dip into the biggest hot tub in the world. Blue Lagoon visit is an experience of a lifetime. In the afternoon we are going whalewatching from Reykjavik harbor, with a chance to see some humpback whales or minkies.

Dinner at Lava restaurant in The Blue Lagoon. Overnight: Hotel Alda, Reykjavik.

Day 7: Monday Oct 15: Reykjavik and Departure

“Grab and go” breakfast bag. Includes a sandwich, skyr (Icelandic yogurt), muesli bar, juice and coffee or tea. Transfer to the airport early in the morning.

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What to pack

Layers, layers, layers! Come prepared for all types of weather.

Iceland's weather is as varied as its incredible landscape. Pack smart and stay warm and dry with the quick tips below.

ALL-SEASON ESSENTIALS

Here's a sample packing list of items you should bring with you regardless of the time of year you're travelling:

- Fleece jacket/lightweight wool sweater
- Rainproof/windproof jacket
- Rain pants
- Sturdy walking shoes with a good tread/grip
- Gloves
- Scarves
- Hat (toque/beanie)
- Swimsuit
- Thermal underwear (specifically for highland travel/activities)
- Waterproof hiking boots (specifically for highland travel/activities)
- Warm socks (specifically for winter and highland travel/activities)
- Quick-dry towel (for visiting pools and hot springs; towels are available for rent at swimming facilities)

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Practical things:

Climate Without the Gulf Stream, the whole country would be covered with a sheet of ice. The average temperature of the warmest month is about 12°C (54°F) and of the coldest month about 0°C (32°F). It is usually considerably colder in the mountains and extreme North. The weather can change very abruptly and sometimes you can experience all weather conditions during the same day. Although we highly recommend that you bring warm, wind-, and waterproof clothes, we also suggest lighter clothes for nice weather.

Driving in Iceland is on the right-hand side of the road. A switchover from left-hand driving took place in 1968. Road signals follow the international pattern.

Time Zone: GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) is a constant in Iceland the whole year round.

Emergency The emergency telephone number in Iceland is 112.

Banks / Exchange Foreign currencies are changeable in all banks. Banks in Iceland are generally open on weekdays from 09.00 – 16.00 (9 am – 4 pm). ATM's are quite spread. All major credit and debit cards are commonly accepted. One krona is the monetary unit. Coin denominations are: 1, 5, 10, 50, and 100 kronur. Banknotes: 500, 1000, 5000 and 10000 kronur.

Media There is a great variety of radio stations to choose from, and a few television domestic channels. Many hotels and accommodations also offer satellite connections. An amazingly great number of newspapers are published in Iceland and foreign newspapers are available newspaper stands and bookstores.

Tax Free Shopping Purchase amount must be ISK 6.000. - or more (VAT 24% included) on one sales slip. The refund is approx. 14% of the total amount. Shops offering tax-free conditions are clearly marked.

Medical Services Citizens of Scandinavia must show valid medical insurance and passport in case of a medical emergency. Citizens of EEA countries must have the E-111 form, or they will be charged in full. The medical services in Iceland rank among the best in the world and are rendered all over the country. Inoculations are not required, except for those who arrive from areas infested with infectious diseases such as cholera, small pox, yellow fever etc.

Electricity In Iceland, the electricity is 220 volts, 50Hz, AC.