

## SMALLGROUP TRAVEL ICELAND GREAT ADVENTURE 2020

**In this rich wilderness experience, travel off the beaten path to Iceland's uninhabited interior of otherworldly volcanic landscapes. With a special 4x4 mountain coach, you'll be able to explore rarely visited areas as well as classic nature highlights.**



### **DAY: 1 29 July 2020 Arrival**

Meet and greet at Keflavík airport. Drive to Reykjavík for check-in at your accommodation. Transfer is based on a group arrival.

**Overnight stay in Reykjavík. Dinner is on your own.**

*Please note guaranteed early check-in is not included in the price. Most hotels begin check-in around 14:00 (2:00pm).*

**Approximate Driving Distance: 52 km (33 miles)**

### **DAY: 2 30 July 2020 Reykjavík City tour – Blue Lagoon**

Breakfast at your hotel. Discover first-hand the colorful capital of Reykjavík with a sightseeing tour. Catch the city's energetic vibe through top visitor attractions like the visually stunning Harpa Concert Hall and the Parliament on bustling Austurvöllur Square; and enjoy panoramic views from the city's main landmark, Hallgrímskirkja church. Uncover a wonderful mix of old and new exploring the Scandinavian charms preserved in the colorful buildings of the old town Center and the modernity of the trendy harbor district.



Set in a black lava field, is the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa, a lagoon filled with warm mineral-rich seawater that provides the ultimate interaction and relaxation with Iceland's raw nature. Bathe in the lagoon and enjoy a sauna with lagoon views, a cosy steam-bath carved into a lava cave, and an energizing geothermal massage waterfall. Be on the lookout for white buckets located throughout the lagoon which contain the famous silica-mud. Rub some of this onto your skin to soften it, an essential part of the Blue Lagoon spa experience.

**Return to Reykjavik where the evening is at your own leisure. Dinner is on your own.**

*Approximate Driving Distance: Reyjavík tour about 3 hours, Blue Lagoon 60 km (35 miles)*

*To Live is to Travel.....share the experience!*

**DAY 3: 31 July 2020 Þingvellir – Gullfoss – Geysir**

*UNESCO World Heritage site with Geological Wonders – The beautiful Golden Falls - Exploding Geysers*

Breakfast at your hotel. This leisurely first day begins with a visit to Þingvellir National Park, the ancient site of the world's oldest continuous Parliament and a jewel of Icelandic nature. Next travel to the nearby Geysir geothermal area and witness boiling pools and hot springs. The most active geyser, Strokkur, shoots water high into the air every few minutes. Then it's onward to the beautiful Gullfoss "Golden waterfalls", considered by many Icelanders to be the most impressive falls in Iceland.



**Dinner and overnight stay in Hvolsvöllur area.**

*Approximate Driving Distance: 215 km (134 miles)*

**DAY 4: 1 August 2020 Vík – Dyrhólaey – Kirkjubæjarklaustur**

*Thundering Waterfalls – Puffin Colony – Black Sand Beaches of the South Shore – Lava Fields*

Breakfast at your hotel. Admire two classic waterfalls, Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss, before enjoying great views from the Dyrhólaey\* headland, where thousands of seabirds nest during the summer. Take a lunch stop in the area of Vík village before crossing the Mýrdalssandur outwash plains of Katla volcano. After passing through the vast Eldhraun lava field, the largest lava flow on earth since the end of the Ice Age, you'll reach Kirkjubæjarklaustur village for your overnight.



**Dinner and overnight stay in Kirkjubæjarklaustur area for the next 2 nights.**

*Approximate Driving Distance: 229 km (143 miles)*

**DAY 5: 2 August 2020 Jökulsárlón – Skaftafell**

*Glacial Lagoon with Icebergs – Europe's Largest National Park – Europe's Largest Glacier*

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you'll be in the largest national park in western Europe, Vatnajökull National Park. The day starts with a drive through beautiful scenery towards Vatnajökull, the largest glacier in Europe. Circumnavigate around the Öræfajökull volcano and Iceland's highest peak, Hvannadalshnjúkur, enjoying the vast views. Your journey east today takes you to Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon, where huge icebergs dance around in icy seawater. You will go on a boat tour among the icebergs during your stay at the lagoon. At Svínafellsjökull glacier, you will enjoy magnificent views of the Skaftafell glacial area, also a part of Vatnajökull National Park. Return to Kirkjubæjarklaustur for the evening.

**Dinner and overnight in Kirkjubæjarklaustur**

*Approximate Driving Distance: 260 km (162 miles)*

**DAY 6: 3 August 2020 Landmannalaugar**

*Multicolored Mountains of the Interior – Lava Fields – Hot Springs River – Hekla Volcano*

Breakfast at your hotel. Today it's time to turn inwards towards Iceland's wild highland heart! Meander along the Fjallabaksleið interior track to Landmannalaugar, an astonishing area surrounded by colorful rhyolite mountains. Geothermal activity flourishes here, and you will have the opportunity to soak outside in a naturally-heated geothermal river. The surreal beauty of the uninhabited interior reveals deep valleys and sculptured, often mossy, mountains. Many of these mountains were formed by volcanic eruptions under glaciers during the Ice Age.



**Dinner and overnight stay in the Þjórsárdalur area.**

*Approximate Driving Distance: 260 km (162 miles)*

**DAY 7: 4 August 2020 Sprengisandur**

*Uninhabited Interior and Black Sand Desert*

Breakfast at your accommodation. Today discover more hidden treasures of Iceland's uninhabited interior as you travel along the central Sprengisandur route. This track is a vast, barren black desert connecting the north and south. With only rough tracks and un-bridged glacial rivers, you'll certainly appreciate the excellent skills of your driver to navigate the rugged passage between the glaciers. This historical track full of legends takes you north, emerging into civilization again in the volcanic Lake Mývatn region.

**Dinner and overnight stay in the Lake Mývatn area for the next 2 nights**

*Approximate Driving Distance: 315 km (196 miles)*

**DAY 8: 5 August 2020 Tjörnes – Ásbyrgi – Lake Mývatn – Dettifoss**

*Glacial River Gorge – Europe's Most Powerful Waterfall – Geothermal Activity – Rich Birdlife*

Breakfast at your hotel. Ahead is a fully-packed day of wildly varying landscapes. Travel through the charming fishing town of Húsavík and around the Tjörnes peninsula, just at the edge of the Arctic Circle. Explore the lush vegetation growing in the horseshoe-shaped canyon of Ásbyrgi. Vikings believed it was a hoof-print left by Sleipnir, Odin's eight-legged flying horse from Norse mythology. The journey continues to Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall, which is located in the awe-inspiring Jökulsárgljúfur canyon. Next travel to the unforgettable Lake Mývatn area, a geological wonderland and paradise for bird watchers. Some of the most visually bizarre attractions in the region are the mud pits of Hverarönd, and the still-warm lava fields of Krafla, teeming with lava flows, fissures and explosion craters.

*Approximate Driving Distance: 260 km (162 miles)*

**DAY 9: 6 August 2020 Akureyri – Skagafjörður**

*Waterfall “Of the Gods” – Iceland’s “Capital” of the North – Viking Horses*

Breakfast at your hotel. Visit historical Goðafoss, one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country, before continuing to Akureyri, the vibrant “Capital of the North.” Enjoy some free time in Iceland’s second largest community. You might visit the delightful botanical gardens and take a swim in the local geothermal pool. Maybe you will visit the cultural Listagil area that is known for its culture, art and fine food. Later today, the route continues to the Skagafjörður district, known as the traditional heart of horse breeding in Iceland. This fjord also boasts many historical sites from the classic Sagas.



**Dinner and overnight stay in the Laugarbakki area.**

*Approximate Driving Distance: 295 km (184 miles)*

**DAY 10: 7 August 2020 Hvammstangi – Eiríksstaðir – Snæfellsnes Peninsula**

*Fertile Farmlands – Birthplace of Leif Eiríksson – Quaint Fishing Villages*

After a delicious breakfast, the journey continues through rolling farmlands and across Laxárdalsheiði heath to the Viking Age house at Eiríksstaðir. This was the original home of Erik the Red and the birthplace of his son Leif Eiríksson, who discovered North America. In a replica of a grass-roofed longhouse, you will meet modern day Vikings who will demonstrate daily life from 1000 years ago, sharing their crafts and knowledge. Afterwards, travel through small seaside towns on the northern coast of the Snæfellsnes peninsula.



**Dinner and overnight stay in the Snæfellsnes area.**

*Approximate Driving Distance: 185 km (115 miles)*

**DAY 11: 8 August 2020 Snæfellsjökull National Park**

*Snæfellsjökull Glacier – Pebble Beaches – Sea Cliffs with Birdlife*

Breakfast at your hotel. Today is spent exploring the amazing variety of natural landscapes in Snæfellsnes National Park. Undoubtedly the crowning jewel is Snæfellsjökull glacier itself, which covers a dormant volcano that last erupted in 250 AD. Walk along the uniquely-pebbled seascape of Djúpalónssandur beach. At the picturesque harbour village of Arnarstapi, observe magnificent basalt rocks in stacked formations and take a walk along the hiking trail linking the settlements of Arnarstapi and Hellnar before driving back to Reykjavík.



**Overnight stay in Reykjavík. Dinner is on your own at one of Reykjavík’s many restaurants.**  
*Approximate Driving Distance: 345 km (215 miles)*

**DAY 12: 9 August 2020 Departure or free pre-cruise day.**

**Unguided transfer to Keflavík Airport for a free day. This will be reviewed once numbers are established.**

*Approximate Driving Distance: 52km (33 miles)*

### **COST PER PERSON BASED ON TWIN SHARE**

Minimum of 11 people \$8630 per person

Single supplement \$1850

Minimum of 13 people \$7880 per person

Single Supplement \$1850

Minimum of 15 people \$7350 per person

Single Supplement \$1800

### **INCLUDED:**

- Meet and greet at Keflavík International Airport upon arrival and transfer to hotel in Reykjavík times based on group arrival.
- Guided coach tour as per itinerary
- Departure transfer without guide
- Accommodation 3 nights with breakfast and with private facilities in Reykjavik
- Accommodation 8 nights with breakfast and with private facilities in the countryside
- 8 dinners in the countryside
- Packed lunch on day 6
- Boat tour on the Glacial Lagoon (day 4)
- Bathing fee at Landmannalaugar Hot spring-fed river (day 5)
- Bathing fee and towel at Mývatn Nature Baths (day 7)
- Admission to Sigurgeir's Bird Museum (day 7)
- Entrance to Eric the Red museum (day 9)
- Comfort package at the Blue Lagoon (day 2)

NOT INCLUDED:

- Breakfast on arrival day
- Dinners in Reykjavik
- Lunches (except for Day 6)
- Beverages with meals other than coffee/tea and fresh tap water
- Guide at departure transfer
- Guide service during dinners
- Optional tours and activities
- Porterage at airport and hotels\*
- Guaranteed early check-in or late check-out
- Any service not specifically listed under "included"

**Note:**

All rates are per person in AUD. Should there be a significant difference in the AUD rate, prices may need to be adjusted.

Transfers are based on all passengers arriving together. If your transfer is outside of this time, additional charges may apply.

Duration for excursions mentioned in the descriptions are approximate, and can vary for operational reasons.

SmallGroup Travel is not responsible for visa and vaccination regulations.

***Travel Insurance is mandatory to travel on a SmallGroup Travel tour.***

Conditions of Payment:

You are required to fill in the SmallGroup Travel Booking Form. Once completed you will receive and invoice with payment details. Surcharges apply for the use of a credit card.

A deposit of \$1750 per person is required to secure your reservation.

Full payment is required by May 1, 2020.

Please ensure you have read and understand SmallGroup Travel Privacy Policy and Booking Conditions.

<https://www.travelmanagers.com.au/terms-and-conditions/>

I look forward to exploring this great destination with you.

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