

HIGHLIGHTS OF ICELAND - PRIVATE TOUR

MAY 23RD : ARRIVAL IN REYKJAVÍK

Arrival at Keflavík International Airport and welcome by your local English speaking guide. Transfer in a private minibus to Reykjavík with City Sightseeing Tour on arrival.

REYKJAVÍK CITY SIGHTSEEING TOUR ON ARRIVAL (3 – 4 hours)

During this Reykjavik City Sightseeing tour we visit the main landmarks of the city but our first stop of the day will be at Álafoss Wool store and factory, established in 1896 and marked as the true beginning of Iceland's wool industry. Álafoss is located in the old factory house by the waterfall Álafoss that was used to drive the mills of the old factory, which for decades were the leading manufacturer and exporter of Icelandic wool products. There you can find a great selection of the popular traditional Icelandic wool sweater ("lopapeysa"), knitting wool yarn and almost any wool product you can think of as well as experience this important side of Iceland's industrial history in the form of the factory building and an exhibit of selection of old knitting machinery and photographs from the early days.

As our city sightseeing tour continues we drive through Laugardalur valley with its sports and recreation area and geothermally heated outdoor swimming pool and we also see Höfði house where the all-important summit between former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and former U.S.S.R. Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev took place in 1986. Next we go to the viewing platform at Perlan, which is built on water tanks that hold the cities hot water supply. After enjoying the spectacular view over Reykjavík and its surroundings we visit the harbor, Hallgrímskirkja church and next the old town center on foot where the Icelandic parliament Alþingi and the town hall are situated. Our last stop will then be at Harpa Music Hall and Conference Centre before the tour ends at our hotel for the night. The remainder of the day is free at own leisure.

*Hotel : Reykjavik Natura 4**



MAY 24TH : GOLDEN CIRCLE TOUR & FRIÐHEIMAR CULTIVATION CENTRE

This excursion introduces you to some of the best-known natural phenomena in Iceland; the Geysir area, Gullfoss waterfall and Thingvellir National Park, as we travel along the so-called Golden Circle route. Additionally, the tour includes a visit to the interesting Friðheimar Greenhouse Cultivation Center where you can learn about the magic behind growing delicious, pesticide-free tomatoes and cucumbers with the aid of the geothermal heat that Iceland has in abundance. We will also see a short horse show and visit the stables where we can get closer to the beautiful Icelandic horse. First we drive to Thingvellir National Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) which holds a special place in the hearts of Icelanders since many historically important events have taken place there through the centuries. Geologically it is also unique since this is where the American and Eurasian tectonic plates are slowly drifting apart and in the landscape you can clearly see the effects of the tectonic plate movements which have opened various cracks and fissures in the earth's crust. After taking a walk in the exceptional landscape of Thingvellir we continue our journey to the majestic Gullfoss waterfall and from there towards the famous geothermal area around the incredible spouting hot springs of Geysir and Strokkur. Here you will see numerous small springs boiling and bubbling and the Strokkur hot spring which ejects its water column high into the air every 5 – 10 minutes or so. Friðheimar Cultivation Center & horse show: Our next stop will be at Friðheimar where we can see how Icelandic farmers use Iceland's natural geothermal power to grow vegetables the whole year round. You will even get to taste the delicacy! In Friðheimar we will furthermore see a short professional display of the history and gaits of the Icelandic horse and visit the stables where we get an even more personal experience of this friendly horse. Return to Reykjavík.

Duration: approx. 8 – 9 hours

Included : Tour in a private bus with local English speaking guide & a visit to Friðheimar greenhouses & stables and short horse show (approx. 1 hour stop)

Not included: meals or other refreshments



MAY 25TH : FREE DAY IN REYKJAVÍK OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Free day at leisure.

Please refer to pages 4 to 7 for optional tours.

MAY 26TH : FREE DAY IN REYKJAVÍK OR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Free day at leisure.

Please refer to pages 4 to 7 for optional tours.

MAY 27TH : HALF DAY EXCURSION BLUE LAGOON

Pick-up from hotel and private transfer (no guide) to the famous Blue Lagoon.

The Blue Lagoon is a unique geothermal spa situated in the youngest lava field in west Iceland. The Blue Lagoon offers many recreational options such as bathing in the milky blue water, enjoying an outdoor massage or spa treatment (needs to be booked in advance), or simply walking in the spectacular surroundings of the Lagoon. On site there is also a fantastic restaurant with á la carte menu, a smaller cafeteria and bar, and the Blue Lagoon shop selling skin care products based on the unique blend of Blue Lagoon geothermal seawater active ingredients; minerals, silica and algae, as well as various Icelandic designer clothing and art.

Duration: approx. 4 ½ hours in total (2 ½ hour stop at the Blue Lagoon)

Included: Private transfers and Blue Lagoon COMFORT package

- ✓ Admission to the Blue Lagoon bathing area
- ✓ Silica Mud Mask
- ✓ Use of 1 towel
- ✓ 1st drink of your choice

Not included: Local guide, meals or other refreshments not mentioned in the program



MAY 28TH : DEPARTURE

Transfer to Keflavik airport, end of services.

OPTIONAL TOURS (SCHEDULED JOIN-IN TOURS, NOT PRIVATE)

Prices on demand

OPTION 1 : HORSE RIDING TOUR

Experience the Icelandic horse surrounded by amazing nature right outside Reykjavík's city center. Our friendly horses and specially trained guides will take you on a ride on excellent riding paths where you can experience the unique Icelandic horse while enjoying beautiful scenery full of lava fields and green hillsides. When we arrive back at the stables enjoy complimentary coffee, tea, and hot chocolate is available and feel free to ask our staff any questions about the Icelandic horse. This tour is ideal both for beginners and more experienced riders and is a



fantastic choice for a day-tour in Reykjavík. Before the Lava Tour starts we organize the groups according to riding skill level to ensure everyone gets an experience and adventure according to their riding skill level! The beginner group will mostly walk and the more experienced group will ride at a faster pace. If you like to gallop we recommend our Viking tour or Viking Express tour. At Íshestar we take pride in our personal service and limit group sizes to be 20 or below per riding group to ensure a safe and enjoyable tour for all of our guests. Our stables are located a short 20- minute drive outside of Reykjavík's city center. This horseback riding tour is a perfect way to experience the versatility of Icelandic nature in only 2 hours. Please note that the riding time is 1 ½ hour, total 4 hours with transfer.

Departures: Daily at 10:00 and 14:00 (pick up starts 1 hour before)

Duration: approx. 4 hours with transfer (1 ½ hour riding)

Included: Transfers, riding helmets, rubber boots, rainwear/warm outfit during the ride and English guidance during the tour

Not included: meals or other refreshments not mentioned in the program

Age limit: 8 years old

Weight limit: 110 kg / 242 lbs

OPTION 2 : CLASSIC WHALE WATCHING TOUR

Your whale watching adventure begins at the old harbour, just minutes away from the city centre, on board on one of the largest whale watching boats in Iceland! Fantastic inside and outside areas with plenty of space for everyone and a café & souvenir shop on board. This tour has an educational & interactive focus.

The whales that we can spot on our tours on Faxaflói Bay are mainly 4 types – Minke Whales, White-Beaked Dolphins, Harbour Porpoises and Humpback Whales. The guide will help you spot them on the tour and we ask that you help us as well. Please note that the tour is dependent on weather and sightings cannot be guaranteed, but in case of no sightings we do offer a FREE ticket to try again!

Departures: Daily from 15 May – 15 September at 09:00, 13:00 and 17:00

Duration: approx. 3 hour boat tour

Included: Whale Watching tour with English guidance on board the boat, warm floatable overalls provided for your comfort & safety, Wi-Fi, WC's on board

Not included: transfers, meals or other refreshments



OPTION 3 : SOUTH SHORE ADVENTURE WITH REYKJAVÍK EXCURSIONS

This tour is ideal for nature lovers of all kinds. We take you along the south coast of Iceland, one of the country's most scenic regions, as far as Vík, a charming village surrounded by high beautiful bird cliffs. Among the stops on this tour are at the gorgeous Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls. Seljalandsfoss is part of the Seljandsá river, which has its origins in Eyjafjallajökull glacier. What makes Seljalandsfoss so famous and interesting is that you can walk behind it. We recommend you bring either a raincoat or a waterproof coat along if you want to walk behind it. Skógafoss, another famous Icelandic waterfall, is the starting point of the Fimmvörðuháls walk over to Þórsmörk. The waterfall was also used in the films Thor: The Dark World and The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.

We will also stop at Reynisfjara black sand beach, with the Reynisdrangar rock formations and columnar basalt. It is one of the most spectacular beaches in Iceland but can be dangerous, and we kindly ask our guests not to go too close to the ocean and go by guidelines.

Additionally, we will stop by Sólheimajökull and walk up to a small lake which has formed in front of the retreating glacier.

Departures: Daily at 09:00

Duration: approx. 10 hours (pick up is 30 minutes before departure)

Included: hotel pick up and scheduled tour according to itinerary with English guidance

Not included: meals or other refreshments



OPTION 4 : LANGJÖKULL ICE CAVE EXPERIENCE

Visit a unique and remote man-made ice cave in Langjökull, one of Iceland's largest and most spectacular glaciers. You begin the tour by bus from BSÍ Bus Terminal and drive to the lush Húsafell area with stops at Europe's most powerful hot spring Deildartunguhver and the beautiful Hraunfossar lava waterfalls. After a lunch break in Húsafell, we head on up to Langjökull, partly in a specially modified glacier vehicle. It will take us almost to the top of the glacier, where we enter the magnificent cave.

Going into the glacier is an unforgettable trip which takes place in one of the world's greatest wilderness. Imagine standing on an ice cap reaching 200 metres below your feet!

Departures: Daily at 09:00

Duration: approx. 9 hours

*Included: scheduled tour according to itinerary with English guidance, approx. 2 – 2 ½ hours
Monster Truck ride on Langjökull glacier, admission to the Ice Cave*

Not included: meals or other refreshments

NOTE: remember to dress warmly & wear sturdy footwear

