

Ultimate Iceland Adventure ★ 4.37 42 Reviews

## Ultimate Iceland Adventure

11 Days

14 People Max



*Experience authentic Iceland as you hike and explore remote landscapes on our Ultimate Iceland Adventure.*

There's no doubt you'll be left speechless as you roam Iceland's vast landscapes on our 11-day Ultimate Iceland Adventure. With local experts leading the way, you'll hike to view puffins ('Lundi'), explore a lagoon in Vatnajökull National Park, and admire Öxarárfoss, Gullfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls. While it's no secret that Iceland is a feast for the eyes, what you may not know is how fascinating Icelandic people are. You'll witness their self-sufficiency and learn about their proud Viking heritage. In fact, their language today is very similar to what it was during the Viking Age! Iceland is commonly ranked as one of the happiest nations in the world, so prepare to have this attitude rub off when you're out and about exploring with the locals. Especially after enjoying a three-day hike through the Eastern Fjords, staying in stunning cabins, and indulging in hearty Icelandic cuisine.

### *Trip Highlights*

Hiking - Eldfell Volcano

Hiking - To wild puffin colonies

Hiking - Multi-day Fjord hike

Plus ... - Reykjavík "Smokey Bay"

Plus ... - Þingvellir & Vatnajökull National Parks

Plus ... - Vestmannaeyjar Islands

Plus ... - Iceland's famous waterfalls

Plus ... - Jökulsárlón Lagoon

## Our Active Adventures Assurance

We value loyalty, and appreciate that it goes both ways. So when you book with us we'll make a few assurances to you so you can book with complete confidence, no matter what's happening in your life (or the world).



**COVID-Ready Certified: Safe Travel for our Guests Travelling Overseas**  
Active Adventures has received the World Travel and Tourism Council's Safe Travels stamp, which guarantees you that we'll follow all ATTA and WTTC health and safety guidelines on all our trips. See how our small group, off-the-beaten-track adventures are perfect to start exploring again.

# Ultimate Iceland Adventure ~ Itinerary

## DAY 1

### Arrive Reykjavík

Our trip begins in Reykjavík, the world's northernmost capital and Iceland's cultural hub. If you've flown in this morning, you'll be free to make your own way from Keflavík International Airport to the city. Bear in mind you won't be able to check in to your hotel until 2 pm, so we recommend unwinding after your flight at the famous Blue Lagoon hot pools that are on the way to Reykjavík - remember to keep your swimwear handy! After dropping your bags at the hotel you'll have some free time to take in the vibrant streets - grab some last-minute gear at the many outdoor clothing stores or explore the harbor. Later, we'll all meet at the hotel bar for a trip briefing and a welcome drink, where you'll get to know your fellow travelers and guides before having a delicious meal in a local restaurant. You might find your first evening a little strange, to be strolling around in daylight!

#### **Hotel Reykjavik Centrum, Reykjavik (Dinner)**

## DAY 2

### Explore Þingvellir National Park

Today the adventure really begins, as we head northeast to Þingvellir National Park, home to Iceland's first National Assembly. We'll stretch our legs at our first waterfall called Öxárafoss ('foss' is Icelandic for waterfall). As strange as it may sound, this is actually a human-made waterfall, as the water was diverted, back in the 9th Century, to provide members and visitors of the Icelandic parliament 'Althingi' with water. There are further fascinating folklores about this region that you'll soon discover! After enjoying a traditional Icelandic meat soup for lunch we'll continue towards the highlands, with stops to learn about Iceland's Laugarvatan cave people, and view the original Geysir Nature Reserve and the Gullfoss waterfall.

#### **Flúðir Hótel, Flúðir (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** We'll explore the Nature Reserve, so do as much or as little as you like.

## DAY 3

### Visit the Vestmannaeyjar Islands

This morning we'll journey south down the coast to board a ferry. Our scenic crossing takes us to the bustling fishing port of Haeimaey, the only inhabited island in the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago. This tiny island hosts a recent, rich volcanic history that we'll learn about at the world-class Eldheimar Exhibition. After fuelling up the body we'll experience the lava fields with a volcanic hike to the Eldfell peak. At the top, you'll be rewarded with views across to the mainland and a further appreciation for the 1973 eruption.

#### **Hótel Vestmannaeyjar, Vestmannaeyjar (Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 2 kilometers (1.2 miles), 2-3 hours, elevation +/- 200 meters (656 feet)

**Hiking:** Optional Hike: 1.5 kilometers (0.9 miles), 0.5-1 hour, elevation +/- 200 meters (656 feet)

**Hiking:** Optional Hike: 1.8 kilometers (1.1 miles), 0.5-1 hour, elevation +/- 150 meters (492 feet)

## DAY 4

### Hike and explore Seljalandsfoss & Skógafoss Waterfalls

After returning to the mainland we'll take a hike to the top of Iceland's most famous and spectacular waterfalls; first to Seljalandsfoss (where we can also walk behind the falls) and then to Skógafoss. After lunch, we'll hunt for stone trolls along the wild and beautiful South

Coast - these trolls occupy an immense portion of Icelandic folklore, described as big, stupid, and greedy, but sometimes kind and wise... Our journey continues alongside the soaring sea cliffs and moss-covered lava fields, where we'll be able to see the infamous E15 'Eyjafjallajökull' Volcano, Vatnajökull ice cap, and its outlet glaciers. Tonight, we'll relax in a wonderful, locally-run guesthouse.

#### **Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon, Öraefi (Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 0.5 kilometers (0.3 miles), 0.5-1 hour, elevation +/- 20 meters (65 feet)

**Hiking:** 5 kilometers (3 miles), 1-2 hours, elevation +/- 90 meters (300 feet)

### DAY 5

#### Hike the Ingólfshöfði headland, spotting 'Lundi'

Pack your binoculars this morning as we're looking for 'Lundi', also known as puffin, Iceland's iconic and beloved bird. As we hike the high sea cliffs of the Ingólfshöfði headland we'll also catch glimpses of guillemots and skuas. Please note, in September the puffins will have gone out to sea. However, we'll still enjoy this adventurous hike. After our hike and a bite to eat, we'll head off to view yet another waterfall, known as Svartifoss, where nearby there are views across Falljökull Glacier, where you can opt (at time of trip booking) to hike on the glacier with specialist guides (extra fee applies). Afterward, we'll regroup and head back to our accommodation, for another relaxing evening.

#### **Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon, Öraefi (Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 3 kilometers (1.9 miles), 2.5-3 hours, elevation +/- 200 meters (656 feet)

**Hiking:** 5.5 kilometers (3.4 miles), 1-2 hours, elevation +/- 100 meters (324 feet)

**Notes:** Optional Ice hike on Falljökull Glacier (extra fee applies): An alternative option to the afternoon's waterfall hike is to strap on crampons, pick up an ice axe and hike on the Falljökull Glacier! Led by specialist glacier guides you'll explore amazing ice formations checking out the crevasses, seracs, tunnels, and pools of glacial meltwater - no previous experience is required! The constant movement of the glacier means every day is different, so your guides will cut steps in the ice and make sure you make the most of the conditions. The ice hike is popular, so this option must be selected at the time of booking.

### DAY 6

#### Visit Jökulsárlón Lagoon, hike Múlagljúfur Canyon

After breakfast we'll take a short drive to the hidden canyon Múlagljúfur where we'll hike along this magnificent canyon to visit two beautiful waterfalls Hangandifoss and Múlafoss, offering breathtaking views along the way. After the hike we'll enjoy lunch then make our way to Jökulsárlón Lagoon, a photographer's dream, and a spot where you may see seals playing amongst the icebergs. After hiking the entire length of Iceland's shortest river (blink and you'll miss it), we'll end up on the beach surrounded by stranded icebergs. We continue to the small town of Höfn for dinner and overnight.

#### **Berjaya Iceland Hotels (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** Iceland's shortest river, around 2-3 hours

**Hiking:** Múlagljúfur Canyon, 5.7 kilometers (3.6 miles), Elevation + 367 meters (1,204 feet), 3 hours

**Notes:** If you're short on time, this is where the 7-day 'Classic Iceland Adventure' finishes.

### DAY 7

#### Hike from Seyðisfjörður to Loðmundarfjörður Hut

This morning we'll journey northeast to the small town of Egilsstaðir. We'll continue onto the deep fjord, the harbor of the coastal village of Seyðisfjörður, to begin the multi-day hike on the Víknaslóðir hiking trail. Set out over green mountains and plateaus, we'll hike down to the

uninhabited Lodmundarfjörður, which was, for many years, one of the most isolated and inaccessible communities in Iceland. Tonight we'll be in one of Iceland's charming backcountry cabins, our first along the trail, and we'll be warmed by the log fire that keeps this cabin cozy!

#### **Loðmundarfjörður hut (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 15.2 kilometers (9.5 miles), 5-7 hours, elevation +/- 600 meters (1970 feet)

### DAY 8

#### Hike to Inlet Húsavík

Our day will start with a walk to the old chapel at the foot of the beautiful fjord, then we'll continue along the north seashore of Lodmundarfjörður. Loðmundarfjörður fjord is an impressive valley, that, at the turn of the 20th century, was home to 100 people thanks to rich farmlands and accessible fishing grounds. The hike leads through the massive Loðmundarskriður, formed thousands of years ago when the adjacent mountain literally burst forth. Situated in the southernmost creek of the Víknaslóðir hiking trail, at the foot of the Skælingur Peak. For those still with energy, there's another optional walk after dinner, down to the beach to visit a quaint church that was in service until the seventies.

#### **Húsavík Cabin, Inlet Húsavík (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 15 kilometers (9.3 miles), 5-6 hours, elevation +/- 600 meters (1,970 feet)

### DAY 9

#### Hike to Inlet Breiðuvík

We continue south this morning, over another low mountain range towards Inlet Húsavík. If weather permits today, we'll take a side hike up Mount Hvítserkur, a peak that certainly stands out in this region, with its light-colored grey/yellow. This is a challenging, optional hike, though offers the best way to soak in the views of the Eastern Fjord! This afternoon we end up in another deserted inlet known as Breiðavík, where we can enjoy the calm lapping of the Atlantic waves on this stunning and colorful beach. The only building in the area is our cozy home for the evening, a backcountry cabin in a stunning green valley, surrounded by rhyolite hills. You'll be blown away by the emptiness of this place, and if you're here later in the season, the starry night sky - you won't find light pollution out here!

#### **Breiðavík Cabin, Inlet Breiðavík (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 13 kilometers (8 miles), 5-7 hours, elevation +/- 550 meters (1,804 feet)

### DAY 10

#### Hike toward Borgarfjörður Eystri, return to Reykjavík

On this last day, we'll hike out of Breidavik inlet, toward the picturesque little village of Borgarfjörður Eystri. After a decent hike, we'll continue via vehicle and take time to explore the puffin colony at Hafnarhólmi once we arrive. Nearly 10,000 pairs of puffins nest every summer here and this is probably the easiest and safest place to watch puffins in Iceland. We'll take the short drive back to Egilsstaðir (the village we passed through a few days ago). Believe it or not, there's actually an airport here, so after some refreshments, we'll take a short 1-hour flight back to Reykjavík. We'll be staying back in the Hotel Reykjavik Centrum, which as the name suggests, is centrally located, meaning you'll have a final chance to easily explore this vibrant and small city. We'll share our last night's meal together at a local restaurant - a perfect opportunity to relive the adventures shared together with new-found friends.

#### **Hotel Reykjavik Centrum, Reykjavik (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 10 kilometers (6 miles), 3-4 hours, elevation +/- 380 meters (1,246 feet)

## DAY 11

### Return home

This morning breakfast will be provided at the hotel, and if you're flying home today you're free to make your own way to the Keflavík International Airport.

#### **No Accommodation (Breakfast)**

## Useful Info

### Where does the trip end?

Your trip ends after breakfast and you're free to fly out any time. You'll need to organise your own transfer to Keflavik International Airport (KEF) in time for your departing flight.

### Where does the trip start?

On the first day of the trip, we'll meet you at the [Hotel Reykjavik Centrum](#) hotel bar in the evening for welcome drinks and a briefing at 5pm before dinner. You are welcome to book your pre-trip stay at this hotel directly or any other hotel in Reykjavik , though you must make your own way to the Hotel at the pre-designated time.

### Is tipping expected in Europe?

Tipping is not expected in Europe however you might want to tip a little extra if you feel someone gave really fantastic service, but it's not really necessary. Many of our people also choose to tip their Active Adventures Europe trip leaders and local guides and we recommend USD\$20 per day, per guest, per Trip Leader/guide. You are welcome to tip an equivalent amount in the local currency. There are plenty of ATM's and banks in the larger towns of Europe.

### What flights would you recommend?

**Arrival:** We recommend arriving in Reykjavik by 4pm. Many guests like to arrive a day or two early to accommodate potential flight delays and/or explore the city prior to your trip start.

**Departure:** Flying out on the last day of the trip, you can fly out anytime after breakfast.

### How fit do I need to be?

As an [Activity Level 3-4](#) trip, you'll need a solid level of fitness for this trip. We'll get you into the back country to experience Iceland up close so you'll need a reasonable level of fitness to enjoy yourself. While you don't have to be extremely fit, you should be in the habit of doing regular aerobic exercise, ideally involving some up hills and down hills and perhaps even carrying a pack! With a little preparation before your trip begins, you'll enjoy the active and outdoor nature of your trip all the more. Please head to our [Fitness Guide](#) for great tips on how to prepare along with a workout plan!

## What accommodations do we stay at on this trip?

We've selected the accommodation on this trip for the unique character and adventuresome feel – this trip is not designed as a tour of the fanciest hotels in Iceland. We prefer to stay in quaint, country B&B's and modern hotels, with the exception of the multi-day hike in the Eastern Fjords when we stay in backcountry cabins for three nights, these rustic buildings have furnace heating and showers.

If you've selected a single supplement for your trip, the multi-day hike is not included as no single rooms are available in the cabins, and the single supplement price takes this into account.

While there maybe opportunities to do laundry during the trip, if need be, they won't be convenient. Laundry can be quite expensive (usually around 1600Kr ~ US\$15 per 2kg and takes 24 hours) so if you need to do this the best time will be in Oraefi on Day 4.

## Tell me about the optional activities on this trip?

You have the option to take an alternative adventure to the Svartifoss waterfall hike and strap on crampons, pick up an ice axe and hike on the Falljökull glacier! No prior experience is required, everything you need is supplied, and as long as you can hike, you can glacier hike!

The three hour excursion is led by specialist glacier guides, you'll explore amazing ice formations checking out the crevasses, seracs, tunnels and pools of glacial meltwater - no previous experience is required! The constant movement of the glacier means every day is different, so your guides will cut steps in the ice and make sure you make the most of the conditions. The ice hike is popular, so we offer advance reservations with the guiding company.

At the time of booking, or up until one month before your trip, we can reserve a space for you, or you can leave your decision until the start of your trip and your guides will get you a spot, if it's available. A good level of fitness is required and the following equipment is provided for you: glacier boots, socks, crampons, ice axe and a waterproof raincoat.

You'll need to bring three warm upper body layers, leggings or lightweight trousers, waterproof trousers, sunglasses, sunscreen, some snacks and a small drink bottle. This is not a fast activity, as walking with a group and continually cutting steps in the ice can be time-consuming. This is however a unique experience.

NOTE: If you have (or have had) a heart condition or ACL Knee surgery then you may be refused this activity on arrival.



## Tell me about the Eastern Fjord multi-day hiking

We'll be out in the Borgarfjörður county wilderness area for four days and three nights. You'll be hiking a one way track from hut to hut carrying a day pack. You'll need to carry your own gear for the day, (warm jacket, rain gear, water, packed lunch etc) while your other hiking gear will be transported for you by vehicle to the hut's.

The three day trek is a remote one way hike along the Víkur Hiking Trail. While it might be a bit of a challenge, the rewards are well and truly worth it! The first day we'll start by hiking up from Seydisfjörður over green mountains and plateaus to Loðmundafjörður hut. The following morning we'll continue north, reaching our hut for the night at the foot of the Skælingur Peak and the third day we'll head to Inlet Breiðavík for our final night on the trail. The final day we'll head toward Borgarfjörður valley to meet our vehicle to take a short drive back to Egilsstaðir where we'll take a flight to Reykjavík. The trek is close to sea level so you won't be dealing with any altitude factors.

The trail is 43 kilometres (27 miles) in total length and we average around 7 hours or 14 kilometres (9 miles) per day.

The trails are very well maintained so finding your way is never a problem.

During the trek you'll be spending three nights in mountain cabin's. These unique cabins are open to the public and are warm, dry and comfortable. They're located in very remote areas (with amazing scenery) so they don't have private rooms, electricity or phones however there's a shared outhouse with hot showers and flushing toilets - and the view from the outhouse is second to none! This really is Iceland's wildest country and you'll meet and share the experience with other mountain adventurers and explorers.

You'll be carrying a day pack of around 40 litres (2500 cubic inches) in volume. Your pack needs to be large enough to fit the following gear inside -strapping things to the outside of your pack is not recommended in Iceland. Your other gear will be transported for you by vehicle to the huts each day.

In your day pack you'll carry your rain jacket/pants, warmer layers, camera, some snacks, a packed lunch, some water (1-2 litres) and any other personal items inside.

## How much luggage can I bring on this trip?

You are allowed one piece of luggage on your trip, plus a daypack. Your main piece of luggage should not exceed 50 pounds (23 kilograms) and can be anything from a duffel bag to a sports bag with wheels or a suitcase. You'll also want a good quality backpack sized 25-30 liters (2000 cubic inches) to use throughout the days.

You'll also need an overnight trekking pack for the multi-day hike on the Víkur Hiking Trail, though your daypack could double as your overnight trekking pack if you bring along a 30-40 litres size (2000- 3000 cubic inches). Your overnight trekking pack needs to be large enough to carry your rain jacket/pants, warmer layers, camera, some snacks, a packed lunch, some water (1-2 litres) and any other personal items inside, and your other gear will be transported for you by vehicle to the huts each day.

## How do rooming arrangements work?

Trip prices are based on shared arrangements (typically two guests per room), unless otherwise stated. For solo travelers, we'll pair you with another person of the same gender to share rooms and if there's no one suitable to share with, there's no forced single supplement. However, if you specifically request your own rooms, you can opt to pay the single supplement. Solo travelers who book within 90 days of departure, where there are no other solo travelers willing to share, will be required to pay the single supplement.

For Family Vacation bookings, families consisting of four guests traveling with children aged 17 and under will be automatically assigned one shared room. However, the following alternative rooming allocations are available:

Families consisting of four guests with all children aged 13 and above are welcome to opt for additional rooms as per advertised double occupancy adult rates.

Families consisting of four guests with at least one child aged 12 and under are automatically assigned a shared room. However, families can opt to pay the adult rates for all guests in their family to have an additional room.

The same principles apply for families consisting of more than four guests.

Rooming preferences are subject to availability and must be communicated in writing at time of booking. Automatic assignments as per this policy will be applied in the absence of any specification provided by guests. Any request for additional rooms during trips will be at guests' own expense and subject to rates made available by the accommodation provider at the time. All minors (guests aged 17 and under) must be accompanied by at least one adult.

## What is not included?

Flights to and from trip start/end points

Pre/Post accommodation

Optional extra activities

Travel insurance

Gratuities for your guides

Rental gear

## General Trip Information

You can find details on recommended flights and fitness, as well as trip start and end in the 'Useful Information' section above.

### Accommodation

Our trips focus on getting you outside for the best adventure activities in the most stunning parts of Europe. We choose our accommodation very carefully, but it's by no means a tour of the fanciest hotels on the continent. Some of the places we stay are quite luxurious and other places - like the mountain lodges in the Dolomite Mountains - are relatively basic, but in truly spectacular locations!

### Included

- Our own highly experienced guides and leader, with you from start to finish
- Industry-leading Guest-to-Guide ratio (averaging 6:1)
- Your own 'Travel Wallet', an online space with everything required for your adventure
- Our knowledgeable Customer Service Team to answer your queries - just a phone call, email or chat away
- Customer Service pre-trip phone calls to ensure you're 'trip ready'
- All accommodations for the duration of your trip
- All meals except where indicated in the itinerary
- Unlimited snacks to keep you fueled
- Flights as outlined in the itinerary
- All activities outlined in the itinerary
- All necessary equipment (well-maintained and safe) for activities, including bikes (where bike rides are applicable)
- All gratuities for hotels, restaurants, and activities
- All park and other entry fees
- Transportation in our air-conditioned vans - safe, clean, modern, and comfortable!

### Itinerary Updates

We update our itineraries regularly, so please check our website for the most up-to-date itineraries and pricing. We make every effort to ensure itineraries are updated as necessary, though changes may occur without prior notice due to unforeseen circumstances.

### Outdoor Experience

Our trips allow you to make the most of the back country, whether you're relatively new to hiking or a seasoned trekker. Our highly trained and experienced trip leaders will be at your side, safely guiding you to magnificent places that you wouldn't get to on your own. The challenges are there, if you're looking for them, all we ask is that you be energetic and in reasonable shape and we guarantee you'll have an incredible time. You don't need kayaking experience to enjoy paddling on the water and you don't need to be a serious cyclist to enjoy most of the rides we do. In fact, we have so many options available that you don't need to ride or paddle at all if you'd rather hike or just laze around! We hold all relevant licenses and permits, and have an impeccable safety record. So with all the research, logistics, safety and hospitality taken care of, you can focus on the most important thing - making the most of your vacation!

### Excluded

- International/Domestic Flights and transfers to start/end point
- Optional additional activities
- Travel insurance
- Alcoholic beverages
- Additional equipment available to rent as per your itinerary
- Gratuities for your guides at the end of your fabulous trip