

EXPLORE!

Family Winter Iceland Adventure

8 days

Iceland - Trip code FWI



Family Winter Iceland Adventure

This adventure allows us to explore the stunning natural beauty of Iceland's volcanic landscape with its snow-covered glaciers, steaming geysers and lava fields. We also have the opportunity to experience an earth quake simulator, learn survival skills in winter landscapes, enjoy a Viking heritage centre, walk on a glacier and watch wildlife and whales in their natural habitat. If we are lucky, we may even experience the natural phenomenon of the Northern Lights. Please note, some of the activities may not be able to be operated on the nominated days due to weather conditions. **TRIPLE ROOMS** This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on a selected number of night stops within the holiday. If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Earthquakes and Geysers** - Experience a powerful earthquake simulator and visit the spouting waters of Geysir
- ★ **Waterfalls and Glaciers** - Visit the stunning falls at Gullfoss and walk on the Solheimajokull Glacier
- ★ **Snowmobile Safari** - Enjoy a snowmobile adventure through the frozen landscapes
- ★ **Whale Watching** - Search for minke and humpbacks in the cold waters off the Icelandic coast
- ★ **The Blue Lagoon** - Relax in the mineral rich thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:

10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join tour Reykjavik

Reykjavik, the Icelandic capital, is a city that lies at the cultural and economic heart of the island. Today Reykjavik enjoys a reputation as the world's northernmost capital and one of the cleanest and greenest cities on earth - all its heating and hot water are from geothermal energy. On arrival you'll have some free time to enjoy a little of Reykjavik's unique and vibrant buzz. Please note, the Explore Leader will meet the group on Day 2 with a driver picking each family up at the airport and advising where to dine in the capital that evening. Please note; there are two transfers that can be offered today, one in the mid-afternoon and the other in the early evening to allow this service to be offered on most flight arrival times - please inform Explore which transfer you would like to be on.



Accommodation: Guesthouse Sunna (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Visit an earthquake simulator, Geysir hot springs, Gullfoss waterfalls and Optional snowmobile

After meeting the Explore Tour Leader, we visit the Hveragerdi Greenhouse Village, where you'll have a chance to experience a powerful earthquake in an earthquake simulator (6 on the Richter Scale) as part of the exhibition. We then travel to the geysers at the Geysir Geothermal Area. It was these spouting hot springs that first introduced the term 'geyser' to the Europeans back in the 18th century and its main attraction, the formidable Strokkur (The Butter Churn), shoots to an impressive height of some 30 metres about every 10 minutes. We have the option to have an hour long snowmobiling trip travelling across the white snowfields and stunning scenery of Iceland's interior on Iceland's second largest glacier, Langjokull. The snowmobiles are two seated touring sleds with hand warmer and high wind shield and you will also be provided with overalls, helmets, boots and gloves when undertaking the trip. The minimum age to drive the snowmobile is 18 years old thus any child under this age sits on the vehicle as a passenger. A valid

driving license is required to drive and we ask that you bring a valid licence with you. Continuing on to the spectacular 'Golden Falls' of Gullfoss, you'll then visit what is considered to be one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the world. After the excursion we'll continue on to our charming, and beautifully located, country guesthouse for a two night stay.



Accommodation: Kjoastadir Farm (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Winter survival lesson, visit the Seljandsfoss Waterfall and walk on the Solheimajokull Glacier

We head for a winter survival lesson given by the Icelandic Search and Rescue team who will teach us a few tips on how to survive in these harsh environments before heading to the breathtaking setting of the Seljandsfoss Waterfall where we enjoy the rare opportunity of walking behind the 60 metre high falls. You'll also visit the nearby falls at Skógafoss, where legend has it a coffin full of Viking gold is buried, before continuing on to the Solheimajokull Glacier. In the company of an experienced mountain guide, you'll then enjoy a safe and easy hike across this ice giant, wandering through a dazzling landscape of ice sculptures, ridges and deep crevasses. The final visit of the day will be to the black beach at Vik I Myrdal, whose basalt cliffs and windswept vistas provide some great photo opportunities.



Accommodation: Kjoastadir Farm (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Visit a working farm and a Viking heritage centre

Our first stop today will be at Bjarteyjarsandur farm in Hvalfjordur (whale fjord). Set against the backdrop of a spectacular fjord, the farm provides a chance to try our hand at mussel picking and sample some of the local food, before we head on to the Viking Heritage settlement at Borgarnes. A unique innovative multimedia experience, the centre brings to life the world of the Vikings, allowing you to experience first hand the thrill and excitement of a voyage into the unknown, before we depart for the Saefellsnes Peninsula.



Accommodation: Farmhouse Stori Kalfalaekur (or similar)



Standard Farmstay




Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 5 - Explore the Snaefellsnes Peninsula and cave adventure

Steeped in legends and myths, the beautiful and rugged landscapes of the Snaefellness Peninsula are dominated by the imposing Snaefelljokull Volcano, the setting for Jules Verne's 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth'. We try out our included caving exploration session located in the Snaefellsjokull National Park. The excursion follows a 200 meter path into the cave which is 35 meters below the surface and where you can view the amazing colours and lava formations of the 8,000 year old cave. A helmet and flashlight are provided.



Accommodation: Farmhouse Stori Kalfalaekur (or similar)

 Standard Farmstay

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Waterfalls and Hot Springs. Drive to Reykjavik and a Viking necklace decoration lesson.

This morning we'll drive into the valley of Borgarfjordur, with its multitude of natural springs and birch covered lava fields. Setting for the famous Egil's Saga, this is home to the magnificent cascades of the Hraunfossar Falls, which appear to flow from the very rock of the Hallmundarhruan lava field. We'll also visit the nearby falls of Barnafoss (The Waterfall of the Children), whose bizarre rock formations come straight out of Icelandic folklore. Our journey back to Reykjavik then takes in the impressive Deildartungguhver, one of the largest hot springs in the world and Akranes where we visit the local museum and everyone make their own Viking Necklace before we head down through the Hvalfjorrour Tunnel which takes us over 160 metres beneath the icy waters of the fjord above towards the capital. This will be the final day that the Explore Leader is with the group.



Accommodation: Hotel Viking (or similar)

 Standard Hotel

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Morning optional horse riding trip. Afternoon whale watching trip

A free morning offers a chance to enjoy some leisurely sightseeing around the Icelandic capital, with the option to take a horse riding excursion, or perhaps enjoy a stroll through the colourful neighbourhoods of the city. This afternoon you will be picked up from the hotel and driven to the old harbour where we join our expert guides on a whale watching trip out into the bay. These waters provide a rich haven for a myriad of seabirds as well as minke and humpbacks, white-beaked dolphins and harbour porpoises which all often surface close to the boat. Please be aware that whilst there is every chance that we will enjoy some extraordinary encounters with these gentle creatures, this is a natural wildlife excursion and, as such, each trip is unique and we cannot guarantee what you might see.



Accommodation: Hotel Viking (or similar)

 Standard Hotel

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Swim in the Blue Lagoon and the drive to Reykjavik Airport

This morning, we travel to the airport stopping off to enjoy the unique spa waters of the Blue Lagoon, one of Iceland's most popular attractions. Located in the middle of a lava field on the Reykanes Peninsula, this extraordinary lagoon is fed by warm geothermal waters that provide a wonderful experience for both the body and the mind. After enjoying the mineral rich waters, we'll then continue on to the airport, where your tour ends. Please note there can be two transfers arranged today, one leaving in the morning to travel to the Blue Lagoon and then onto the airport for flights departing around 4pm and a second that would leave the capital later and travel via the Blue Lagoon to catch the evening flight.

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

Family information

Minimum age

8

Why book this trip

This tour is perfect for families wanting a winter adventure with a difference - there are numerous included activities within the itinerary and a number of unusual experiences that will give your family a flavour of our Icelandic neighbours culture and traditions. Experience an earthquake simulator and visit the spouting waters of Geysir as well as learn how to decorate a Viking necklace, visit a working farm, walk on a glacier and learn winter survival techniques from a rescue team.



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7
Lunch: 1



Transport

Boat
Minibus
On Foot



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Boat Crew
Driver(s)



Accommodation

2 nights standard farmstay
2 nights standard guesthouse
3 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

Iceland Holidays & Tours

Climate

Iceland has a cool and temperate climate and, despite its location just south of the Arctic Circle, its northerly latitude is counteracted by the warm waters of the North Atlantic Drift which encircles the island. Temperatures in winter can fluctuate between about 10°C and -10°C and precipitation in the form of rain, sleet or snow is to be expected at any time. Days will be short, with daylight often only guaranteed between about 11 am and 4 pm in December. The best time for seeing the Aurora Borealis is October to March. Summer is generally cool with average temperatures for June and July around 12 - 15 degree centigrade in Reykjavik, although is known to be warmer in other parts of the country. In June and July you can enjoy continuous daylight and see the Midnight Sun, whilst late spring and early autumn offer long twilights.

Time difference to GMT

0

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

National Church of iceland

Language

Icelandic

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Snowmobile at Langjokull Glacier - ISK 25,200 per adult. ISK 12,600 per child age 6 to 11 Horse riding from Kjoastadir - ISK 12,500 Horse riding in Reykjavik including pick up - ISK 14,500

Clothing

Weather conditions can change rapidly - sunshine, drizzle, rain and snow may all occur in the same day. Temperatures can drop to -20 degrees centigrade. You'll need warm clothing for outdoors and cold evenings watching the Aurora Borealis. A warm wind and waterproof jacket and trousers are essential. Thermal layers, jumper, hat, gloves, thick socks and scarf are all important.

Footwear

Walking boots with sturdy tread and trainers. Soft indoor shoes are recommended as it is normal in Iceland to have special house shoes.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a small daypack.

Equipment

We recommend you bring a small torch, sunglasses and a medical kit. We also recommend taking your camera and to get the best pictures of the Northern Lights it is advisable to take a tripod and use a camera with a long-exposure setting. A towel will be provided at the Blue Lagoon and the Nature Baths for use during your visit.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Tipping is not a recognised part of life in Iceland and most bills in restaurants, taxis etc. will already automatically include gratuity.

Country Information

Iceland Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price

£18.00 - 24.00

Beer price

£4.00 - 6.00

Water price

£2

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Icelandic Krona (ISK).

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Both GBP and USD are readily exchanged at banks and post offices.

Where To Exchange

Both GBP and USD are readily exchanged at banks and post offices

ATM Availability

Cash can be drawn on credit cards from ATM's in Reykjavik and at the airport.

Credit Card Acceptance

Most shops and restaurants take credit cards.

Travellers Cheques

Can be exchanged at banks and post offices.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Boat, Minibus, On Foot

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

While in Reykjavik we use a hotel which is located in the centre of the city and within walking distance from Hallgrímskirkja (the City Cathedral) and the bars and restaurants of downtown. The accommodation has great views of the city from its roof top balcony

café and also boasts a bar and Wi-Fi. In south Iceland, we stay on a renovated country farm lodge (which used to host live stock) with shared facilities. This is a charming place and great for kids with a variety of animal's on the site to meet including horses, goats and other farm animals. In Snaefellsnes, we stay at a guesthouse with en-suite facilities located on the southern side of the peninsula. A unique swimming pool with warm geothermal waters of up to 35°C is within walking distance. We return to the Reykjavik area and stay the last two evenings in a Viking styled hotel which has en-suite facilities. The decor of the rooms and general interior is styled on a Viking and West Nordic style with art and crafts from Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Due to the recent considerable rise in tourism in Iceland, hotels are experiencing very high demand for rooms and there have been some occurrences of overbookings, which are often notified to us at a late stage. For this reason, we would like to emphasise that hotel accommodation is subject to change, which may result in the need to alter your night stops with little or no notice. Explore are working closely with our team on the ground to minimise changes to accommodation, although in the case of unavoidable hotel changes, we will endeavour to always provide accommodation of the same or a higher standard.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Iceland: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US or Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Non refundable permits

Iceland Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory; tetanus recommended. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.
