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Family Iceland Yurt Adventure

ICELAND - TRIP CODE FHY

FAMILY

Why book this trip?

On this action-packed short break designed for teenagers we stay in the heart of the action in Iceland's Golden Circle. We've blended some of the best scenery this incredible country has to offer with adventurous activities for the whole family to enjoy.

- **Nattura Yurtel** - Spend three nights sleeping in comfortable custom-made Mongolian yurts located on a working horse farm. The yurts have views of Strokkur Geyser, a constant reminder of why Iceland is called 'the land of fire and ice.'
- **Whitewater rafting** - Experience the thrill of rafting the Gullfoss canyon surrounded by majestic scenery.
- **Glacier hike** - Explore the black sand beaches of Iceland's south shore. Hike on Solheimajokull glacier.



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 4



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Driver(s)



TRANSPORT
Minibus



ACCOMMODATION
1 nights
comfortable hotel
3 nights
comfortable yurt



TRIP PACE:
Moderate



GROUP SIZE:
10 - 16

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join trip at Keflavik Airport

Our trip begins at Keflavik Airport at 4:30pm. If you would like to join the complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Keflavik Airport (KEF), with your flight arriving by 4pm. The transfer to the city takes approximately 45 minutes and follows a pretty road along the coast. There are no other activities planned today. Should you wish to arrive at another time you can obtain a ticket for the FlyBus service locally with regular departures to Reykjavik.

Reykjavik is the world's most northerly capital was established by the Norse chieftain Ingolfur Amarson around the year 874AD. It is a wonderful mix of traditional houses clad in corrugated iron and modern architecture. There are plenty of green spaces but the highlight is walking along the waterfront. Fishing has long been Iceland's main industry and watching the ships coming in and out of the harbour shows us the lifeblood of this small island nation. The city has numerous options for children to enjoy, including the fly over Iceland 4D experience and Saga Museum.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Klettur (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Reykjavik city tour, Thingvellir National Park and Laugarvatn lake.

This morning after breakfast the adventure begins. Our Leader plans to meet us in the hotel reception at 9am for the welcome meeting, before we check out and head into town.

Driving out past the university, drive to a viewpoint to get our first orientation of Reykjavik and its natural harbour. Continue to the 'white beach' and take a stroll along the waterfront to blow away the cobwebs. Later in the morning we head downtown on foot, visit Reykjavik's striking cathedral and stroll around the lake known as Tjornin where duck, geese, swan and arctic terns can be observed at close quarters.

Following our walking tour there is time to explore the city centre under our own steam and get some lunch. An Icelandic speciality is a hot dog served on a warm, steamed bun and topped with raw and crispy fried onions, a sweet brown mustard called pylsusinnep, and remoulade; a sauce made with mayo, capers, mustard, and herbs. Just ask for a hot dog with 'all the works.'

Leaving the capital after lunch we make a brief stop at the harbour, which is always busy with trawlers and other vessels. Continue to Thingvellir National Park, with Lake Thingvallavatn bordering it on the south side and a mountain range to the north. The setting is spectacular, being featured in the popular TV series Game of Thrones. Thingvellir National Park is of great interest to geologists, as it sits astride the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the great cleft in the Earth's crust that separates the Eurasian tectonic plate from the North American plate. We take a walk along the rift valley separating the two continental plates and learn about the Viking history of this ancient land.

En-route to our yurt camp, make a stop at Laugarvatn to witness traditional bakery, where rye lava bread is pot baked for 24 hours using ovens powered by geothermal activity. Next door is a warm lake, a local swimming pool with hot tubs heated geothermally and the upmarket Fontana Spa. There is time for a swim before we continue.

Our base for the next three nights is Nattura Yurtel, built in 2019 and set on a working farm, close to Gullfoss Falls. The accommodation comprises of 10 custom-made yurts, which are traditionally Mongolian in structure but have been designed and furnished with an Icelandic twist. These round tents are comfortably furnished with twin beds, toilets and sinks with the added comfort of under-floor heating. Showers are located in a separate block and there are two large communal yurts to relax in.



ACCOMMODATION:
Iceland Yurts (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Yurt



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Explore Iceland's south shore and the waterfalls at Skogafoss and Seljalandsfoss. Glacier walk on Solheimajokull Glacier

Today we have a packed day exploring the best of southern Iceland.

Start the day driving through the Eyjafjallajokull region, where in 2010 a volcanic eruption caused the now-infamous ash cloud, disrupting worldwide air travel for several days. The volcano is now quiet again and your Leader will be able to talk about the impact the eruption had on the local community.

We'll spend time at Seljalandsfoss waterfall. Weather permitting, we'll have the chance to walk behind the curtain of water! The pathway shows off the falls from the front, then circles around the back and emerges on the other side. Continue to one of Iceland's tallest waterfalls, Skogafoss. Standing at 62 metres tall it's an impressive sight, and if we are lucky with the light we should spot rainbows in the spray.

Our final stop this morning is Vik I Myrdal, a rocky beach with incredible basalt cliffs. The beach is often incredibly windy and there are great photo opportunities of the waves crashing against the cliffs.

After some lunch drive to Solheimajokull glacier. Rather than view the glacier from the windows of our bus, we have the opportunity to get up close and personal. Heading out to the glaciers terminal moraine we put on a set of crampons and are given an ice axe, to allow us to walk on the glaciers surface. After a full safety briefing head onto the glacier with our experienced local guide to wander through a dazzling landscape of ice sculptures, ridges and deep crevasses made by glacial melt-water. Witnessing the power of nature first hand is a magical experience and a great fun educational experience for the whole family.

We'll make our way back to our yurts for the evening to relax and make the most of the beautiful, rural setting.

Why not end the day with a optional visit to the Secret Lagoon natural hot springs just down the road from our yurt camp. Unlike the Blue Lagoon, this pool has been kept to its natural surroundings. The warm water holds 38-40 Celsius year round and there are several geothermal spots and a little geysir which erupts every 5 minutes. Opening hours are 11am-8pm Oct-May and, 10am-10pm Jun-Sept. See the budgeting section for entry prices to the Secret Lagoon.



ACCOMMODATION:
Iceland Yurts (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Yurt



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Discover the highlights of the Golden Circle: Gullfoss falls and Strokkur Geysir. White water rafting on the Hvita River.

After a long day touring yesterday, all the activities today are located close to our yurt camp. After a leisurely breakfast our first stop is Haukadalur, home of the Great Geysir. With the claim-to-fame of being the first spouting spring known to Europeans, Geysir has given all such springs their name. However, it is the Strokkur, meaning 'The Butter Churn', which is the main attraction these days, due to its impressive 30 metre eruptions every few minutes.

Its a very short drive to our next activity and one of the highlights of the trip, whitewater rafting on the Hvita River. Please note that a strict minimum age of 11 applies to this activity.

After a comprehensive safety briefing at the rafting centre head onto the water with our experienced river guides, and begin rafting down the glacier river that feeds off Langjokull Glacier, Iceland's second-

biggest glacier. Wetsuits and all equipment is provided and no previous experience is needed. One of the highlights is passing through the rapids of Bruarhlo canyon, at the end of which we get to take a dip in the water.

At the end of the raft relax in the sauna or hot tub. There is the option (at additional cost) to enjoy a delicious lamb BBQ and enjoy a beer or soft drink at the bar, for the adults in the group there is also there is also the chance to taste some locally produced beer.

Mid afternoon return to the yurt camp. The changing weather in Iceland gives a great excuse to relax and watch the changing light on the landscape from the comfort of your yurt. Alternatively spend time wandering around the farm, which is home to over 100 horses.

Late evening we drive the short distance to Gullfoss, the Golden Waterfall, regarded by many as one of the most beautiful falls in the world. It cascades into a deep gorge with tremendous force, its spray forming colourful rainbows in the soft evening light. Visiting late into the evening allows us to enjoy this magnificent waterfall without lots of other tourists.



ACCOMMODATION:
Iceland Yurts (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Yurt



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Trip ends at Keflavik Airport

We'll have an early start this morning. After a light breakfast we'll say farewell to our hosts and travel back to Keflavik Airport (KEF) where the trip ends at 9:30am. The earliest time your flight can depart is 11:15am.

If you would like to add more time to explore Reykjavik we encourage you to book additional nights after the tour. If you decide to do this we will drop you in the city centre at 9am today to save you an unnecessary journey back out to the airport. The FlyBus shuttle offers a convenient way for you to travel back to the airport at the end of your trip, and you can buy tickets directly from the driver.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Iceland

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	Plugs	Religion	Language
0	2 Pin Round	National Church of iceland	Icelandic

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Horse riding - 6000 ISK per hour. Horse riding can be booked for an hour or a full day, typically a two-hour ride gives a great taste. It is suitable for complete beginners and is a very relaxed pace, all about enjoying the landscape.

Secret Lagoon - 3000 ISK per person entrance fee, 700 ISK towel rental and 1000 ISK for transport there and back. Relax in this natural hot springs, with the water temperature around 38 degrees all year round and a small geyser that erupts every few minutes which you can watch as you soak in the water.

Clothing

In Iceland weather conditions can change rapidly - sunshine, drizzle, rain and snow may all occur in the same day. You'll need to take warm clothing for outdoor activities so pack layers. A good quality heavy duty wind and waterproof jacket and trousers are essential and in winter add thermal layers to your packing list.

We recommend taking walking boots with a sturdy tread or trainers. Soft indoor shoes are recommended as it is normal in Iceland to have special house shoes.

Equipment

Iceland

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.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£12.00-16.00	£18.00 - 24.00	£4.00 - 6.00	£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

Minibus

Accommodation notes

Our accommodation for this trip is the unique Nattura Yurtel, where we stay in custom-made Mongolian yurts which are located on a working horse farm. The farmers, Asa and Hjalti will welcome us onto the farm and give us a true insight in to rural life in Iceland.

Each yurt is one room - which is 6m in diameter and is fitted out with twin beds which can be pushed together to create a double. A number of yurts have day beds in them as well as comfortable chairs. To ensure that the glamping experience is as comfortable as possible every yurt has a toilet, which is discreetly housed in a small curtained area, as well as a sink area which has hot and cold water - towels are provided. There is a small fridge in each yurt, as well as a kettle along with tea and coffee.

Showers and further toilets are available in a separate block on the site.

Simple traditions are maintained at the Yurtel - for example all yurts are 'shoe free' (you may want to bring along some slippers for your stay), and everyone is encouraged to step into the yurt 'right foot first' as this is the traditional way.

There two large communal yurts on the site which are furnished with comfy sofas and have plenty of space to relax after a day of exploring. Both of these yurts have large viewing windows built into them, and so are ideal places to watch the northern lights in the winter, whenever the free light show decides to make an appearance.

Breakfast is served each morning in one of the communal yurts - look out for recycled table made from a left over from the construction.

The second communal yurt, which includes reception - has more of a bar-type atmosphere, and is where evenings are spent chatting and looking out through the viewing windows towards Geysir. Whilst this yurt has a bar-feel, it is very much a case of 'bring your own' to the bar, as drinks are currently not served there. So make sure you take advantage of the excellent value duty free shopping on arrival at Keflavik airport

Currently (Aug 2019) there is no Wi-Fi at the Yurtel, but there is very good 3G coverage. Even with this coverage there is no doubt that Nattura Yurtel is an ideal place for a digital detox.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety 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, Commonwealth & Development 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.

Price Guarantee

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](#)

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 receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

Iceland

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory; tetanus recommended. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Family information



Wild landscapes around Vik



Explore Yurt camp in the summer

Triple Rooms: This trip allows the option for a limited number of triple rooms to be included for the whole trip. Three yurts have a sofa bed that can be used as an extra bed. If you would like this option, please ask our Sales team for further information.

Average Age: Due to the nature of the activities on this trip the minimum age is 11 years

old. Based on similar family trips, the projected average age on this trip is likely to be around 14 years old.

Additional Information



Why book this trip

Iceland is a small country packed full of natural wonders, from dramatic waterfalls to towering cliffs on the south shore. This short break explores the Golden Circle highlights, staying in comfortable yurts. Being based close to Gullfoss Falls offers the chance to visit Iceland's most popular site away from the crowds and day trippers.

Iceland is known for experiencing a whole range of seasons on any given day, but as a visitor there are two specific seasons to consider when you choose when to travel. If the Northern Lights are on your bucket list then travelling in the winter months is essential. With their long hours of Darkness October, November, February and March are typically the best months to see the Northern Lights.

Travelling in the summer months means long hours of daylight, in June and July it doesn't go dark at all! These long days are ideal for exploring at a relaxed pace then spending the evenings spent outside soaking up the endless views of Iceland's incredible landscape.

Reviews



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