



EXPLORE!

Reykjavik Short Break
4 days

Iceland - Trip code IA

Reykjavik Short Break

A short trip that is big on experiences - explore raw, natural wonders and harsh, rugged volcanic landscapes that are rarely found anywhere else on the planet. Discover shooting geysers; experience the thermal warmth of the Secret Lagoon and the ice-cold spray of the spectacular Gullfoss Waterfall. Continue the adventure with the chance to take a super-jeep journey across lava fields and through glacial rivers.

Trip highlights

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Itinerary

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

What's included?

Trip information

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

0

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

National Church of iceland

Language

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.

All optional activities can be arranged upon arrival with your Explore Representative.

Reykjavik - year-round:

Super-jeep tour to Thorsmork - 36,000 ISK (minimum four participants required).

Whale watching from Reykjavik Harbour - 9,900 ISK without a pick-up transfer service or an extra 2,000 ISK to have transfers arranged.

Horse riding tour for 1.5 hours - 11,400 ISK. (Please allow three hours including transfers).

Into the Blue, snorkelling in Silfra Fissure in Thingvellir National Park - 22,990 ISK including pick-up. The trip will last about four hours including snorkelling for between 45-60 minutes. Snorkelling equipment will be provided for you including a mask, snorkel and dry suit with neoprene hood, gloves and shoes. All you need to bring with you is some warm thermal layers (preferably fleece or wool) and a towel to dry off. We do suggest bringing a change of clothes with you, just in case. For those of you that wear glasses, you won't be able to wear your normal glasses with the snorkelling mask. For this reason, we would suggest wearing contact lenses.

Reykjavik - summer only:

Puffin tour from Reykjavik Harbour - 6,000 ISK.

Reykjavik - winter only:

Northern Lights tour with Reykjavik excursion - 6,400 ISK (please note that this is weather permitting and it is not guaranteed that you will see the Northern Lights). From mid-November to mid-January it may be dark early enough to see the Northern Lights on your return journey on the super-jeep tour. If not then it will be necessary to go on this excursion if you would like the opportunity to try and view them.

Clothing

In Iceland weather conditions can change rapidly - sunshine, drizzle, rain and snow may all occur in the same day. You'll need warmer clothing for outdoor activities and cooler evenings, so pack layers. A good quality wind and waterproof jacket and trousers are essential.

In winter we'd suggest packing thermal underwear, fleece under trousers, a fleece jumper, a heavy duty waterproof and windproof jacket, waterproof trousers, woolly hat, scarf, gloves (and glove liners for when you're taking photos). You may also find ski trousers or salopettes and a ski face/neck mask useful.

You'll also need to bring a swimming costume and towel for the Secret Lagoon.

If you are planning to join a whale watching excursion then, no matter the time of year, we recommend wrapping up warmly as it can be very chilly out at sea, so take a woolly hat, scarf, jumper and gloves with you.

Footwear

We recommend taking walking boots with a sturdy tread and also trainers. Soft indoor shoes are recommended as it is normal in Iceland to have special house shoes. For the Secret Lagoon you may also find a pair of flip flops useful.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage, and a small daysac.

Equipment

We recommend you bring a small torch and medical kit. The sun can be very strong, so take a sun hat, sunscreen and sun glasses. Iceland is one of the most photogenic places on the planet and there are lots of different birds to admire, so we'd suggest taking binoculars and a camera with a spare memory card and battery.

Tipping

Local crew

Local Representative - Tipping is not a recognised part of life in Iceland for meals etc. though if you do wish to tip your local representative (entirely at your discretion) it will no doubt be appreciated.

Country Information

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.

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

Bus, Public Bus

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.

On this short break we use simple accommodation. The majority of hotels in Iceland are decorated in a plain style and many weren't originally built as hotels, but were instead converted from things such as old schools. Rooms can be small and the facilities can be basic. Most accommodation won't have hairdryers or teas and coffee making facilities in the room and some may not have a television, but the scenery outside is so stunning that after a busy day exploring you're unlikely to miss having one. In our accommodation in Reykjavik you will have rooms with private bathroom facilities.

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.

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 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.

Included activities

There's no getting away from the fact that Iceland is an expensive destination, eating out can be pricey and the standard of accommodation you can get for your money is probably lower than you'd expect in most other European destinations. But having said this Iceland is one of our favourite places, as it is just so unique and there are so many incredible natural wonders to see, that you come home with amazing memories they tend to eclipse the cost of having gone there in the first place, but it's important to know what to expect and to budget accordingly. Please do take note of the accommodation rating, food and drink sections of our trip notes.

Please note that on our New Year departure date that three dinners are included. One of which will be at your hotel and the others at local restaurants.

Non refundable permits

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.