

# Iceland



# The Land of Northern Lights

A short winter trip to Reykjavik and into the  
Icelandic countryside.

*Northern Lights*

2018

5 days

Adventure.com

During the day we explore Southwest Iceland, known for its natural wonders and cultural sights. See glittering glaciers, snow-clad mountains, giant lava fields, steaming hot springs and beautiful waterfalls. Bathe in the mineral rich geothermal waters of the Blue Lagoon, walk on a black lava beach, visit Icelandic horses on their farm, photograph idyllic turf houses and travel close to the famous Eyjafjallajökull volcano. This short getaway to Iceland offers insight into Iceland's nature and cultural life, with two nights in Iceland's capital and two nights in South Iceland, an ideal location for the search for the Northern Lights. Also called Aurora Borealis, they are visible in the northern sky from September through April when the sky is clear and free of clouds.

**Budget holiday offering excellent value for money**

**Must-see nature: the Golden Circle, the South Coast and the Blue Lagoon**

**Visit to Skógar folk museum with turf houses**

**2 night stay in South Iceland, ideal for Northern Lights hunting**

**2 evenings with a combination of lectures, presentations, film and guided searches for Aurora Borealis**

**Optional Northern Lights fjord cruise (weather dependent) may be offered on day 4**

**Choice between budget and comfort hotels**

**Day Zero, Mon or Wed:**

**Leave the US** on overnight flight on Icelandair

**Day 1, Tues or Thurs: Welcome to Iceland**

The Flybus shuttle takes travelers from Keflavik International Airport their accommodations in Reykjavik. We provide you with ideas how to explore Iceland's capital on your own.

**Day 2, Wed or Fri: Reykjavik City Tour, Blue Lagoon & the Reykjanes Peninsula**

At 9:00 meet your tour guide who will show you the highlights of Iceland's exciting capital. Then head out to the Reykjanes Peninsula with its hot springs, mountains, bird cliffs, light houses and

fishing villages. At the end of the day, you get to soak off your travels in the warm mineral waters of the famous Blue Lagoon. Spend the next two nights in simple cottages in South Iceland. In the evening you'll hear about the Northern Lights from your tour guide at Árhús Cottages. Naturally, once darkness falls you are out in the garden waiting for the Northern Lights.

**Day 3, Thur or Sat: South Iceland**

Today you'll travel along the south coast to reach the active volcano that is beneath the Eyjafjallajökull glacier. There is a short stop at the high but narrow Seljalandsfoss waterfall, which plunges from the mountain. There is a trail that goes

behind the falling water and offers interesting views, if you are prepared to get wet! At the seaside, you can stroll on the black lava beach to see the amazing bird cliffs at Reynisfjara near Vík. In the afternoon visit one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country; the 60 meter high Skógafoss waterfall. It is next to one of Iceland's finest folk museums, which contains an outstanding collection of farm and domestic artifacts from Iceland's past and several turf-built houses.

In the afternoon there is an optional glacier walk. The Sólheimajökull glacier tongue extends from the Mýrdalsjökull glacier, down to the sandy plains of the Icelandic south coast. The spectacular



## Land of Northern Lights Tour 2018

surroundings are marked by rugged and majestic rock formations thoroughly shaped by the glacier. On this fun, safe and easy glacier walk you get to explore the wonderland of ice sculptures, water cauldrons, ridges and deep crevasses on the breath-taking Sólheimajökull glacier. While enjoying all the features of the glacier and its spectacular surroundings, you will learn more about the behaviour of glaciers and their impact on nature. No technical requirements are needed for the tour as an experienced glacier guide will teach you how to use basic glacier equipment, - crampons and an ice axe. The unique experience of a glacier walk on one of the many retreating glaciers of the world is sure to leave lasting memories. This lasts about 3 hours in total, about 90 minutes on the ice and about 30-40 min walk (one-way) from the parking lot to the glacier itself. You must be at least 10 years old to join the glacier hike. Bring warm clothing, rain gear and hiking boots. The glacier hike can only be booked with the guide on day 2. The special price for the Land of Northern Lights group members is about ISK 14,000 (about \$135 per person); prices are subject to change. Payment is due with the glacier hike company on day 3 in Icelandic Krona - cash only!

If you booked the trip without the glacier hike, then the tour continues further south where you can stroll on the black lava beach to see the amazing bird cliffs at Reynisfjara near Vík. In the evening there is another presentation about the Northern Lights. If the night is clear, you might see the Northern Lights swirling in a wild and carefree dance across the heavens in dramatic shapes, colors,



patterns and sizes. The grounds around the accommodations are very dark and offer a good location for Northern Lights if the weather conditions are right. It requires patience, warm clothing and the excitement of “maybe there are Northern Lights”.

### Day 4, Fri or Sun; **Horses & the Golden Circle Tour**

In the morning you learn about the Icelandic horse, its special qualities and history and visit a geothermal greenhouse. Then you'll travel the Golden Circle route. See steam rising from the Geysir geothermal fields as you arrive. There is a variety of hot springs and bubbling pools. The original geyser is now dormant but has been replaced by Strokkur “the Churn” which erupts at 5-10 minute intervals. Continue on to Gullfoss, a double waterfall that tumbles 34 meters into the Hvítá River and attracts tourists and travellers in summer and winter. Head inland to Þingvellir National

### Prices per person 2017-18

#### **Budget**

**Double** \$2076

**Single** \$2271

#### **Comfort**

**Double** \$2384

**Single** \$3029

Toll free 888 686-6784 Email: [hn@icelandadventure.com](mailto:hn@icelandadventure.com)

Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before returning to Reykjavík for your last night. An optional Northern Lights evening cruise can be booked if the weather conditions are ideal.

### Day 5, Sat or Mon: **Farewell Iceland**

Individual transfer by Flybus airport shuttle from your accommodation in Reykjavík to Keflavík Airport.

**Price** includes: International airfare from Iceland's east coast gateways -BOS, JFK, Newark, PHL, Orlando-MCO; Arrival & departure airport transfer by FLYBUS Plus shuttle, Fully escorted 3-day bus tour with an English-speaking guide, 4-night accommodation, in rooms with private shower/wc, breakfast every day, 2 nights of the Northern Lights Academy with presentations about the Northern Lights entrance with towel at Blue Lagoon, Skógar folk museum and turf houses. Visit to Icelandic horse stables & geothermal greenhouse • **Not included** travel insurance, meals other than breakfast, nor any other activities or tours not specifically included.

*There are many things special about the Land of Northern Lights tour. Its a short but jam packed tour with many great Icelandic highlights in a few days. It also offers a choice of accommodations - you can book this tour as a Basic or Comfort level. Both kinds of hotels are typically Icelandic - clean, warm, friendly and with a hearty breakfast. The Basic hotels will give you more money to spend on other treats while in Iceland. The Comfort level hotels tend to have larger rooms with more amenities. Either choice is a good one!*



## Land of Northern Light Tour 2017 -2018

Two tour series -- one runs Monday to Saturday, the other Monday - Wednesday

*depart US - return US*

**Monday — Saturday**

Jan 8 - Jan 13

Jan 15 - Jan 20

Jan 22 - Jan 27

Jan 29 - Feb 3

Feb 5- Feb 10

Feb 12 - Feb 17

Feb 19 - Feb 24

Feb 26 - Mar 3

Mar 5 - Mar 10

Mar 12 - Mar 17

Mar 19 - Mar 24

Mar 26 - Mar 31

Apr 2 - Apr 7

Apr 9 - Apr 14

*depart US return US*

**Wednesday — Monday**

Dec 6 - Dec 11, 2017

Dec 13- Dec 18, 2017

Jan 3 - Jan 8

Jan 10 - Jan 15

Jan 17 - Jan 22

Jan 24 - Jan 29

Jan 31 - Feb 5

Feb 7 - Feb 12

Feb 14 - Feb 19

Feb 21 - Feb 26

Feb 28 - Mar 5

Mar 7 - Mar 12

Mar 14 - Mar 19

Mar 21 - Mar 26

Mar 28 - Apr 2

Apr 3 - Apr 9

Apr 11 - Apr 16

**ACCOMMODATION:** For this program we use budget accommodation in order to offer an attractive package price. You get great value for money. First and last night are at Guesthouse Borgartún in Reykjavík, offering 20 simple rooms with private shower/wc. Guesthouse Borgartún features a breakfast room and a sitting lounge with TV and guest computer. Guesthouse Borgartún is located about 5 minute drive to the center of Reykjavík. 2nd & 3rd night are at Árhús Cottages in Hella, South Iceland, where 23 rooms with shower/wc are located in simple cottages in the large garden right on the river banks in the village of Hella. Árhús Cottages are popular with outdoor active guests and families travelling with children. All cottages are equipped with a small kitchenette and free Wi-Fi. There is a restaurant on the premises, and a public swimming pool and supermarket are in walking distance.

**REGARDING DINNERS:** In Reykjavik, dinner is on your own. There are many restaurants for both fast food and a fine a la carte dining in Iceland's capital. The Árhús Cottages and Stracta Hotel in South Iceland offer a limited a la carte menu with a selection of fish, meat and vegetarian as main course. Lunch stops are made at small country restaurants or petrol station diners.

**NORTHERN LIGHTS:** On 2 evenings this program offers a combination of presentations, lectures, film and guided Northern Lights searches in the garden of Árhús Cottage in Hella, South Iceland, about 10 minute walk from Stracta Hotel.

Árhús Cottages and Stracta Hotel in South Iceland offer a Northern Lights wake up call for guests that register for that special service at the reception. The tour is dependent on weather and therefore sightings are not guaranteed. The Northern Lights are in the northern hemisphere from September through April but are only visible when the sky is clear and free of clouds. Like many natural wonders, the Northern Lights are ephemeral. It is best to dress very warmly, in layers, with good footwear, gloves, hats and whatever else will make you comfortable while you await patiently this truly outstanding event. For the best photos we recommend using a tripod.

