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Grand Tour of Iceland (Monday)

11 Nights / 12 Days

1N Reykjavik / 1N Borgarnes / 1N Grundarfjordur / 1N Patreksfjordur / 1N Budardalur / 2N Akuryeri / 1N Lake Myvatn / 1N Borgarfjordur Eystri / 1N Skaftafell / 1N Reykjavik

DAY 01: ARRIVE IN KEFLAVIK/KEFLAVIK - REYKJAVIK

Arrive in Keflavik. Upon arrival, the Flybus shuttle will bring you from Keflavik International airport to Reykjavik where you will spend the first night in Iceland. You will be provided with ideas how to explore Iceland's capital on your own.

Overnight in Reykjavik.

DAY 02: GOLDEN CIRCLE

After breakfast, you will see the classic highlights. You will explore **Gullfoss**, the beautiful double "Golden Falls" and you walk through the active geothermal area of **Geysir**, where **Strokkur** "the churn" spouts up to 25 meters (70 feet) every five to seven minutes. A visit to the ancient Viking Parliament area and UNESCO world heritage site of **Thingvellir National Park** tops the day off before travelling along the scenic shores of **Hvalfjordur fjord**. (BD)



Overnight in Borgarnes.

DAY 03: SNAEFELLSNES PENINSULA AND LAVA CAVE

After breakfast, in the morning, you are introduced to the Icelandic sagas in the settlement center in **Borgarnes**. The **Snaefellsnes Peninsula** "the peninsula of the snowy mountain" juts out from Iceland's west coast, like a long arm with a clenched fist at its tip, and is in many ways a microcosm of the whole island. A rugged



mountain chain runs its length, capped by the 1,446 meter **Snaefellsjokull**, a mystical cone-shaped strato volcano. You will travel around the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, through lava fields and along the ocean with many classic Icelandic photo opportunities. You will visit the most popular sites at the national park where volcanic craters, lava flows, an ice cap, glaciated peaks, fjords, sandy beaches, and high cliffs shape its landscapes. You will follow the adventure of Jules Verne's classic science fiction novel about the journey to the center of the Earth. Do not miss your chance to go on your own trip to the interior of the Earth under the glacier Snaefellsjokull. This lava cave tour takes you 35 meters underground and about 200 meters into the lava cube called **Vatnshellir**. During the tour, you will reach two different sections of the cave by a long and narrow staircase. The upper section has great features and unique formations of lava statues curved on the sides of the lava tube. In the lower part of the lava cave, you will experience total quietness and even total darkness when your guide switches off the light. The total duration of the lava cave tour is approximately one hour. (BD)

Overnight in Grundarfjordur.

DAY 04: ICELAND'S WESTERNMOST POINT

After breakfast, you need to wake up early and catch the morning car ferry Baldur from Stykkisholmur to Brjanslaekur in the West Fjords. On the way over Breidafjordur bay, the ferry stops on the island of Flatey. If the weather is nice, you will enjoy a magnificent view of the bay's countless islands as well as the glacier Snaefellsjokull. You will follow the coastline and stop at the folk and



transport museum in **Hnjotur**. You will continue through a very remote and sparsely populated region to the bird cliffs of **Latrabjarg**, the westernmost point of Iceland (and Europe) where you can see puffins from mid-May till mid-August. You will take a memorable walk in the wilderness to the top of the highest bird cliffs in Iceland. Latrabjarg is known in the world for its density of Nordic birds. Puffins, razorbills, guillemots, fulmars, cormorants, kittiwakes and other cliff birds flock either in hundreds, thousands and even in millions. This is a place where you can get very close to the seabirds and even if you're not into birdwatching, you are entertained by the comic puffins and mesmerized by the sheer number of birds. (BD)

Overnight in Flokalundur or West Fjords.

DAY 05: BEAUTIFUL WEST FJORDS

After breakfast, you will travel over mountains and along the shore of many scenic fjords until you reach the majestic fjord **Arnarfjordur**, surrounded by high mountains. At the bottom of the fjord, you come across the unique waterfall **Dynjandi** with its seven levels of plunging water, declared the country's most beautiful waterfall by the people of Iceland. You will continue over a mountain pass and travel along the southern shores of the West Fjords. This is a route less travelled and is characterized by sheer cliffs, deep cut bays and narrow stretches of coastal lowland. We overnight at the remote Vogur Country Lodge in West Iceland. This is a truly peaceful and beautiful place close to Breiðafjörður Bay, giving you the feeling of being all alone in Iceland (BD)



Overnight in Country Lodge near Breiðafjörður Bay.

DAY 06: HEADING NORTH

After breakfast, in the morning, you will travel mostly off the beaten path, see abandoned farms, beautiful little country churches and Icelandic horses. At **Haukadalur**, there's a rather authentic replica of the homestead of Erik the Red, the famous explorer who founded the Icelandic colony in Greenland. His son Leif-the-Lucky, born in Haukadalur, Iceland, was the first European to set foot in North America. Now the excavated and reconstructed farm in **Haukadalur** is a living Viking museum, a fun, informative and a photogenic place. The landscape is dominated by mountains, lakes, valleys, sea and wide open spaces. You will head north and stop at a local farm for a horse show where you will learn about the unique qualities of Iceland's special breed. Afterwards, you will travel through the fertile farmlands and fjord landscapes of Northwest Iceland before you visit the charming town of Akureyri, Iceland's second largest city. (BD)



Overnight in Akureyri.

Day 7: NORTHERNMOST TOWN

Today you will go on a 6 hours excursion and see spectacular fjord landscapes while travelling to Siglufjörður, Iceland's northernmost town and known as the herring capital of the North Atlantic. Siglufjörður is located on the mountainous Tröllaskagi Peninsula. On the way you pass small fishing villages and stop at a deserted valley that even most Icelanders have not seen. You also visit the Herring Museum and do beer tasting at a local micro-brewery. The rest of the

day is free at leisure for shopping or to visit a geothermal swimming pool or join an optional whale watching tour at 17:00 or 20:30. (B)

Overnight in Akuryeri.

DAY 08: GEOLOGICAL WONDERS AND NATURE BATHS

After breakfast, you will explore **Godafoss**, the waterfall of the Gods, and continue to **Lake Myvatn**, known for its rich bird life and extraordinary volcanic lava landscapes. You will visit pseudo craters, walk in the lava field **Dimmuborgir**, climb up to the rim of the ash crater **Hverfjall**, see the hot springs and bubbling mud pools of **Namaskard**, and travel to the **Crater Lake Viti** in the Krafla geothermal fields. In the afternoon, relax and soak at the **Myvatn Nature Baths**. (BD)



Overnight in Lake Myvatn.

DAY 09: THE SECRET OF THE EAST

After breakfast, you will travel to **Dettifoss**, Europe's most powerful waterfall in the northern part of **Vatnajokull National Park**. From there, you will head through the uninhabited highlands to East Iceland. You will explore the northernmost fjord on the East Fjord mountain range. The isolated village **Bakkagerdi** has only 120 inhabitants and is a charming village, built snugly next to the steep mountainside. Driving to Borgarfjordur Eystri is dramatic and rewarding. The colorful mountains are simply unique and impressive. You will experience an unusual opportunity to visit a traditional Icelandic fishing village, still relying on small boat fishing. There is an art gallery in the village, displaying the work of Johannes Kjarval. He is a well-known Icelandic painter who grew up in Borgarfjordur Eystri and his hometown and its landscape have much influenced his work. Borgarfjordur Eystri is home to an extensive population of elves – judging by the 172 local folk tales involving elves. On the outskirts of the village is **Alfaborg**, a protected site where the queen of elves is believed to live within a uniquely shaped rock castle. The elf stories provide a fascinating lecture especially for the younger generation. (BD)



Overnight in Borgarfjordur Eystri.

DAY 10: FJORDS, GLACIERS AND ICE

After breakfast, enjoy the day to admire the dramatic fjord landscape and its tiny fishing villages at the end of twisty roads in the East Fjords and en route you visit an interesting stone collection. In the afternoon, you will see **Vatnajökull** – Europe's biggest glacier that is visible all over Southeast Iceland. Past the town of Hofn, you will stop for a boat ride amongst the floating icebergs on the glacial lagoon at **Jökulsárlon**.

The night is spent near Skaftafell on the southern part of Vatnajökull National Park. (BD)



Overnight in Skaftafell.

DAY 11: VATNAJOKULL NATIONAL PARK AND THE SOUTH

After breakfast, visit Skaftafell at the Vatnajökull National Park, covered by ice and nestled below Iceland's highest mountain, the 2,110 meter high **Hvannadalshnjukur**. You walk close to one of the many glacial tongues in the area – a Kodak moment. You will cross a sandy desert and drive along the south coast, always between the sea, mountainous cliffs, glaciers and waterfalls. You will stroll along the black lava beach and bird cliffs near the village of **Vik**. At the **Eyjafjallajökull Information Center**, you will learn how it is to live next to a glacier and an active volcano. You will stop at the **Skogafoss** and **Seljalandsfoss** waterfalls. Enjoy a farewell dinner at a nice gourmet restaurant in Reykjavík and the last night is spent in Iceland's capital. (BD)



Overnight in Reykjavik.

DAY 12: DEPARTURE DAY

After breakfast, the Flybus airport shuttle will pick you up at your hotel and will take you to the Keflavik International airport. (B)

INFORMATION

INCLUSIONS:

- ❖ Accommodation as per itinerary in Country Hotels, Guest Houses and Farms (subject to availability) at the time of booking or similar.
- ❖ Includes 11 Breakfasts and 9 Dinners (3-course buffet), meals as per itinerary (B= breakfast, L= lunch, D= dinner).
- ❖ Visit to three National Parks, admission to settlement center in Borgarnes,
- ❖ Entrance and visit to lava cave on the Snaefellsnes peninsula,
- ❖ Ferry trip to the West Fjords,
- ❖ Entrance fee to folk and transport museum at Hnjotur,
- ❖ Visit to Erik the Red homestead,
- ❖ Horse show in northwest Iceland,
- ❖ Entrance fee and towel to the Nature Baths at Lake Myvatn,
- ❖ Visit to stone collection in the East Fjords,
- ❖ Boat trip between floating icebergs on glacial lagoon,
- ❖ Visit to multimedia presentation at Eyjafjallajokull volcano information center
- ❖ Airport Transfers

Highlights :

- 1) A complete coach tour around Iceland including Snaefellsnes peninsula and the West Fjords
- 2) Visit three national parks
- 3) Ferry trip to the West Fjords, daily light walks, visit a lava cave and boat trip between floating icebergs
- 4) Visits to small local museums, cultural experiences and a horse show
- 5) Multimedia presentation at Eyjafjallajokull volcano information center
- 6) Farewell dinner at a Reykjavík gourmet restaurant

COST: From **EUR 5195** onwards Per Person in standard double room

EXCHANGE RATE: 1 EUR = 74 INR (exchange rate as on the day of payment applicable)

VALIDITY: 29th May 2017 - 28th August 2017

DEPARTURE DATES: 2017– May 29, June 5, 12 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7, 14, 21, 28

At times there may be special deals- enquire at the time of booking.

HOTELS:

REGION	HOTELS OR SIMILAR
Reykjavik	Hotel Klettur
Borgarnes	Icelandair Hotel Hamar
Grundarfjordur	Hotel Framnes or Stykkishólmur
Flokalundur or West Fjords	Country Hotel or Fosshotel Westfjords
Dalir	Vogur Country Lodge
Akuryeri	Hotel Kea
Lake Myvatn	Hotel Laxa
Borgarfjordur Eystri	Guesthouse Alfheimar
Vatnajökull National Park	Hotel Skaftafell or Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon

EXCLUSIONS:

- ❖ All flights, excess baggage fees, airport departure taxes and other relevant taxes
- ❖ Optional activities and excursions
- ❖ Drinks, tips, laundry, bottled drinking water and other personal expenses
- ❖ Medical, Travel and Baggage Insurance
- ❖ Holiday Surcharge
- ❖ Porterage at airport and hotels
- ❖ Items of a personal nature (i.e. internet, curio, laundry, beverages, etc.) unless specifically quoted for above
- ❖ Tips and gratuities
- ❖ Passport and Visa fees
- ❖ Anything not specifically quoted in the inclusions
- ❖ GST extra as applicable

NOTES:

- 1) All prices are correct at the time of printing and subject to availability.
- 2) All prices are subject to change without notice. Though care has been taken to put appropriate prices, our suppliers may increase their price depending on the availability and season. We therefore request you to allow for changes to occur before the confirmation of the final price. We will inform you about the increase or decrease in prices at the time of booking.
- 3) No reservations have been made and accommodation is subject to availability. In case of non-availability, alternate accommodation will be recommended.
- 4) There is a possibility that some of the nature attractions around Iceland might charge an entrance fee during the trip. These entrance fees are not included in the tour price and need to be paid by all tour members additionally on the spot, when entering any of these nature sites. Locations, amount of entrance fee, form of payment and other details are not known at the present time and are subject to change.
- 5) Most hotels, farms and guesthouses used on this tour are simple tourist-class category, many of them set in the most stunning locations.
- 6) Once a booking is confirmed, the departure is guaranteed.
- 7) The hotels are subject to change and that double rooms in Iceland are normally twin beds.
- 8) Tour starts on Tuesdays at 0900 hrs from Reykjavík. The tour ends on Thursday around 1800 hrs in Reykjavík followed by a farewell dinner same evening.
- 9) You spend about 4 hours per day on the bus, depending on road conditions, traffic and daily distances. On some days, especially in the West Fjords, the driving might be longer than on some other days. This tour has an average of 1-2 hours light walking each day, mostly short walks of 5-20 minutes, in order to explore and reach many of the natural treasures around Iceland. Most trails in Iceland are nature trails which include uneven terrain, gravels, stairs and not paved trails.
- 10) Most hotels, farms and guesthouses used on this tour are simple tourist-class category, many of them set in the most stunning locations.
- 11) Pre and post nights in Reykjavik included in this tour program, ask if you require extension nights.
- 12) All outdoor activities are weather permitting.
- 13) Smoking is not allowed in the vehicles. Comfort stops will be made en route.
- 14) All distances and travelling times are approximate.
- 15) Peak Season Surcharge may be applicable during Xmas, New Year or during any special events.
- 16) [Namaste Tourism Terms & Conditions Apply.](#)
- 17) All Payments to be made in INR, USD or EUR as per rate of exchange at the time of booking.
- 18) Any payments automatically mean adherence to the terms & conditions of Namaste Tourism.



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