



# ICELANDIC Circle Tour

August 3 – 12, 2017

Our fully escorted circle island tour shows you the ever-changing scenery of the Icelandic countryside: mountains and valleys, volcanoes, glaciers, rivers, hot springs and waterfalls. This is an ideal tour for those who want to experience all of the variety of the Icelandic landscape, culture and history.

## Thu. Aug. 3: U.S. Departure

Departure from the U.S. today. Overnight flight to Iceland.

## Fri. Aug. 4: Arrival Iceland

Transfer will be arranged from the airport to our hotel. The drive takes about 45 minutes and takes you through the lunar landscape and moss covered lava fields of the Reykjanes Peninsula.

Overnight stay in Reykjavik

## Sat. Aug. 5: Geysir – Gullfoss – Skogar – Dyrholaey – Vik

*Exploding Geysers – Waterfalls – Puffin Colony – Black Sand Beaches of the South Shore*

Start the day with a short city sightseeing tour of **Reykjavik**. From Reykjavik head through the village of **Hveragerdi** to explore **Gullfoss**, the "Golden Waterfall", and the nearby **Geysir hot spring** area to see the famous **Geysir** and **Strokkur**, and numerous other hot springs and **boiling mud pools**. Continue along the south shore and stop to admire the **waterfalls** **Seljalandsfoss** and **Skogafoss** before continuing to Dyrholaey\* **nature reserve**.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Vik area.

## Sun. Aug. 6: Vik – Skaftafell National Park – Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon – Hofn

*Lava Fields – Europe's Largest National Park – Glacial Lagoon with Icebergs – Europe's Largest Glacier*

Cross Eldhraun, the largest mass of **lava** ever to flow in recorded history, before reaching the small town **Kirkjubaejarklaustur**, site of a 12th-century Catholic convent. The tour continues over **Skeidararsandur** sands to **Skaftafell National Park**. Continue to the stunning **Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon** to see the birthplace of icebergs. Throughout the day we are afforded magnificent views of the mighty **Vatnajokull Glacier**.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Hofn area.

## Mon. Aug. 7: Hofn – East Fjords – Egilsstadir

*Narrow Fjords – Steep Mountains – Picturesque Coastline – Mineral Collection*

Drive from Hofn through **Almannaskard** pass; stop and admire the **majestic coastline**. Continue to the **towering mountains**, plunging vertically into the sea, that form the **magnificent East Fjords**. Explore Petra's renowned collection of local stones and minerals.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Egilsstadir area.

## Tue. Aug. 8: Lake Myvatn Area

*Highland Desert – Bizarre Lava Formations – Geothermal & Volcanic Activity – Rich Birdlife – Protected Salmon River*

Explore the empty vastness of the highland **desert plateau** **Modrudalsoraefi**, heading to the **Lake Myvatn** area. On the way, we'll make a stop at **Dettifoss**, **Europe's most powerful waterfall**. Onwards to **Namaskard** pass with its **boiling mud pools** and vibrant colours. Explore the natural beauty of the Lake Myvatn area, the **pseudo craters** at **Skutustadir** and **Laxa** salmon river. One of the Myvatn area's claims to fame is that it is home to more species of ducks than any other place on Earth, with very **diverse birdlife** in general.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Myvatn area.



### Wed. Aug. 9: Lake Myvatn Area – Akureyri

*Waterfall Of the Gods – Folk Museum – Iceland's Second Largest City*

Start the day exploring the **peculiar lava formations** at Dimmuborgir. Continue to the bustling northern port of **Akureyri**, making a stop at the **magnificent Godafoss waterfall** and the **old turfarm** Laufas. Akureyri has some of the finest timber buildings in the country, beautifully restored to their original glory.

Overnight stay in the Akureyri area.

### Thu. Aug. 10: Skagafjordur – Borgarnes

*Fertile Farmlands – Glacial Rivers – Unique Viking Horse with Demonstration*

Majestic mountains and narrow passes lead to **Skagafjordur** for an introduction to the **Icelandic horse**, which has a unique fifth gait, the tolt. Continue to the village of Blonduos, which is built on both sides of the river Blanda, with Hrutey Island a protected nature reserve, located nearby in the middle of a popular salmon river. Cross the Holtavorduheidi plateau through Borgarfjordur to the beautiful town of Borgarnes. Dinner and overnight stay in Borgarnes area.

### Fri. Aug. 11: Borgarfjordur – Thingvellir – Reykjavik

*Europe's Largest Hot Spring – Picturesque Waterfalls – National Park with Geological Wonders (UNESCO)*

Drive to **Deildartunguhver**, the most powerful hot spring in the world. Stop to admire the beautiful **Hraunfossar waterfalls**, before continuing via Hvalfjordur fjord to **Lake Thingvallavatn**, Iceland's largest lake, and Thingvellir National Park, the ancient site of the world's first outdoor parliament. Overnight stay in Reykjavik.

### Sat. Aug. 12: Departure

Our transfer will depart the hotel approx. 3,5 hours before your flight departure and deliver you to Keflavik International Airport.

#### The Price includes:

- Airport transfers
- Private guide and coach as per itinerary
- First class or best hotels for 8 nights
- Accommodation 2 nights w/breakfast and w/facilities in Reykjavik
- Accommodation 6 nights w/breakfast and w/facilities in countryside
- 5 dinners in the countryside (dinner in Akureyri not included)
- Guide services during dinners in the countryside
- Entrance to Petra's Stone collection (day 4)
- Entrance to Sigurgeir's Bird collection (day 5)
- Entrance to Laufas folk museum, incl. refreshments (day 6)
- Horse Show in Skagafjordur (day 7)
- VAT
- VIP World Travel Hosts



**CANCELLATIONS:** From date of deposit to 59 days before departure there is a penalty of \$100 per person for cancellation. A cancellation fee of 50% of the tour price will be retained for cancellations made from 60 days to 21 days before departure. From 20 days until 7 days before departure, the fee is 75%. No refund is possible for cancellations less than 7 days before departure, or for no shows, and a tour begun, but not completed.

**TRIP COST:** Price listed is per person based on two people sharing a room. \$3089.00. Price does not include international air. This price has been estimated as best we can for a 2017 tour departure. The price may fluctuate between 5% to 10%, up or down. Please be aware that the price may need to be adjusted, up or down, at a later date.

**DEPOSIT:** A deposit of \$500 per person is required to confirm your reservation. This is a private group tour and space is limited. Make your deposit as soon as possible to secure your reservation.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** Final payment is due no later than June 1, 2017.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** VIP World Travel will assist in confirming air arrangements to Iceland from your city of departure. Air schedules for this trip will not be available until mid September 2016.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel Insurance is **HIGHLY** recommended for this trip. Cost is \$247.00 per person. This is a comprehensive policy. For details contact VIP World Travel. Insurance premium must be paid at time of deposit.

FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

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