



## Itinerary

### 17 Day Ultimate Iceland Circle & Westfjords Tour

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

#### Day 1: Arrive Reykjavik, Iceland

Upon arrival in Reykjavik, take a Flybus shuttle from Keflavik Airport to your accommodation. If time permits, enjoy exploring Iceland's capital city at your own pace.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 50km

**MEALS:** Nil

**OVERNIGHT:** Berjaya Reykjavík Natura Hotel or similar

#### Day 2: Reykjavik ~ Akureyri

Our adventure kicks off at 09:00, as our guide welcomes us in the lobby of the Berjaya Reykjavík Natura Hotel. From here, we'll set off on a scenic drive westward along the breathtaking Hvalfjörður fjord, known for its dramatic coastal views and tranquil waters, on our way to the town of Borgarnes.

Our first stop is the Grábrók volcano crater, where we'll enjoy a leisurely hike and take in the stunning views of the surrounding lava fields, rich with vibrant mosses and unique rock formations. Next, we'll head to Glaumbær, an enchanting historical site that features traditional turf houses and a fascinating folk museum, offering a glimpse into Iceland's rural past and local culture.

Continuing on, we'll drive through spectacular fjords and mountain passes, soaking up the ever-changing landscapes until we arrive in Akureyri, the charming capital of North Iceland. Here, you'll have the rest of the afternoon to explore at your own pace. Wander through Akureyri's quaint streets, discover local shops, or relax in one of its inviting cafes. After a day full of exploration and awe-inspiring sights, settle in for a restful night in Akureyri.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 415km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Berjaya Akureyri Hotel or similar

#### Day 3: Akureyri ~ Mývatn

We'll start the day with a relaxed exploration of Akureyri, affectionately known as the capital of North Iceland. This charming town offers stunning panoramic views over Eyjafjörður fjord, Iceland's longest fjord, with its surrounding mountains and quaint harbour. If you're feeling adventurous, an optional whale-watching tour departs at 09:00, offering a chance to glimpse the incredible marine life that frequents these

northern waters.

In the afternoon, we'll make our way to the spectacular Goðafoss, the "Waterfall of the Gods," where thundering cascades tumble into a horseshoe-shaped basin—a truly majestic sight steeped in local lore. From here, we journey into the remarkable Lake Mývatn area, a geologist's paradise famed for its unusual lava formations, bubbling mud pools, and the otherworldly pseudo craters at Skútustaðir. You'll also witness the dramatic Hverfjall, a vast volcanic tephra cone rising from the landscape, a result of ancient volcanic activity.

To end the day, we'll unwind in the soothing waters of the Mývatn Nature Baths, a geothermal oasis with mineral-rich waters. As you soak, take in the panoramic views of the rugged landscapes surrounding this natural hot spring—an idyllic way to relax after a day of exploration.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 120km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Berjaya Mývatn Hotel or similar

#### Day 4: Mývatn ~ Egilsstaðir

We start our day afresh with a visit to the otherworldly landscapes of Dimmuborgir, a mesmerising labyrinth of lava formations steeped in Icelandic folklore. Known as the "Dark Castles," this mystical area is said to be home to trolls and other mythical beings, and its towering rock formations and eerie pathways create an atmosphere that feels straight out of a fairytale.

From Dimmuborgir, we journey on to the geothermal wonders of Námaskarð, a surreal landscape where boiling mud pools and steaming solfataras bubble and hiss in an extraordinary display of geothermal activity. The vivid colours of sulphur-streaked earth, combined with the steam rising from the ground, create a scene that's both eerie and captivating—a true feast for the senses.

Our adventure then takes us through the rugged, uninhabited highlands, where lunar-like vistas and stark, untouched beauty surround us as we make our way towards East Iceland. Here, we conclude the day with a visit to Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall. The sheer power and roar of the water cascading over the edge is an unforgettable sight, leaving us with a sense of awe and wonder as we wrap up another extraordinary day in Iceland's wild landscapes.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 250km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Berjaya Hérað Hotel or similar

#### Day 5: Egilsstaðir ~ Örfæfaveit

We continue our expedition through the dramatic landscapes of the East Fjords, marvelling at the rugged, mountainous scenery that stretches along the coastline. These fjords, carved by ancient glaciers, offer awe-inspiring views with steep cliffs plunging into the sea and quaint fishing villages dotting the shoreline. Here, we'll take time to explore a unique stone and mineral collection, showcasing some of the region's geological treasures, from sparkling crystals to richly coloured minerals.

Our journey then brings us to the mighty Vatnajökull, Europe's largest glacier, where we stand in awe of its vast, icy expanse. The sheer size and beauty of the glacier are truly humbling, as it dominates the surrounding landscape with its shimmering, frosty peaks and deep crevasses.

Next, we make our way to the breathtaking Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, where we embark on an unforgettable amphibian boat tour. As we glide through the tranquil, icy waters, we navigate around massive blue and white icebergs that float serenely, some as tall as buildings, creating an ethereal, otherworldly atmosphere.

Our adventure culminates at the enchanting Breiðamerkursandur, famously known as Diamond Beach. Here, glistening chunks of ice washed ashore by the tide lie scattered across black volcanic sands, resembling a sparkling display of diamonds against the dark sand—a truly magical sight that captures the raw beauty of Iceland.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 260km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon or similar

## Day 6: Öræfasveit ~ Hella

Our journey today takes us along the southern edge of Vatnajökull, Iceland's largest glacier and the centrepiece of Europe's second-largest national park. This vast area is home to Iceland's tallest mountains, alpine landscapes, and an impressive array of glacial formations, offering us incredible views of the raw and rugged beauty that defines this part of the world.

In the afternoon, we embark on a scenic drive across the remarkable Eldhraun lava field, a moss-covered expanse formed by one of the largest lava flows in history. As we travel along the southern coast, we're treated to breathtaking views of towering cliffs, sparkling glaciers, and cascading waterfalls—all set against the dramatic backdrop of Iceland's wild and windswept landscapes.

A highlight of the day is the Icelandic Lava Show, where we experience the intense heat and spectacle of molten lava up close, gaining insight into the island's powerful volcanic forces. Afterwards, we take a relaxing stroll along the iconic black sand beach of Reynisfjara near Vík, known for its striking basalt columns and pounding waves.

Continuing to the charming village of Skógar, we'll visit the awe-inspiring Skógafoss waterfall, where water plunges 60 metres into a misty pool below. Finally, we reach the narrow yet picturesque Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where an adventurous trail takes us behind the falls. Be ready to feel the refreshing spray as we pass through this unique perspective, rounding out an unforgettable day in Iceland's south.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 380km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Stracta Hotel Hella or similar

## Day 7: Hella ~ Golden Circle ~ Reykjavík

Today, we immerse ourselves in some of Iceland's most iconic sites as we journey along the famous Golden Circle route. We begin our day at Friðheimar, a charming farm where we'll learn about the unique history and remarkable qualities of the Icelandic horse, a breed known for its resilience, distinct gait, and friendly nature. While here, we'll also visit a geothermal greenhouse, where the magic of Iceland's natural heat is harnessed to grow fresh produce year-round—a fascinating insight into Icelandic innovation.

Next, we venture to the Geysir geothermal fields, a landscape alive with bubbling hot springs and steaming pools. Here, we'll witness Strokkur, Iceland's most active geyser, as it erupts dramatically every 5 to 7 minutes, sending jets of steaming water high into the air.

Our journey continues to Gullfoss, or the "Golden Falls," one of Iceland's most beloved waterfalls. This breathtaking double waterfall cascades 32 metres into the rugged canyon below, creating rainbows in the mist on sunny days—a truly mesmerising sight.

We then head inland to Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site rich in historical and geological significance. Located at the boundary of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates, Thingvellir offers stunning views and holds a unique place in Icelandic history as the birthplace of the nation's parliament over a thousand years ago.

As we return to Reykjavík, we'll enjoy a brief city tour, highlighting the vibrant culture, unique architecture, and notable landmarks of the world's northernmost capital. Following this unforgettable day, you'll have three days to explore Reykjavík at your own pace before joining the next group for your continuing adventure.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 160km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Berjaya Reykjavík Natura Hotel or similar

## Day 8: Reykjavík - Food Lovers Tour

Spend today exploring the charming capital of Reykjavík at your own pace. Wander through its quaint streets lined with colourful buildings, and pop into local boutiques to find unique Icelandic designs, woollen goods, and artisan crafts. Dive into Reykjavík's cultural offerings by visiting one of its many museums, where you can learn about Iceland's history, art, and fascinating geological past, or simply enjoy a relaxing break in one of the city's cosy cafes, perhaps with a warm drink in hand as you soak up the local atmosphere.

In the afternoon, we'll join the Reykjavík Food Lovers Tour, a culinary journey that takes us to some of the city's best-loved eateries. Here, we'll indulge in an array of traditional Icelandic dishes, tasting everything from hearty lamb stew to fresh seafood and Icelandic pastries, all while learning about the origins and stories behind each dish. This tour is as much a cultural experience as it is a feast, offering rich insights into Iceland's food heritage and the unique flavours that have shaped its cuisine. It's an unmissable experience for food enthusiasts and a delicious way to connect with Icelandic culture.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Berjaya Reykjavík Natura Hotel or similar

## Day 9: Reykjavík

Begin your day with the freedom to explore Reykjavík at your leisure, discovering its unique blend of history, culture, and modern charm. Stroll through the bustling harbour area, visit iconic landmarks like Hallgrímskirkja, or browse the city's many art galleries and boutique shops. Alternatively, you can join one of our optional tours for a more adventurous start to the day.

Choose an exciting ATV tour, where you'll traverse volcanic landscapes and rugged trails just outside the city, or opt for a guided horseback ride through the scenic countryside, experiencing Iceland's natural beauty from the back of a friendly Icelandic horse. Both options provide unique perspectives on Iceland's striking landscapes, making for an unforgettable start to your day.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 160km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Berjaya Reykjavík Natura Hotel or similar

### Day 10: Reykjavík - Whale Watching Tour

Today, take the opportunity to explore the vibrant city of Reykjavík at your own pace. Whether you're drawn to the city's historic sites, eclectic street art, or bustling cafes, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Wander through the old harbour, explore museums, or browse the charming shops that line the city's main streets.

In the afternoon, we'll embark on an exciting whale-watching tour, setting out from Reykjavík's harbour to discover the wildlife of the North Atlantic. As we cruise through the deep blue waters, keep an eye out for Iceland's diverse birdlife, including puffins, Arctic terns, and sea gulls. With a bit of luck, we may also spot an array of sea creatures, from playful harbour porpoises and acrobatic white-beaked dolphins to majestic minke and humpback whales. These encounters offer a thrilling glimpse into Iceland's marine life, making for an unforgettable experience against the stunning backdrop of the Icelandic coastline.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Berjaya Reykjavík Natura Hotel or similar

### Day 11: Reykjavík ~ Patreksfjörður

Today, we embark on an adventure into the remote and rugged Westfjords. Meet your guide in the hotel lobby at 09:00 as we set off towards Iceland's most untouched landscapes. Our first stop is at Grábrók, a remarkable 3,400-year-old volcanic crater that offers sweeping views over the surrounding valley. Take a moment to breathe in the fresh air and soak up the unique scenery shaped by ancient eruptions.

Our journey continues to Eiríksstaðir, the historic homestead of the Viking explorers Eirik the Red and his son Leif the Lucky. Here, we'll explore a replica longhouse and living museum, where you'll gain insight into Viking life and Icelandic history. Wander through the turf-roofed structure, learn about daily life during the Viking Age, and imagine the incredible voyages launched from this very spot.

Next, we'll visit Þingmannaá Waterfall, a charming waterfall and the first of many we'll encounter in the Westfjords, each with its own unique beauty. By late afternoon, we arrive at the picturesque fishing village of Patreksfjörður, where we'll settle in for the next two nights. This quaint village, with its breathtaking views over the fjord and the Greenland Sea, provides a peaceful setting to experience life in a remote

Icelandic village. Enjoy the slower pace, fresh sea air, and the beauty of the Westfjords as we unwind for the evening.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 435km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Fosshótel Westfjords or similar

## Day 12: Patreksfjörður

Our day begins with a visit to Rauðisandur, one of Iceland's most breathtaking beaches. Stretching for 10 kilometres, Rauðisandur's unique red sands blend beautifully with the turquoise waters of the bay, creating a striking contrast that makes for perfect photo opportunities. Here, you'll have time to wander along the shore, breathe in the fresh sea air, and take in the stunning views that make this beach a true hidden gem of the Westfjords.

From Rauðisandur, we travel to the Hnjótur Folk Museum, a fascinating stop that offers a glimpse into the daily lives of the people who have called this rugged region home. The museum is filled with artefacts showcasing Iceland's rich agricultural and seafaring history, providing insight into how residents of the Westfjords have adapted to and thrived in their remote surroundings.

Next, we make our way to Látrabjarg, the tallest seabird cliffs in Europe and the westernmost point of Iceland. Standing on the cliffs, we're treated to sweeping views of the North Atlantic, where the ocean meets the sky in an endless horizon. These cliffs are a haven for birdwatchers, as they're home to vibrant colonies of puffins, razorbills, guillemots, and other seabirds. It's an incredible experience to watch these birds nesting and flying close by.

Along our route, we'll also come across the historic shipwreck of the Garðar, Iceland's oldest steel ship. This rusted vessel lies grounded on the shore, its weathered frame a reminder of Iceland's seafaring past.

As our adventurous day draws to a close, we return to the village of Patreksfjörður, where you can relax and unwind, reflecting on the wonders of the Westfjords before another day of exploration tomorrow.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 145km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Fosshotel Westfjords or similar

## Day 13: Patreksfjörður ~ Ísafjörður

Our day begins with a visit to Dynjandi, one of Iceland's most awe-inspiring natural wonders. Known for its grand, tiered structure, Dynjandi cascades down the mountainside in a series of smaller waterfalls, each one adding to the breathtaking spectacle. Often called the "Jewel of the Westfjords," Dynjandi's thundering water and lush surroundings make it a prime spot for capturing unforgettable photos and simply soaking up the raw beauty of Iceland's wilderness.

From here, we continue along the scenic coastline and through winding fjords until we reach the tranquil pier at Öundurarfjörður. Stretching out from a golden beach, this picturesque pier offers panoramic views over the fjord, with calm waters reflecting the surrounding mountains. It's a peaceful spot that beautifully captures the serene charm of the Westfjords.

Next, we make our way to Flateyri, a quaint village steeped in history and character. Here, we'll stop by Gamla bókabúðin, or "The Old Bookstore," a true hidden gem that has been operating since 1914. This charming shop is filled with unique souvenirs, local crafts, and traditional Icelandic designs, giving us a taste of the area's artistic heritage. As we wander through the village, we also learn about Flateyri's resilience in the face of nature. The 1995 avalanche, a tragic event in the village's history, led to the construction of protective barriers, which stand as a testament to the strength and community spirit of the locals.

In the afternoon, we arrive in Ísafjörður, the largest town in the Westfjords and our base for the next two nights. Surrounded by dramatic fjords and steep mountains, Ísafjörður offers a mix of natural beauty and vibrant local culture. Here, you'll have time to settle in and explore this charming town at your leisure, discovering its unique blend of old-world Icelandic charm and modern amenities.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 175km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hótel Ísafjörður or similar

## Day 14: Ísafjörður

This morning, we set off on an adventure to Bolafjall, a dramatic mountain that rises 640 metres above sea level. Here, we'll step out onto a steel viewing platform that juts out over the cliff, offering breathtaking, panoramic views over the North Atlantic and the surrounding fjords. It's an exhilarating experience, perfect for those who love a bit of a thrill along with stunning scenery.

Next, we visit the Ósvör Maritime Museum, where we'll step back in time to Iceland's rugged 19th-century fishing life. This restored fishing hut showcases the tools and techniques once used by Iceland's hardy rowboat fishers who braved the harsh North Atlantic waters to make a living. It's a fascinating glimpse into the resilience and resourcefulness of Icelandic fishing communities in one of the world's most remote regions.

Our journey continues to the fishing village of Suðureyri, where we'll take a leisurely stroll through its charming streets. Here, we'll have the chance to taste fresh, locally sourced seafood, experiencing the rich flavours of Iceland's maritime heritage firsthand.

In the afternoon, enjoy some free time in Ísafjörður, or opt for an exciting add-on activity. For thrill-seekers, there's an ATV tour that explores the rugged terrain around Ísafjörður, providing an adventurous way to experience the Westfjords' natural beauty.

Alternatively, you can embark on a visit to the enchanting island of Vigur. This small island is a haven for bird enthusiasts, home to thriving colonies of puffins, Arctic terns, eiders, and guillemots, as well as the island's famous windmill and historic buildings. It's a truly magical spot to round off a memorable day in Iceland's Westfjords.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 100km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Hótel Ísafjörður or similar

## Day 15: Ísafjörður ~ Búðardalur

Today, we embark on a journey along the stunning fjords of Ísafjarðardjúp, where rugged cliffs meet the glistening waters of the North Atlantic. The scenery here is simply breathtaking, with dramatic mountain ranges and deep fjords stretching as far as the eye can see. Keep your eyes peeled for the possibility of spotting whales as they occasionally surface in these waters—an unforgettable sight if luck is on our side! Our adventure continues with a visit to the Saltverk factory in Reykjanes, where we explore the fascinating process of artisanal salt production powered entirely by Iceland’s geothermal energy. As we tour the facility, we’ll learn how the natural power of the earth is harnessed to create one of Iceland’s most unique exports, famed for its purity and distinct flavour.

Next, we head to the charming village of Hólmavík, a place steeped in folklore and mystery. Here, we’ll visit the intriguing Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft, delving into the rich history of Iceland’s mystical practices. The museum houses ancient grimoires, ritual artefacts, and unique Icelandic magical staves, which were believed to offer protection and hold powerful properties. It’s a captivating look at Iceland’s past, where myth and magic were woven into daily life.

After a day of exploration and discovery, we make our way to the remote Vogur Country Lodge in West Iceland. Nestled near the beautiful Breiðafjörður Bay, this secluded lodge offers a peaceful retreat with picturesque views over the bay and surrounding countryside—a perfect spot to unwind and reflect on the day’s adventures before our journey continues tomorrow.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 330km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Vogur Country Lodge or similar

## Day 16: Búðardalur ~ Reykjavík

After an incredible week of exploration and discovery, we begin our journey back to Reykjavík, with several delightful stops along the way. Our first destination is Hraunfossar, famously known as the “lava waterfalls.” Here, glacial waters flow through ancient lava fields for hundreds of kilometres before emerging in a series of delicate streams that cascade from the lava rocks into the river below. It’s a truly mesmerising sight, with the turquoise waters weaving through the dark lava formations, creating a scene that’s both serene and striking.

Continuing our journey, we visit a quaint horse farm, where we’ll have the opportunity to meet the iconic Icelandic horse. These charming animals are known for their unique fluffy coats, gentle temperaments, and distinctive fifth gait, the tölt, which makes them a pleasure to ride. Spend some time interacting with these friendly horses and learning about their important role in Icelandic culture and history.

In the afternoon, we arrive in Reykjavík, where we’ll dive into the city’s rich history and unique character. Wander through its vibrant streets, visit iconic landmarks such as Hallgrímskirkja, the towering church with panoramic city views, and explore the Harpa Concert Hall with its stunning glass facade. Discover the charm of the old harbour, or simply relax in one of the city’s cosy cafes. Reykjavík’s blend of modern art, historic sites, and warm hospitality offers the perfect finale to our Icelandic adventure, as we soak in the atmosphere of this remarkable northern capital.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 330km

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** Berjaya Reykjavík Natura Hotel or similar



## Day 17: Depart Reykjavik

Enjoy a convenient, individual transfer by Flybus shuttle to Keflavik Airport. Relax as the shuttle transports you comfortably through the scenic landscapes on the way to the airport, ensuring you arrive in plenty of time for your departure. This hassle-free service is designed to make your journey as smooth and stress-free as possible, allowing you to reflect on your unforgettable Icelandic adventure as you head home.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** 50km

**MEALS:** Breakfast