

Grand Tour of Iceland

The Land of Fire & Ice ...and Warm-Hearted People
May 19th to June 1st, 2023



Reykjavik
Iceland's Colourful Capital



Geysir
Geothermal Wonders



Skógafoss
Incredible Waterfalls

Highlights

Golden Circle

Embark on a famous route to see Icelandic natural beauty on full display. Starting with Thingvellir National Park, feel the warmth of fissures dotted along a vast plain, next to Iceland's largest lake. Visit the oldest existing parliament in the world, followed by the mighty Gullfoss waterfall. Complete this golden experience with two geysers that erupt to a height of 25 metres.

Whale Watching

With over 20 different species of whales enjoying the waters surrounding Iceland, this is a must-do for visitors to the country. Sail through the waters of scenic Skjalfandi Bay to spot the majestic minke whale. For a challenge keep a watch out for the rarer humpback whales and white-beaked dolphins. Whale watching will prove to be an exhilarating wildlife experience.

Blue Lagoon

Steep in the rejuvenating natural wonders of Iceland's Blue Lagoon. Relax in the middle of a large and dramatic lava field while admiring the epic surroundings. Leisure soak in the vibrant turquoise waters that are known to offer deep revitalizing qualities due to its rich minerals. It is the ultimate spa experience.

Horse Show

Enjoy a truly unique experience at the Icelandic horse farmstead Lýtingsstaðir. Set in the heart of Iceland's natural beauty, step inside the impressive Old Stable built from Turf for an incredible Horse and heritage Show. An exceptional experience on a quiet and remote farm in the depths of Iceland.

Limited Spaces. Reserve today!

305 King Street West
Suite 1004
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1B9

519.653.3500 OR 1.800.265.8174
journeys@jerryvandyke.com
jerryvandyke.com

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Your 14-Day Journey

Day 1 **Depart for Iceland**

Start your Journey with us by enjoying a private car pick up service from your home. Upon arrival at the airport, guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their check-in. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flight to Iceland. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details, allowing you to embrace your Journey.

Overnight: Flight

Meals: ---

Day 2 **Arrive In Reykjavik**

The oldest permanent settlement in Iceland, Reykjavik is now an enchanting and colourful city just waiting to be explored. Upon arrival, our local guide leads us on a tour of Reykjavik. Visit the heart of the capital city, and see the Hallgrímskirkja-Church, City Hall, and Althingi – the Icelandic Parliament. Enjoy the panoramic views over Reykjavik, the fjord, and the mountains from the balcony of ‘the Pearl’ – Reykjavik’s renowned Perlan Museum and Planetarium. Join your fellow guests for a casual welcome lunch before checking in to the hotel. The rest of the day is at your leisure. Dinner this evening will be served at the hotel.

Overnight: Reykjavik, Fosshótel

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 **Reykjanes Peninsula & Blue Lagoon**

Pass through the picturesque town of Hafnarfjörður, called the city of lava and elves while exploring Iceland’s southern Reykjanes Peninsula. Then, visit one of Iceland’s most popular attractions, the Blue Lagoon, a natural geothermal pool in the middle of a large and dramatic lava field. Enjoy a swim in the rejuvenating and warm mineral-rich waters, reputed for its healing properties. Savour a tasty lunch before continuing to discover the wonders of the Reykjanes Peninsula with its ruff shore-side, spectacular breaking surf, hot spring areas, small fishing villages, and abundant bird life. Upon our return to Reykjavik, enjoy time at your leisure before dinner at Hereford Steakhouse, a local favourite.

Overnight: Reykjavik, Fosshótel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Day 4 Discovering The Golden Circle

Embark on a day of discovery as we travel the famous Golden Circle. On a scenic drive from Reykjavik, we reach the vast plain of Þingvellir (Thingvellir) National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stroll around the country's most sacred site, home of the oldest existing parliament in the world, the Alþingi, walk between the American and Eurasian continental plates at the Mid-Atlantic Rift, which is slowly pulling Iceland apart. Visit the mighty Gullfoss (the Golden Waterfall), perhaps the most beautiful in the country, and enjoy lunch along the way. After, explore the geothermal-active valley of Haukadalur, home of two famous erupting geysers: Geysir and Strokkur. We arrive in the coastal town of Borgarnes and settle into our hotel before dinner.

Overnight: Borgarnes, Hotel Hamar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Icelandic History In Reykholt

Begin today with a visit to the Settlement Center, devoted to recreating Iceland's earliest days. Be introduced to Iceland's best known hero, Egill Skalla-Grímsson. Admire a scenic drive out of town, and marvel at two spectacular waterfalls, Barnafoss and Hraunfossar (Lava Waterfall), before a visit to the most powerful hot spring in Europe – Deildartunguhver. With temperatures reaching 97°C, the scalding water bubbles out of an algae-covered rocky outcrop creating a steamy source of power. In Reykholt, stop at Snorrastofa – a cultural and medieval centre situated in the ancient homestead of Snorri Sturluson.

Overnight: Borgarnes, Hotel Hamar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Vikings & Icelandic Horses

Today, we Journey to northern Iceland. Experience life during the Viking Era at Eiríksstaðir. The former homestead of Eiríkr Þorvaldsson, also known as Erik the Red, this living museum recreates the lifestyle of Vikings from 1,000 years ago. After a local lunch, delight in a visit to the Icelandic horse farmstead Lýtingsstaðir, and enjoy a Horses and Heritage Show that highlights the only breed of horse in Iceland. Visit the Old Stable, which is built from turf, to see how horses used to be kept on farms. We arrive at the hotel in Akureyri in time for dinner.

Overnight: Akureyri, Kea Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Akureyri & Whale Watching

This morning, enjoy a city tour of Akureyri, Iceland's Capital of the North situated at the base of Eyjafjörður. Visit the old part of town, which still preserves the city's historical charm. See the Lutheran church, Akureyrarkirkja, standing predominantly over the city. Delight in lunch at one of the city's popular restaurants before embarking on an exciting whale watching cruise. With over 20 different species of whales enjoying the cold waters surrounding Iceland during the months of April through September, this is a must-do for visitors to the country. Enjoy dinner at the hotel followed by a free evening to relax.

Overnight: Akureyri, Kea Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Siglufjörður

See spectacular fjord landscapes as we travel to Siglufjörður, Iceland's northernmost town and herring capital of the North Atlantic. Along the way, we stop to discover one of Iceland's hidden gems – a deserted valley that even most Icelanders have not seen. Upon arrival in the quaint town of Siglufjörður, we pay a visit to the Herring Museum, the largest seafaring and industrial museum in the country. Enjoy lunch at a nearby eatery before making a stop at a local microbrewery for a tour to see the beer-making process and a tasting of their latest brew.

Overnight: Akureyri, Kea Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 Goðafoss & The Mývatn Area

Journey to Goðafoss, the Waterfalls of the Gods, and admire one of Iceland's most spectacular waterfalls. Explore Iceland's unique geological wonders at Lake Mývatn, known for its geothermal activity and beautiful views. See the fascinating pseudo craters and the lava labyrinth during a visit to Dimmuborgir. Explore the hot springs area of Námaskarð with its bubbling mud pools and steaming solfataras. After lunch we stop at the nature baths to enjoy a relaxing dip in a pool of geothermal water drawn from fissures deep beneath the earth's surface. After a rejuvenating swim, we continue to our hotel in Egilsstaðir in time for a delicious dinner.

Overnight: Egilsstaðir, Hotel Valaskjálfr

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Day 10 East Fjords & Höfn

Today we travel along the uninhabited highlands and moonlike surroundings of East Iceland on Ring Road, Route 1. This incredible drive offers vast backdrops and untouched vistas. Have lunch and stroll around the picturesque fishing village of Djúpvogur before continuing on to the lovely town of Höfn for a city tour. Sitting on a small peninsula and surrounded by beautiful mountains and seaside views, this little town is known as the lobster capital of Iceland. It is also home to the Vatnajökull National Park Visitors' Centre. We drive along the park's southern edge on our way to our hotel.

Overnight: Hnappavellir, Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 Vatnajökull Glacier Jeep Tour

Embark on a Jeep adventure on Vatnajökull Glacier, and marvel at the breathtaking views of high mountains and deep valleys. Covering 8% of Iceland's landmass, Vatnajökull Glacier is the largest glacier in Europe with a surface area of approximately 8,100 square kilometres and a thickness of more than 1,000 metres. The glacier also holds the tallest peak in Iceland beneath its ice, Hvannadalshnjúkur, which stands 2,200 metres above sea level. Volcanic activity in the region has occurred on and off throughout the centuries, and many geologists believe that several eruptions are overdue. The afternoon is at your leisure. We meet and dine back at the hotel.

Overnight: Hnappavellir, Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12 Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon

See an incredible glacial lagoon filled with massive floating icebergs, swimming seals and flapping seabirds, at Jökulsárlón this morning. Board a small boat for a leisurely cruise through the aqua-tinted lagoon where the photo opportunities are endless. We then continue on to Skaftafell National Park and stop at the Visitors' Centre for views of Iceland's highest peak followed by a short visit at Hofskirkja – a traditional turf church. This is one of only six remaining turf churches in Iceland and the last one to be built in this unique style. After lunch, we stop at the beautiful Systrafoss, a waterfall surrounded by massive, vivid green, moss-covered rocks before reaching the quaint village of Vik. Enjoy time at your leisure before dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Vik, Hotel Vik

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Day 13 Iceland's Southern Coast

Explore the wonderfully unique features of Iceland's southern coast as we complete our full lap of Ring Road, Route 1. Spot the bird cliffs and stunning black sand beach of Reynisfjara, the most beautiful of Iceland's beaches. Admire the unique rock formations of Dyrhólaey, a 120-metre promenade with staggering views and a historic lighthouse. Continue to the spectacular Skógafoss waterfall. An impressive waterfall fed by the glacier-capped Eyjafjallajökull volcano. Visit the open-air Skógar Folk Museum for a glimpse into Icelandic life through the centuries. We also stop at the majestic Seljalandsfoss waterfall. Following lunch we experience LAVA: Iceland's Volcano and Earthquake Centre showcasing an interactive display of the forces that created this rugged country. Following a full day of exploring, we arrive in Reykjavik for dinner at our hotel and an evening at your leisure.

Overnight: Reykjavik, Fosshotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 Return Home

Enjoy a leisurely morning in Reykjavik, and join your fellow guests for a farewell lunch before bidding "vertu blesseð" to Iceland and making our way to the airport for our flight home. Guests arriving at the Toronto airport are greeted and assisted to their private car home.

Overnight: Home

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

All information contained in this itinerary is correct at time of printing and is subject to the terms and conditions as listed on our web site at www.jerryvandyke.com or available from our office on request. We must reserve the ability to make improvements.

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Your Journey Includes

First Class Accommodation

Reykjavik	Fosshótel	3 nights
Borganes	Hotel Hamar	2 nights
Akureyri	Kea Hotel	3 nights
Egilsstaðir	Hotel Valaskjálfi	1 night
Hnappavellir	Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon	2 nights
Vik	Hotel Kria	1 night

Included International Flights

Airline:	Icelandair
Outbound:	Toronto (YYZ) – Reykjavik (KEF)
Inbound:	Reykjavik (KEF) – Toronto (YYZ)
Class of Service:	Economy <i>Business are available on request</i>
Note:	Fly from select Canadian gateways for only \$100 <i>For additional gateways and information, contact us for details.</i>

Journeys by Van Dyke Inclusions

Journey Manager	Services of a professional Journey Manager throughout the journey
Home-Pickup Service	Private car home pick up & return service (where available) or a credit or
Hotel Overnight	Hotel overnight near Toronto Pearson International Airport
Gratuities	Tips included for all intermediaries: all ship staff, Journey Managers, local sightseeing guides, coach drivers, porters, etc.
Porterage	Porterage for one piece of baggage
Visas & Fees	All fees, visas, port & service charges
Gift with Every Journey	Branded overnight carry-on bag or backpack
Taxes	All taxes incl. HST, PST, VAT

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Journey Specific Inclusions & Experiences

- Complete pre-trip information & assistance
- 12 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 12 dinners
- All sightseeing & entrance fees as listed
- Introductory Tour of Reykjavik
- Reykjanes Peninsula with Blue Lagoon
- Discovering the Golden Circle
- Icelandic History in Reykholt with Entrance to Settlement Centre
- Icelandic Horses & Heritage Show
- Akureyri – Iceland’s Capital of the North
- Scenic Whale Watching Cruise
- Siglufjörður with Herring Museum & Brewery
- Geological Wonders of Mývatn Area
- East Fjords & Höfn City Tour
- Vatnajökull Glacier Jeep Adventure
- Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon Boat Cruise
- Skógar Folk Museum
- Waterfalls & Volcanoes with Entrance to LAVA Centre

Fares

	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
Main Itinerary	\$11,990 CAD	\$13,990 CAD

Fuel Surcharges - These journey fares include the current known fuel surcharges. Additional supplier fuel charges and or government fees may apply at final payment date.

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Outstanding Accommodation

Reykjavik Fosshotel

3 nights

Fosshotel Reykjavík, Iceland's largest hotel stands prominently in Reykjavík's business district, only a short walk from the main shopping area. Here, from the heart of the city, you can easily explore Reykjavík's magnificent architecture, captivating history, vibrant markets and rich culture – ideal starting point for experience the best of everything the city has to offer.



Borganes Hotel Hamar

1 night

Hotel Hamar is a magnificent hotel in the West in a quiet location by the Hamar golf course on the main road just outside Borgarnes. The hotel has peace and quiet which makes the hotel a perfect place to relax and rejuvenate, with professional services and all comforts at hand. The view over Borgarfjörður is spectacular and Hamarinn, the hotel's restaurant, has a good reputation for serving great food from local ingredients.



Akureyri Kea Hotel

3 nights

The Hotel Kea is centrally located in the very heart of town on Akureyri's pedestrian street. Set right by the stunning Eyjafjörður Fjord and the iconic church of Akureyri in North Iceland, the hotel offers an incredible stay with plenty of shops, cafés, restaurants nearby. A wonderful stay.



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Egilsstaðir

1 night

Hotel Valaskjalf

Hotel Valaskjalf is a hotel in the capital of east Iceland, Egilsstaðir, renowned for its modern rooms and excellent restaurants. Hotel Valaskjalf is a modern hotel; every room has access to free and fast Wifi, a television, a private bathroom with a shower and hairdryer, and rich, comfortable furnishings.



Hnappavellir

1 night

Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon

Sleek and newly-built, Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon is a contemporary hotel on the edge of Vatnajökull National Park. Its simple and elegant rooms feature snug beds for a restful stay and amazing views of the surrounding mountain landscapes and ocean seascapes. This chic hotel also has a lovely restaurant and bar.



Vik

1 night

Hotel Vik

Located in South Iceland in the heart of a stunning nature reserve, Hotel Vík í Mýrdal is a family-run hotel that offers world-class hospitality. The 78 guest rooms offer views of either the ocean, columnar basalt sea stacks, or the nearby mountains and come with either twin or double beds.



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Personal Notes & Questions