

GRAND TOUR OF ICELAND

JOURNEYS
by Van Dyke 

 Land Journey

14 Days

\$13,990 ^{CAD}
All inclusive from, per guest, double occ.

May 11 to
May 24, 2025

Discover Iceland

Take your time exploring every corner of Iceland, with its sparkling glaciers, aqua blue waters, jagged volcanic rocks and erupting geysers.

Stand in front of mesmerizing waterfalls, soak in the mineral-rich hot springs, and explore the range of dramatic sights along the entire Route 1 Ring Road that surrounds this breathtaking nation. From quaint villages to epic national parks, Iceland is bursting with adventure.


As you read through our meticulously crafted itinerary, we hope you share in the excitement we've felt while planning this adventure for you. We eagerly look forward to embarking on this extraordinary journey and creating lasting memories together. Let's continue exploring the world, one remarkable destination at a time.

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① 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.





② 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.



③ 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.



④ 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.

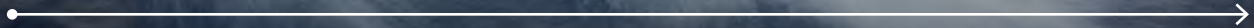


⑤ Reykjavik

Discover the enchanting and colourful city of Iceland's oldest permanent settlement, Reykjavik. Admire the picture-perfect background of fjords and mountains and the largest church in Iceland scraping the sky. Spend time leisurely strolling along Laekjargata. Reykjavik's central street, popping into boutiques and galleries before grabbing a delicious bite at a cafe.



Journey Itinerary



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





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 greets us at the airport and we depart for Breakfast in a very unique setting. We continue on a tour of Reykjavik. Visit the heart of the capital city, and see the Hallgrímskirkja-Church, City Hall, and Althingi – the Icelandic Parliament. The rest of the day is at your leisure. Dinner this evening will be served at the hotel.

Overnight: Fosshótel, Reykjavik

Meals: B,D

Day 3

REYKJANES PENINSULA & BLUE LAGOON

This morning we 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. Pass through the picturesque town of Hafnarfjörður before stoping for lunch at a local restaurant. 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. We return to Reykjavik and you will have some time at leisure before dinner at a local favourite.

Overnight: Fosshótel, Reykjavik

Meals: B,L,D





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 to our hotel and settle into our rooms before dinner.

Overnight: Borgarnes, Hotel Vesturland

Meals: B,L,D

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. (B,L,D)

Overnight: Borgarnes, Hotel Vesturland

Meals: B,L,D





Day 6

ICELANDIC HORSES

Today, we Journey to northern Iceland. Our first stop is to see turf houses at Glaumbær and look at how life in Iceland was back in the 18th & 19th century. We continue to Víðimýrarkirkja, a beautiful old turf church which was built in 1834. 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: Kea Hotel, Akureyri

Meals: B,L,D

Day 7

AKUREYRI & WHALE WATCHING

This morning we 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 Delight in lunch at one of the city's popular restaurants before 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 - this is a must-do for visitors to the country. Enjoy dinner at the hotel followed by a free evening to relax.

Overnight: Kea Hotel, Akureyri

Meals: B,L,D





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: Kea Hotel, Akureyri

Meals: B,L,D

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: Fáskrúðsfjörður, Fosshotel Eastfjords

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





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 Djúpivogur 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.

Vik, Hotel Vik

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

HOME

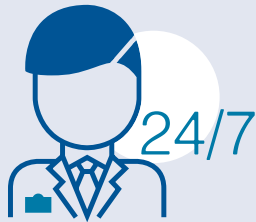
Enjoy a leisurely morning in Reykjavik, and join your fellow guests for a farewell lunch before bidding “vertu blesseð” to Iceland and making our way to the airport for our flight home. Guests arriving at the Toronto airport are greeted and assisted to their private car home.

Overnight: Home

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

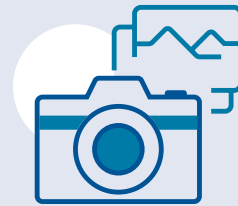
Signature Inclusions on this Journey

In addition to our essentials, your Journey includes our following Signature Inclusions:



24/7 Professional Journey Manager

- Will travel with you from Canada and handle every detail
- In addition to knowledgeable local guides



Memorable Private Excursions

- Private excursions crafted by our team
- All sightseeing & entrance fees included



Private Car Pick-up Service

- Within a 200-kilometre radius, let your Journey begin in elegant comfort with a private chauffeured car to the airport



Generous Tips & Gratuities

- For the porters, local guides, hotel staff & many more, paid by us on your behalf

Our essentials included with your Journey:

- 12 nights in outstanding hotels
- All meals included (13 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 dinners)
- Round-trip airfare from Toronto with Iceland Air
- Other gateways & travel classes available
- All taxes as well as port & service charges
- "Whisper" radios included for use during excursions
- Branded overnight carry-on or backpack
- Porterage for one piece of luggage per person
- Complete information & assistance leading up to your departure

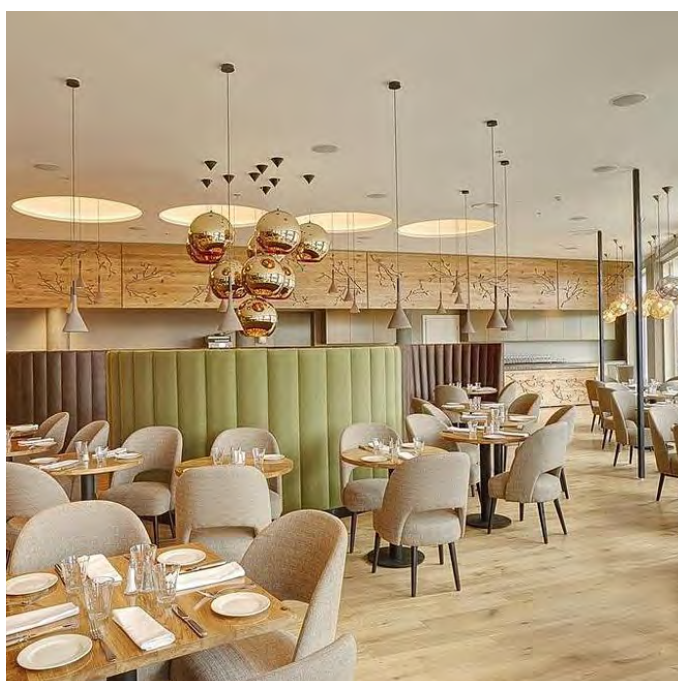
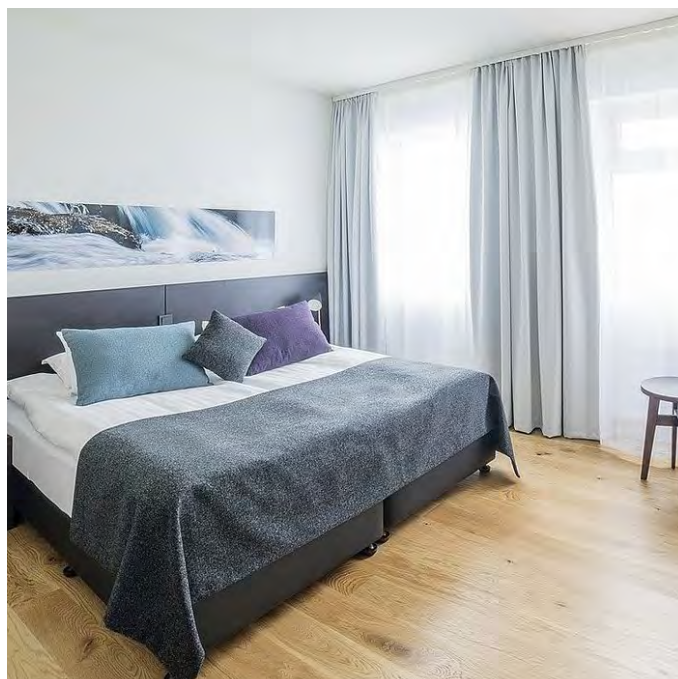
A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a facade of vertical wooden slats. The building is illuminated from within, and a bright light source, possibly the sun, is visible in the dark sky above, creating a lens flare effect. The building has large windows and a curved roofline. The foreground shows a wooden deck and some grass.

Hotels

Day 2-4 & 13-14

FOSSHÓTEL, REYKJAVIK

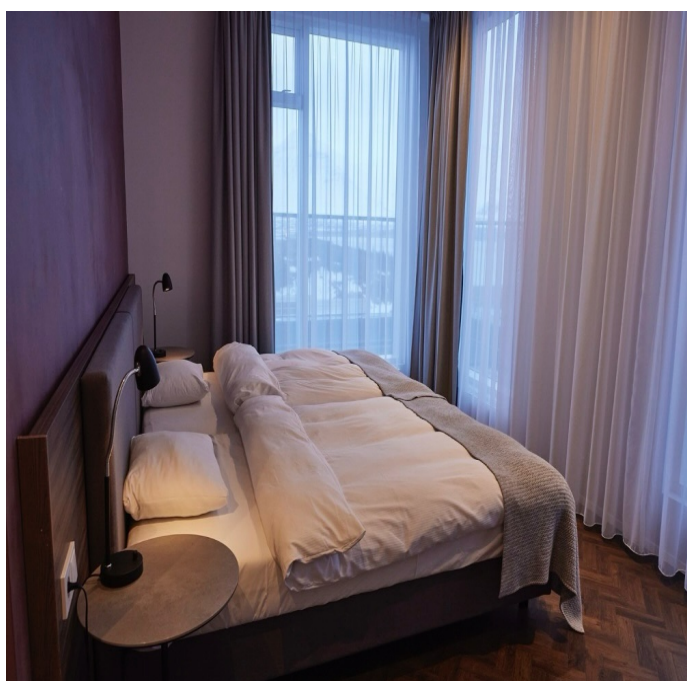
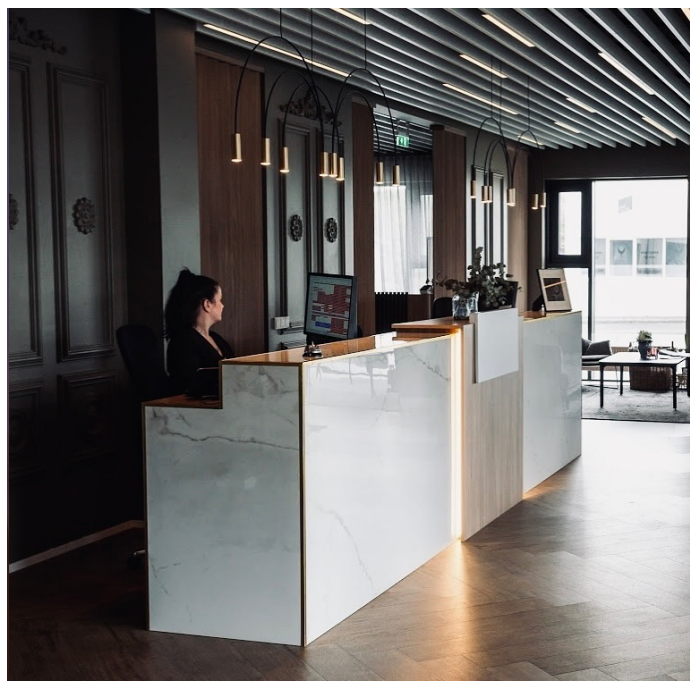
Fosshotel Reykjavík, Iceland's largest hotel stands prominently in Reykjavík's business district, only a short walk from the main shopping area. Here, from the heart of the city, you can easily explore Reykjavík's magnificent architecture, captivating history, vibrant markets and rich culture – ideal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



Day 4-6

HOTEL VESTURLAND, BORGARNES

Hótel Vesturland, situated in the charming town of Borgarnes, offers an elegant and welcoming retreat. Guests enjoy comfortable accommodations, exceptional customer service, and a variety of amenities designed for a pleasant stay. Committed to sustainability, Vesturland provides luxurious and nature-oriented experiences. Its prime location and outstanding hospitality make it the perfect choice for a relaxing and enjoyable stay in western Iceland.



Day 6-9

KEA HOTEL, AKUREYRI

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.



Day 9-10

FÁSKRÚÐSFJÖRÐUR, FOSSHOTEL EAST-FJORDS

Fosshotel Eastfjords is a beautiful hotel in Fáskrúðsfjörður near Reyðarfjörður, which is in the centre of the Eastfjords. The hotel is in a historic building built in 1903 and previously used as a hospital for French fishermen. The French theme is apparent throughout the hotel property yet each building offers some distinctive characteristics giving the town its unique appearance. All the rooms feature modern furnishing combined with some French vintage interiors and come with satellite tv, radio, and Free WiFi.



Day 10-12

FOSSHOTEL GLACIER LAGOON, HNAPPAVELLIR

Sleek and newly-built, Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon is a contemporary hotel on the edge of Vatnajökull National Park. The 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.



Day 12-13

HOTEL VIK, 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.



2024 Traveller Testimonies:

Rating: 10/10

“ Highlights: Firstly, we were fortunate to have an absolutely outstanding Journey Manager (Glee) and Icelandic Guide (Peter).

Every day introduced new highlights: blue lagoon, waterfalls, geysers, hot springs, herring museum, rock museum, etc etc. **Every touring day was de-clared to be outstanding as a consensus opinion by our group.”**

- The Gergovich's, ON

Rating: 10/10

“ Highlights: Waterfalls, Icelandic horses, drive up the mountain to see the glacier, in this order!

Areas for improvement? **None; it was perfect.**

- The Bradley's, ON

Rating: 10/10

“ Highlights: Almost too many “highlights” to choose from. Our Journey Manager Glee was absolutely fabulous., caring, and thoughtful and always positive.

The driver/guide Peter was outstanding. The knowledge he had to share about everything from birds and wildlife to personal stories about farm owners etc to geology- it was impressive! **This was my first Van Dyke experience and it cer-tainly lived up to the stories I've heard – top notch all the way!”**

- Ms. Clark, ON

May 11 - May 24 2025

All-Inclusive Fares

.....
Double Occupancy
\$13,990

.....
Single Occupancy
\$17,490

Prices are per guest in CAD, all taxes included.