

# Iceland



*Northern Lights*

# North Iceland Aurora Challenge

Hotel stays with great Escorted Day Tours included.

Winter Adventure Close to the Arctic Circle

2018 8 days Small Group

Adventure.com

Experience the Arctic North! This tour takes you on an exploration of West and North Iceland, known for its winter adventures in a natural paradise. Enjoy a relaxing visit to the Mývatn Nature Baths, join a snowshoe walk in a lava labyrinth, climb a volcano crater, travel along scenic fjord routes where you can almost touch the Arctic Circle. Visit museums, unique cultural sights and special culinary adventures. You'll spend 2 nights in Reykjavik, and 5 in Northern Iceland, with a small group of no more than 16 travelers. Top off each day with a presentation, film or lecture about some aspect of the Northern Lights, and then if the skies are right, head out and see them yourself!

### Daily Itinerary

**Day Zero** Monday: **Leave the US** on an overnight flight with Icelandair.

### Day 1, Tuesday: **WELCOME TO ICELAND**

The Flybus shuttle will take you from Keflavik International Airport to your hotel in Reykjavik where you spend the night. We provide you with ideas how to explore Iceland's capital on your own, dinner suggestions too! Food lovers will be impressed by the number of interesting restaurants in Reykjavik. Award winning chefs create delicious Icelandic cuisine local ingredients such as fresh

seafood, organic lamb and wild game; but there are also fabulous Icelandic hotdogs and pizza too!

### Day 2, Wednesday: **VOLCANO CRATER, SEALS, FJORDS & MOUNTAINS**

Meet your tour guide and travel west, passing the town of Borgarnes and climb the Grábrók volcano crater. Visit a natural history & seal museum and then stop at the turf church of Víðimýri. Travel along scenic fjords and over several challenging mountain passes until you reach Akureyri, the capital of Northern Iceland. With good weather join an excursion into the darkness to see the Northern Lights.

### Day 3, Thursday: **AKUREYRI, CHRISTMAS GARDEN AND GODAFOSS**

Independent exploration of Akureyri, Iceland's second-largest city. There are some excellent local museums, a lovely botanical garden and a great geothermal swimming pool. After lunch, visit the Christmas Garden, a small museum, featuring many celandic Christmas traditions. Next stop is Goðafoss, the waterfalls of the Gods. Then on to Lake Mývatn, a winter wonderland, for three nights. Join an evening lecture about Northern Lights and don't miss the chance to search for the magical auroras after dinner.

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## NORTH ICELAND AURORA CHALLENGE

### **Day 4, Friday: EXPLORE LAKE MÝVATN & SOAK IN GEOTHERMAL BATHS**

Lake Mývatn is known for its geological wonders and active bird life, but also for having Iceland's coldest temperatures. You'll take an easy walk through the bizarre lava formations and landscape with great views to the lake, bird life and trees. Later you'll explore the hot spring area of Námaskarð with its bubbling mud pools and steaming solfataras. You'll sample traditional dark bread baked underground in the geothermal heat. In the evening enjoy a video presentation about Northern Lights. After a delicious dinner, keep your eyes open for the Northern Lights.

### **Day 5, Saturday: SEARCH FOR THE TROLLS & SNOW ADVENTURES**

This morning it's a snowshoe trip (or a normal hike if there is no snow) through the lava formations of Dimmuborgir "the dark castles", hoping to get a glimpse of the trolls who are said to live there. The afternoon is free to explore the many pseudo craters or walk along the lake shores. Also available is an optional tour on cross-country skis or snow-mobiles. In the evening there's a relaxing soak at Lake Mývatn Nature Baths and then get ready to chase the elusive Northern Lights.

### **Day 6, Sunday: BIRDS & ICELANDS NORTHERN-MOST TOWN**

Today you'll visit the Lake Mývatn bird museum and then travel to Goðafoss, the waterfalls of the Gods. Then it's on to Dalvík, for a stop at a local brewery and taste one of Iceland's micro-beers. In the afternoon there's a beautiful drive along Eyjafjörður, Iceland's longest fjord which offers a fantastic mountain panorama and the Tröllaskagi Peninsula. Along the way, there's a stop at a deserted fjord valley that even most Icelanders have not yet seen. In the afternoon you'll come to Siglufjörður, Iceland's northernmost town, known as the herring capital of the North Atlantic, with its herring museum, the largest seafaring and industrial museum in the country. You'll spend the night in the beautifully located Hotel Siglo which offers spectacular geothermal hot tubs built into the local fjord.

### **Day 7, Monday: HISTORY, DESIGN & HORSES IN SKAGAFJÖRÐUR**

Travel back west over the mountains to Skagafjörður, the valley of horses and home of many ancient farms. Enjoy a guided tour through the only tannery in Europe which makes fish leather. A visit to the folk museum and turf farm at Glaumbær is a highlight. Later at a stop for coffee & cake and a visit at a horse farm, to learn about the

history and the special gaits of Icelandic horses. You will reach Reykjavík (depending on weather and road conditions) between 6 and 8 pm where you stay this last night in Iceland's capital.

### **Day 8, Tuesday: Farewell Iceland!**

Individual transfer by Flybus airport shuttle from your accommodation in Reykjavík to Keflavík Airport.



### **Prices per person 2018**

**Double \$4371.**  
**Single \$5279.**

dep US-return US  
**Mon - Tues**

Feb 5 - Feb 13  
Feb 12 - Feb 20  
Feb 19 - Feb 27  
Feb 26 - Mar 6  
Mar 5 - Mar 13  
Mar 12 - Mar 20  
Mar 19 - Mar 27  
Mar 26 - Apr 3



## NORTH ICELAND AURORA CHALLENGE

DAILY Travel;” Total mileage without airport transfer is 1.190 km (738 miles) which is an average of 200 km (124 miles) per day. You spend about 3 hours per day on the bus, depending on road conditions, traffic and daily itinerary.. On some days the driving might be longer than on some other days, such as day 2 and day 7.



*Price includes* round trip flights from Icelandair east coast gateways – New York, Newark, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington Dulles, and MCO Orlando - airport transfers) • Fully escorted 6-day bus tour with an English speaking guide • Entrance fee to natural history & seal museum • Horse show, coffee & cake at local horse farm • Visit to herring museum and local micro beer brewery • Hot steam baked bread tasting • Entrance with towel at Mývatn Nature Baths • Snow shoe hike (or hike if no snow) in lava labyrinth • Admission to Lake Mývatn bird museum • Visit to Christmas house & garden outside Akureyri • Admission to Víðimýri turf church, Glaumbær folk museum & turf farm and tannery in Skagafjörður • Five evenings of Northern Lights, presentations, film and guided searches for the Northern Lights • Use of winter & Northern Lights explorer equipment: simple non-slip snow & ice grippers spikes for shoes and a flash light that is helpful when walking in the dark and operating the photo camera at night.

Accommodations are in comfortable hotels, with private bath, wi- fi, TV and cosy bed. The itinerary uses these hotels: in Reykjavik, the Keahotel Reykjavik Lights for first and last nights.. In Akureyri: the Hotel Kea, in Myvatn: Sel- hotel Myvatn and in Siglufjordur: the Hotel Siglo. Please note that the hotel list is subject to change.

**Meals:** Breakfast is included every day and lunch stops are made at small country restaurants or petrol station diners, where you can purchase an array of meals. . In Reykjavik, Siglufjörður and Akureyri, the dinner is on your own and there are several choices. In Lake Mývatn you'll have a 3x 3-course dinner and 2x 2-course lunch included. . If you have any special diet requests or allergies, please let us know at the moment of your booking.

**Nature Fees:** There is a possibility that Icelands government may impose a fee on some of the natural attractions in Iceland. These entrance fees are not included in the tour price and may be additional, if imposed.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Winter weather may cause an adjustment in itinerary always made with the passenger safety in mind. The Northern Lights are also depending on clear skies and thus not guaranteed. You'll need to be prepared for winter nights on this tour - dress warmly, in layers with very warm footwear, gloves, hats, scarves and whatever else will make you comfortable while you await this ephemeral event!

