Iceland

The Land of Northern Lights

A short winter trip to Reykjavik and into the Icelandic countryside.

2015 - 16 **5 days**

Northern Lights Adventure.com

During the day we explore Southwest Iceland, known for its natural wonders and cultural sights. See glittering glaciers, snow-clad mountains, giant lava fields, steaming hot springs and beautiful waterfalls. Bathe in the mineral rich geothermal waters of the Blue Lagoon, walk on a black lava beach, visit Icelandic horses on their farm, photograph idyllic turf houses and travel close to the famous Eyjafjallajökull volcano. This short getaway to Iceland offers insight into Iceland's nature and cultural life, with two nights in Iceland's capital and two nights in South Iceland, an ideal location for the search for the Northern Lights. Also called Aurora Borealis, they are visible in the northern sky from September through April when the sky is clear and free of clouds.

Budget holiday offering excellent value for money
Must-see nature: the Golden Circle, the South Coast and the Blue Lagoon
Visit to Skógar folk museum with turf houses
2 night stay in South Iceland, ideal for Northern Lights hunting
2 evenings with a combination of lectures, presentations, film and guided searches for Aurora Borealis
Optional Northern Lights fjord cruise (weather dependent) may be offered on day 4
New: Option for hotel upgrade

For this tour you have a choice between 3 comfort and price levels

ITINERARY:

Day Zero
Leave the US

Day 1, Tues or Thurs: **WELCOME TO ICELAND** (50 km/31 mls)
The Flybus shuttle brings travelers from Keflavík International Airport to Guesthouse Borgartún and Centerhotel Plaza in Reykjavík where you spend one night. We provide you with ideas how to explore Iceland's capital on your own. Free shuttle bus from Guesthouse Borgartún to downtown Reykjavík at 19:00 and back at 22:00.

Day 2, Wed or Fri**: Reykjavik City Tour, Blue Lagoon Visit & Tour the Reykjanes Peninsula** (137 mls)
At 09:00 meet your tour guide who shows the group the highlights of Iceland's exciting capital. Then head out to the Reykjanes Peninsula with its hot springs, mountains, bird cliffs, light houses and fishing villages. At the end of the day, you get to soak off your travels in the warm mineral waters of the famous Blue Lagoon. You'll stay for two nights in simple cottages in South Iceland. There is an option to upgrade to studio rooms at the Stracta Hotel in Hella. In the evening you'll hear about the Northern Lights from our tour guide at Árhús Cottages. Naturally, once darkness falls you are out in the garden waiting for the Northern Lights.

Day 3, Thur or Sat :South Iceland (124 mls)
Today it's traveling along the south coast to reach the area near the active volcano that is beneath the Eyjafjallajökull glacier. A short stop at the high but narrow Seljalandsfoss waterfall, which plunges from the mountain. There is a trail that goes behind the falling water and offers interesting views, if you are prepared to get wet! At the seaside, you can stroll on the black lava beach to see the amazing bird cliffs at Reynisfjara near Vík. In the afternoon visit one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country; the 60 meter high Skógafoss waterfall. It is next to one of Iceland's finest folk museums, which contains an outstanding collection of farm and domestic artifacts from Iceland's past and several turf-built houses. In the

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evening there is another presentation about the Northern Lights. If the night is clear, you might see the Northern Lights swirling in a wild and carefree dance across the heavens in dramatic shapes, colours, patterns and sizes. The grounds of Árhús Cottages and the Stracta Hotel in Hella are very large and dark and offer you a good location for Northern Lights search if the weather conditions are right. It requires patience, warm clothing and the excitement of "maybe there are Northern Lights".

Day 4, Fri or Sun; Horses & the Golden Circle Tour (130 mls)

In the morning you learn about the Icelandic horse, its special qualities and history and visit a geothermal greenhouse. Travel the Golden Circle route. See steam rising from the Geysir geothermal fields as you arrive. There is a variety of hot springs and bubbling pools. The original geyser is now dormant but has been replaced by Strokkur "the Churn" which erupts at 5-10 minute intervals. Continue on to Gullfoss, a double waterfall that tumbles 34 meters into the Hvítá River and attracts tourists and travellers in summer and winter. Head inland to Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before returning to Reykjavík for your last night, either at Guesthouse Borgartún or Centerhotel Plaza. An optional Northern Lights evening cruise can be booked while in destination, if the weather conditions are ideal. Guests staying at Guesthouse Borgartún are offered a free shuttle bus to downtown Reykjavík at 19:00 and back at 22:00.

Day 5, Sat or Mon, Departure for Home: (31 mls)

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

You have a choice between 3 different price and comfort levels for the Land of Northern Lights Tour
All of these tours include day trips or activities and the Northern Lights Acadamy presentations on 2 evenings.

Prices 2015-16

Budget	
Double	$689
Single	$767
Comfort	
Double	$894
Single	$1218
New Year"s	
Double	$1223
Single	$1304

Code	LV US	Dep Ice
	2015	
24/1	28-Sep	3-Oct
24/2	30-Sep	5-Oct
24/3	5-Oct	10-Oct
24/4	7-Oct	12-Oct
24/5	12-Oct	17-Oct
24/6	22-Oct	26-Oct
24/7	26-Oct	31-Oct
24/8	28-Oct	2-Nov
24/9	2-Nov	7-Nov
24/10	4-Nov	9-Nov
24/11	9-Nov	14-Nov
24/12	11-Nov	16-Nov
24/13	16-Nov	21-Nov
24/14	18-Nov	23-Nov
24/15	23-Nov	28-Nov
24/16	25-Nov	30-Nov
24/17	30-Nov	5-Dec
24/18	2-Dec	7-Dec
24/20	9-Dec	14-Dec
24/NY	28-Dec	2-Jan-16
	2016	
24/23	11-Jan	16-Jan
24/24	13-Jan	18-Jan
24/25	18-Jan	23-Jan
24/26	20-Jan	25-Jan
24/27	25-Jan	30-Jan
24/28	27-Jan	1-Feb
24/29	1-Feb	6-Feb
24/30	3-Feb	8-Feb
24/31	8-Feb	13-Feb
24/32	10-Feb	15-Feb
24/33	15-Feb	20-Feb
24/34	17-Feb	22-Feb
24/35	23-Feb	27-Feb
24/36	24-Feb	1-Feb
24/37	Feb-29	5-Mar
24/38	2-Mar	7-Mar
24/39	7-Mar	12-Mar
24/40	9-Mar	14-Mar
24/41	14-Mar	19-Mar
24/42	16-Mar	21 Mar
24/43	21-Mar	26-Mar
24/44	23-Mar	28-Mar
24/45	28-Mar	2-Apr
24/46	30-Mar	4-Apr
24/47	4-Apr	9-Apr
24/48	6-Apr	11-Apr

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PRACTICAL TOUR INFORMATION:

Daily driving: Total mileage without airport transfer is about 630 km (391 miles) which is an average of 210 km (130 miles) per day. You spend about 3 hours per day on the bus, depending on road conditions, traffic and daily distances. On some days the driving might be longer than on some other days. This tour is suitable for children that are used to bus tours.

Note: In rare cases, a change of itinerary might be necessary during winter programs in Iceland, should snow, road and weather conditions not allow to follow the scheduled itinerary, and certain outdoor activities might be cancelled. In this case no refund will be given, but GJ-Travel will try to find reasonable alternatives where and whenever possible.

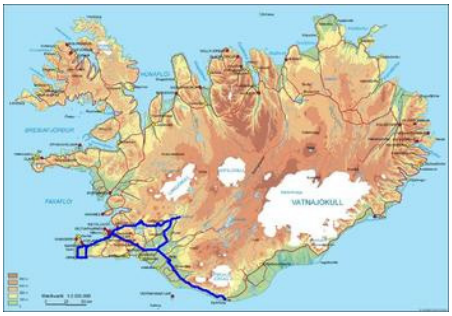
ACCOMMODATION: For this program we use budget accommodation in order to offer an attractive package price. You get great value for money. First and last night are at Guesthouse Borgartún in Reykjavík, offering 20 simple rooms with private shower/wc. Guesthouse Borgartún features a breakfast room and a sitting lounge with TV and guest computer. Guesthouse Borgartún is located about 5 minute drive to the center of Reykjavík. 2nd & 3rd night are at Árhús Cottages in Hella, South Iceland, where 23 rooms with shower/wc are located in simple cottages in the large garden right on the river banks in the village of Hella. Árhús Cottages are popular with outdoor active guests and families travelling with children. All cottages are equipped with a small kitchenette and free Wi-Fi. There is a restaurant on the premises, and a public swimming pool and supermarket are in walking distance.

INCLUDED: • Arrival & departure airport transfer by FLYBUS Plus shuttle (no guide) • Fully escorted 3-day bus tour with an English-speaking guide • 4-night budget accommodation, in rooms with private shower/wc (see information above) or hotel upgrade option • Daily breakfast • Entrance with towel at Blue Lagoon • Entrance fee to Skógar folk museum and turf houses • Visit to Icelandic horse stables & geothermal greenhouse • Shuttle bus from Guesthouse Borgartún to downtown Reykjavik at 19:00 and back at 22:00 on day 1 & 4 (not available for extension nights) •

NOTE REGARDING DINNERS: In Reykjavik, the dinner is on your own. There are many 0restaurants for both fast food and a fine a la carte dining in Iceland's capital. The Árhús Cottages and Stracta Hotel in South Iceland offer a limited a la carte menu with a selection of fish, meat and vegetarian as main course. Lunch stops are made at small country restaurants or petrol station diners.

NATURE FEES: There is a possibility that some of the nature attractions around Iceland might charge an entrance fee during the trip. These entrance fees are not included in the tour price and need to be paid by all tour members additionally on the spot, when entering any of these nature sites. Locations, amount of entrance fee, form of payment and other details are not known at the present time and are subject to change.

NORTHERN LIGHTS: On 2 evenings this program offers a combination of presentations, lectures, film and guided Northern Lights searches in the garden of Árhús Cottage in Hella, South Iceland, about 10 minute walk from Stracta Hotel. Árhús Cottages and Stracta Hotel in South Iceland offer a Northern Lights wake up call for guests that register for that special service at the reception. The tour is dependent on weather and therefore sightings are not guaranteed. The Northern Lights are in the northern hemisphere from September through April but are only visible when the sky is clear and free of clouds. Like many natural wonders, the Northern Lights are ephemeral – they may be visible, they may appear for a bit and then be gone (it is not a TV show that you can just turn on and off). But it is worth the patience which is much required. Because they are a winter event, you need to be prepared to wait outside while looking for them. It is best to dress very warmly, in layers, with good footwear, gloves, hats and whatever else will make you comfortable while you await patiently this truly outstanding event. For the best photos we recommend using a tripod.



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