



# Glacial Exploration & Auroras

7 Nights

01 October 2016 - 30 April 2017



## Summary

Winter in Iceland is a fantastic season to experience the majestic might of glaciers. These powers of nature have forcefully carved Iceland's landscape on their ponderous march to the sea. Icelandic glaciers are worth a closer look, and this new driving vacation gives more time in prime glacial areas.

Discover glaciers' ever-changing beauty and their importance to both Iceland and the world. Drive on roads paralleling Europe's largest glacier, experiencing its ever-changing angles and fantastic photo opportunities. You'll also experience the Golden Circle as well as Viking Saga locales and the impressive glacier-fueled natural wonders of the Borgarfjörður region. Overnight in stunning locations that make a fabulous backdrop for elusive northern lights.

## Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head Office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

## Overview

**Dates:** 01 October 2016 - 30 April 2017

**Interest:** family – couples – friends – seniors

**Level of Comfort:** 4/5

**Minimum # of passengers:** none

**Maximum # of passengers:** none

## Information about the destination

- **Currency:** Icelandic króna
- **Language:** Icelandic, English
- **Dialing Code:** +354
- **Banks & currency exchange:** All banks can exchange currency and most hotels, but you are likely to get a better rate at the bank.

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#### Day 1: Reykjavik

Upon arrival in Iceland - The world's Northern most capital city

Once you have landed at Keflavik Airport in Iceland, collect your rental car at the airport and proceed to your hotel in Reykjavik. The rest of the day is yours to rest and use at your own leisure.

#### Day 2: Reykjavik - Reykholt/Husafell

Today head to scenic Borgarfjordur via the scenic Hvalfjordur (Whale Fjord) and its intriguing undersea tunnel.

Drive through Borgarnes town where you can learn about the first Viking settlers in the area at the popular Settlement Museum. Visit Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot springs, as well as two beautiful waterfalls, Hraunfossar (the Lava Falls) and Barnafoss (the Children's Falls)

Tonight you are well situated to catch a glimpse of the famous northern lights, if Mother Nature decides to cooperate

#### Day 3: Borgarfjordur Valley and Langjokull Glacier

Today explore the Borgarfjordur valley region and nearby areas. Langjokull Glacier offers exciting adventures such as exploring Into the Glacier, a man-made tunnel built into the icy-blue heart of the glacier. The tunnel is reached by an adventurous ride up the glacier in a monstrous 18-wheeled vehicle. Once at the tunnel, you'll view a glacier from the inside and learn how these icy wonders are formed. Another interesting area activity is a guided cave visit. If you're interested in culture, visit nearby Reykholt, home of a medieval chieftain who penned some of Iceland's greatest Sagas. Visit scenic Husafell and stroll on paths with colorful stone paintings created by a local artist

#### Day 4: The Golden Circle- Thingvellir, Gullfoss, Geysir

Today, visit the must-see sites in Iceland! Start with Thingvellir National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site), famous for its history and geological wonders. Onwards to the majestic Gullfoss waterfall, formed by the waters of a glacial river. Continue to Geysir hot spring area with its lively bubbling pools and spouting geyser. Late in the afternoon you might drive south to visit the Fakasel Icelandic Horse Park. This is a fun opportunity for you to meet friendly Icelandic horses. We recommend the charming 45-minute Legends of Sleipnir, a multimedia horse show about the importance of Icelandic horses to the country's history, mythology and folklore. Afterwards you can go onstage to meet the equine actors.

#### Day 5: Waterfalls and Glacial Horizons

Travel along the south coast, one of Iceland's main farming areas. You'll see many farms and shaggy herds of Icelandic horses as you head along the Ring Road. View the magnificent waterfall Skogarfoss, site of hidden treasure. Nearby is Skogar Folk Museum, well known throughout Iceland for being the best of its kind with a collection of mementos from this region's past housed in beautifully-preserved old turf-roofed buildings. Make a stop in Vik village where you can admire stunning views of a black sand beach and the black basalt columns of Drangey. You'll also see glaciers from the road, including Myrdalsjokull and Europe's largest glacier, Vatnajokull.

#### Day 6: Glacial Wonders

Your hotel is perfectly situated to make a full day of exploring glacial wonders in Vatnajokull National Park, Europe's largest national park. Visit the park's majestic Skaftafell area, which is located between two glaciers and offers many hiking possibilities. Continue to Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon, where blue, white, turquoise and black-streaked icebergs shift and dance. The mystical lagoon is enormous and has been the backdrop for many major feature films and programs including Batman Begins and, most recently, Game of Thrones. It is a special place for photographers who enjoy the challenge of catching the icebergs in just the right light conditions. Don't forget to keep an eye out for seals resting amid the glaciers.

Tonight, if the weather conditions are optimal, you might catch northern lights playing across the sky

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### Day 7: South Coast to Reykjavik

Drive along the scenic south coast back to the west. En route, visit Seljalandsfoss, a waterfall that you can walk behind. At the Thorvaldseyri Volcano Visitor Centre located beneath Eyjafjallajökull Volcano, you can experience both in pictures and film the 2010 eruption and its impact on the area and the whole world. (Note: closed in December and January and on weekends). The new Bobby Fischer Center in Selfoss is dedicated to the world-famous American chess master who defeated Russian Boris Spatsky in the 1972 Match of All Time in Iceland. Bobby Fischer lived his last years in Iceland and is buried in a nearby cemetery. During the winter, you can call in advance to make an appointment to visit the museum. Visit Hveragerdi, a hot spring village famous for its geothermal greenhouses where flowers and vegetables are grown year-round. Return to Reykjavik in the late afternoon/early evening.

### Day 8: Departure

Please be prepared to leave the hotel about 3 hours before the departure of your flight.  
Drop off your rental car at the airport.

Please note: The northern lights are a natural phenomenon and sightings, therefore, cannot be guaranteed.

### Selected hotels

Nights	Regions	4* hotels or similar
3	Reykjavik	Fosshotel Reykjavik or similar
1	Reykholt	Fosshotel Reykholt or similar
1	Hekla	Fosshotel Hekla or similar
2	Nupur	Fosshotel Nupur or Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon

### Prices Include

Round trip ticket to Reykjavik (economy class)  
7 days car rental with unlimited mileage, CDW, theft protection and VAT GPS system with car  
7- night accommodation at hotel  
Meals: daily breakfast  
Car pick-up/drop-off at Keflavik international airport  
Detailed road map  
Detailed Iceland Travel Guide booklet in selected languages  
Emergency phone line open 24 hours  
SIM card worth ISK 2000: 50 minutes of local calls + 300 MB of data. Standard, Micro and Nano cards available. Please check with your service provider to make sure that your phone is unlocked before arrival in Iceland.  
Assistance of our representative in Iceland

### Prices Exclude

Airport taxes  
Fuel surcharge  
DIP surcharge \$5/ticket  
Optional Tours  
Visa fees  
Travel insurance  
City tax  
All other expenses

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#### Starting price per person in \$US

Hotel	Indicative type of car	Triple	Double	Single
4* Hotels	Suzuki Swift 4wd or similar	3545	3545	4470
	Skoda Octavia 4wd Station or similar	3620	3640	4655
	Skoda Octavia Intermediate 4wd Station Automatic	3630	3660	4695
	Toyota RAV4 4wd, Suzuki Grand Vitara 4wd or similar	3710	3780	4930
	Toyota RAV4 4wd Automatic, Suzuki Grand Vitara 4wd Automatic, Hyundai ix35 4wd Automatic or similar	3730	3815	5000
	Toyota Land Cruiser GX 4wd Automatic or similar	3825	3955	5290

- Prices may change without prior notice and subject to availability at time of booking

#### Flight Schedule

From	To	Flight No	Departure	Arrival
Beirut	Frankfurt	ME 217	07:15	10:40
Frankfurt	Reykjavík	WW 761	11:40	14:20
Reykjavík	Frankfurt	WW 760	06:15	10:50
Frankfurt	Beirut	ME 218	12:00	16:50

#### Payment facilities available with CFC

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of our package with details pertaining to hotels, flights and proposed tours. This is not a tailor made quotation and should you wish to have specific details reviewed to better suits your need please do not hesitate to contact one of our travel consultants or visit one of our branches.

CODE: FR-H-WIN17-GLACIAL EXPLORATION AND AURORAS

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