

Iceland's Northern Lights



TRIP OVERVIEW

Experience Iceland's astonishing cosmic displays of the Northern Lights, bursts of geothermic water from prehistoric geysers and cinematic landscapes dominated by snow-topped mountain ranges. Round off your tour with an exploration of Viking history upon the mammoth plains of Thingvellir National Park.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Iceland. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important details such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Reykjavik

Depart London on your direct flight to Iceland. Here, you will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel in the capital, Reykjavik. This evening, journey to a secluded vantage point for a chance to witness the Northern Lights, a celestial kaleidoscope of turquoise bands rolling across the still night sky, illuminating shimmering ice sheets and volcanic summits. This phenomenon is a truly awe-inspiring spectacle to behold and Iceland's vast, dark plains provide the perfect backdrop for their splendour.

Please note: If luck is not on your side, then your Northern Lights Excursion will be repeated during your trip until you have a successful sighting.

DAY 2: Reykjavik B

Following breakfast, wrap up in a hand-knitted lopapeysa and embark on a full-day tour around the Golden Circle, a route that loops around south-western Iceland, passing steaming hot springs, bubbling mud pots, erupting geysers and dazzling landscapes. Witness the spectacular double cascade of Gullfoss Waterfall which is equally breath-taking in summer when rainbows arch through the spray, and winter when ice and snow are carried by its powerful flow. Next, observe the enormous plumes of the Strokkur geyser, where eruptions burst upwards to heights of 15–30 metres. Discover how tomatoes grow within this harsh tundra at

the Frioheimar Cultivation Centre then head to the UNESCO-recognised Thingvellir National Park. This colossal fissured rift valley was home to the world's first democratic parliament, formed in 930AD and offers sweeping views of rugged peaks and terrain. Return to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

DAY 3: Reykjavik B

Today is at leisure for you to experience the world's northernmost capital, home to incredible architecture, hospitable locals and mountains with snow-capped peaks. Abounding historical, cultural and artistic treasures, the city of Reykjavik boasts a wealth of captivating sites just waiting to be explored; you may choose to spend your day at leisure meandering through the old town's brightly painted houses, admiring the contemporary glass façade of the Harpa Concert Hall or observing The Sun Voyager, Reykjavik's most iconic structure, majestically positioned on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. Alternatively, a range of optional excursions are available to pre book at a fee.

DAY 4: Reykjavik to the UK or extension B

After breakfast, enjoy a morning at leisure, allowing you to fit in some last-minute shopping, enjoy coffee in a nearby cafe or relax in your hotel. This afternoon, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK or continue on to your extension.

Our full range of optional excursions can be found on page 4.



ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Iceland. All group tours have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast each day will be served in the restaurant at the hotel. Any dietary requirements and dislikes should be made known to our reservations staff at the time of booking.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival into Reykjavik you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Snaeland Travel, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any questions you may have, however if you need to contact them during your stay the details are:

Snaeland Travel (Head Office)

Langholttsvegur 109,
 104 Reykjavik
 Telephone: 00354 588 8660
 E-mail: booking@snaeland.is

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Snaeland Travel
 Emergency telephone number 24/7: 00354 588 8660
 24 hour email: snaeland@snaeland.is

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Iceland. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Sunspot Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. Our tour paces are marked with dots out of 3, with the differences being as follows:

- 1 Dot the tour is Easy-Going
- 2 Dots the tour is Intermediate
- 3 Dots the tour is Advanced

Iceland's Northern Lights is rated as 1 Dot meaning that the tour pace is Easy-Going. A reasonable level of fitness is required as you will be spending some time on your feet each day though there are no large distances to cover. You will be walking around the sights at a leisurely pace, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing some steps.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 4, and the maximum will be 72. If in the unlikely event there are less than 4 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tipping

It is at your discretion to tip both your driver and guide. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Tour Guides

You will be met on arrival at the terminal by your English-Speaking Driver. Your excursions are in shared services, meaning that these excursions are not exclusive to Mercury Holidays customers, however you will have a local English-Speaking guide present during these excursions ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. This guide will only be available during excursions.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Iceland is the Icelandic Krona (ISK). We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £200- £300 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times or sailing conditions.

Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to the local conditions.

Northern Lights advice

Please note: the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) is a meteorological phenomenon and viewing thereby cannot be guaranteed. It is useful to note that the Northern Lights appear white/grey in the sky, their colour shows up when photographed. When taking photographs it is advised to use a slow shutter speed with the longest exposure you can. Never use a flash.

WHAT TO PACK

- A hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers or hiking shoes and crampons
- Sunglasses
- Towel, swimsuit and plastic bags
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit
- Light rain coat
- A Warm Coat/Jacket

- A warm hat and gloves
- Clothes that can be worn as multiple layers - it is very cold outside and warm inside
- The electricity supply is 220V-240V. You will need a two pin round plug adapter in Iceland
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your flight to Reykjavik is with Iceland Air (FI), departing from London Heathrow, Terminal 2

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

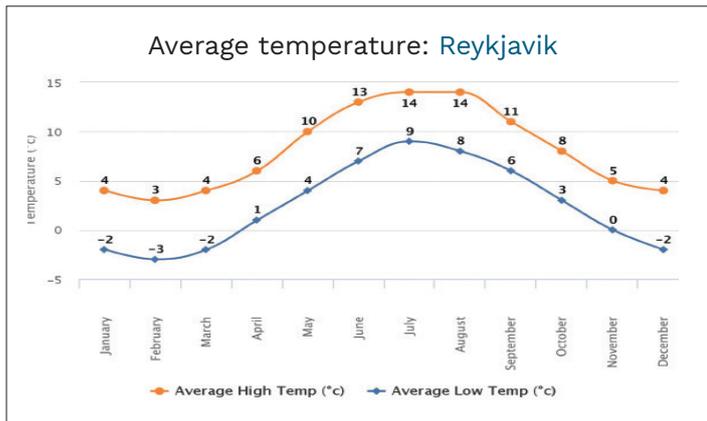
Each passenger is entitled to 23KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding (Max 10kg - 55cm/40cm/20cm) in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-in should be at least 3 hours before departure.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Sunrise and Sunset Approximate Times:												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sunrise	11:19	09:55	08:21	06:42	04:39	03:15	03:07	04:50	06:16	07:36	09:24	10:51
Sunset	15:44	17:29	18:59	20:22	22:12	23:39	23:55	22:15	20:37	18:57	16:58	15:44

Iceland's Northern Lights Optional Excursions

*Enhance your tour experience with our excellent range of optional excursions.
Prices are per person and are to be pre-booked before departure.*



Day 3: Reykjavik city tour

From £69

Begin your tour at the Hofdi House, best known as the location of the 1986 summit between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev which marked a significant step towards the end of the cold war. The house is also known to be haunted by the White Lady. Continue to the stunning Harpa Concert Hall, and Hallgrímskirkja Church whose unique design was inspired by basalt lava columns. Ascend the Perlan Viewing Platform for 360 degree views across the city and finally stop at the outskirts of the city at Bessastadir, the official residence of the President of Iceland.

Day 3: Blue Lagoon with Comfort Entrance

From £149

Visit a geothermal wonder of nature with pleasantly warm mineral rich seawater in the middle of lava field. Admission includes a silica mud mask, towel and a non-alcoholic drink of your choice.

Day 3: Whale Watching Tour with hotel pick up

From £99

Take a 3 hour whale watching cruise departing from the Old Harbour in Reykjavik. The most common species are Mink Whales, dolphins, porpoises and Humpback Whales.

Day 3: Whale Watching & Northern Lights Cruise with hotel pick up

From £169

Take a 3 hour whale watching cruise departing from the Old Harbour in Reykjavik. The most common species are Mink Whales, dolphins, porpoises and Humpback Whales. Return to shore for time to walk around the harbour and have dinner before returning for your evening cruise.

Cruise to the southern part of the bay away from the bright lights and underneath the beautiful starry sky where you can seek out the spectacular northern lights, a kaleidoscope of colour cascading across the sky.

Day 3: South Shore Day Tour

From £109

Drive along the south coast to see the waterfalls of Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss some of the most impressive in the country. Continue to Vik, the southernmost village in Iceland and a place renowned for the beauty of the surrounding cliffs, mountains and birdlife.

Prices in pounds for illustration purposes. Optional Excursions are at an additional cost. Full details of your optional excursion are given to you on your arrival into Iceland, including pick up and return times and meeting points. Please note that these excursions are on a shared service basis and a guide may not be present during your transfer. Optional excursions may be dependent on local weather conditions.

Reykjavik City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Extend your time in Reykjavik, allowing more time to explore its Viking history and sample its culinary and cultural delights. The city also provides the perfect base for day trips to picturesque islands and parks that lie further afield.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Reykjavik.

Reykjavik city stay (2 nights)

Hotel Information

Your stay in Reykjavik will take place at the 3★ **Hótel Klettur** on Bed & Breakfast. This comfortable hotel is only a stones throw from downtown and the best of Iceland's shops, entertainment, bars and world-class dining.

Hotel Information

Address: Mjølfnisholti 12-14, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland
 Telephone number: 00354 440 1600

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Please note: the hotel listed is provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along

with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

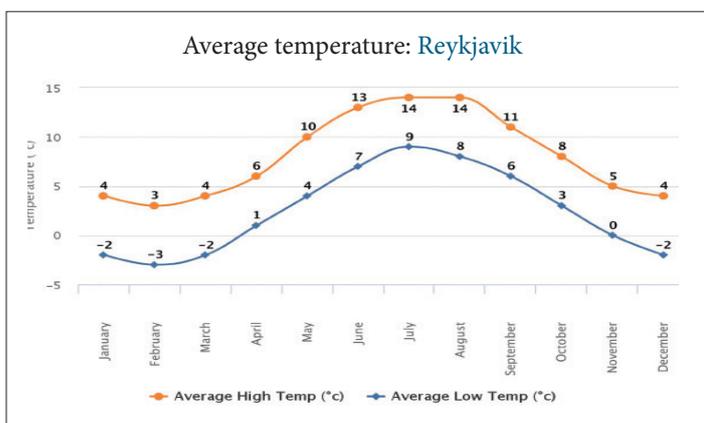
Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals not included, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any snacks.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Reykjavik is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information, call us on **0843 224 0723**