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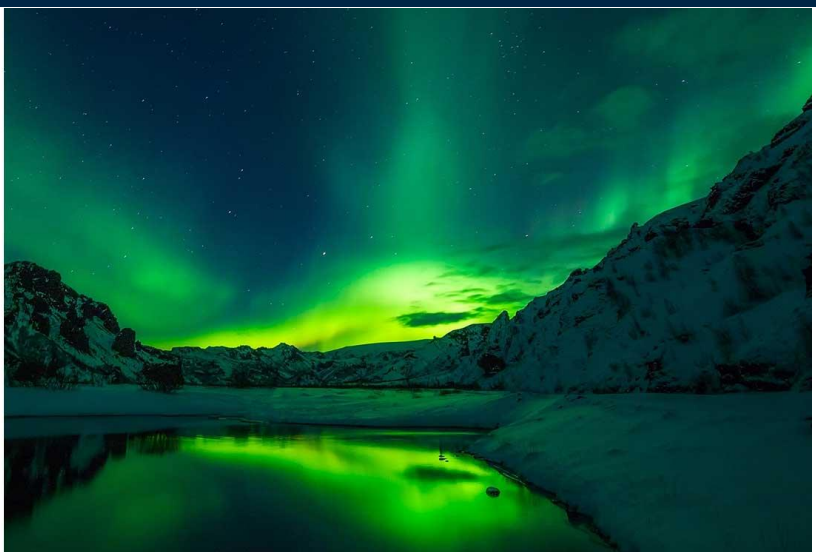
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 **Friday March 17 - Saturday March 25, 2023**

 **Iceland**

Alpine Adventures | alpineadventures.net



SAT
MAR
18

DAY 1: Arrival Transfer with Reykjavik City Sightseeing

Approximate Driving Distance: 32 miles

The perfect introduction to Reykjavík, as soon as you arrive.

Your guide will be waiting for you in the arrival hall, ready to take you to your private coach. You'll then head straight for the capital, where your tour will take in all the city's major attractions, including: **the Parliament, the National Museum, Laugadalur swimming pool, the Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture museum, the Pearl, Höfði house (site of the 1986 summit) and the city's main landmark, Hallgrímskirkja.**

There's no better way to get to grips with everything **Reykjavík** has to offer in just a few hours. Afterwards, you'll be delivered to your accommodation for check-in.

Duration: 3-4 hours.

Please note guaranteed early check-in is not included in the price. Most hotels begin check-in around 14:00 (2:00pm).

Overnight stay at CenterHotel Midgardur or similar for the next 2 nights.

Welcome dinner during the evening.

Check-In

ACCOMMODATIONS	CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT
Midgardur by Center Hotels Laugavegur Reykjavík, 101, Iceland Phone: +354 595 8560 Website	15:00 Sat Mar 18, 2023	12:00 Mon Mar 20, 2023

The hotel is ideally located in the heart of the city in short walking distance from the main attraction in Reykjavík. The location makes the hotel the ideal choice for visitors who are searching for a relaxing atmosphere.

The hotel has 170 modern and bright rooms that are simple, classy and comfortable offering our guests a laid back atmosphere where they feel relaxed and at ease. All rooms are equipped with a private bathroom, mini bar, coffee and tea making facility, flat screen TV, free Wi fi, shower, hairdryer and a safety box.

SUN
MAR
19

DAY 2: Reykjavik - Snæfellsnes peninsula - Reykjavik

Approximate Driving Distance: 280 miles

Enjoy a delicious and healthy Icelandic breakfast at your hotel. Meet your local guide in the hotel lobby. Depart Reykjavík with your guide and driver and travel northwest via an undersea tunnel through Hvalfjörður (Whale Bay) on your way to the rugged coastline **Snæfellsnes Peninsula**. Known as "Iceland in a Nutshell," this area will show you an astonishing variety of natural landscapes that can be seen in Iceland, but all conveniently situated in one area. This is part of the remote and tranquil **Snaefellsjökull National Park**, named after the peninsula's magnificent glacier-crowned volcano (last eruption: 250 AD). The mountain is said to be protected by a benevolent spirit, and you'll surely feel recharged as you drive through this beautiful park.

You'll visit secluded and charming fishing villages as you head along the northern peninsula. View Iceland's most photographed mountain, **Kirkjufell**, and its surrounding fjord teeming with herring and orca whales.

Continue along the coastline, making some amazing stops to admire columnar basalt formations and the crashing waves of the North Atlantic. Head back to Reykjavik in the late afternoon

MON
MAR
20

DAY 3: Þingvellir – Geysir – Gullfoss

Approximate Driving Distance: 128 miles

Breakfast at your hotel. Start the adventure by visiting the fascinating **Aurora Reykjavík Northern Lights Centre**. You'll get a great introduction to northern lights, how they are formed and the folklore surrounding them. You'll also get tips about how to capture northern lights on film. It's also possible to get assistance from the staff in adjusting your camera's settings for northern lights photos.

Then head onwards to **Þingvellir National Park** (UNESCO World Heritage site) where the world's oldest parliament met for centuries on the shores of Iceland's largest lake. This is a place that makes us Icelanders very proud of our heritage, and your guide will show you some of the amazing sites here. You might even have the rare chance to walk between two continents!

During the day you will also visit the town of **Laugarvatn**. The town is built around three hot springs, and the residents have cleverly harnessed the hot springs for heating, greenhouses and even cooking. You'll visit a unique outdoor geothermal bakery where sweet Icelandic rye bread is baked in the hot sands. You'll have the chance to taste some of the freshly baked bread, hot from the ground. It's especially delicious slathered in sweet Icelandic butter.

Continue on to the geothermal fields of **Geysir** with bubbling mud pools and the high-spouting Strokkur hot spring. Last but not least, visit the dramatic two-tiered **Gullfoss** waterfall, a spectacular sight in winter when frozen mid-cascade. Stop at **Skalholt**, Iceland's capital "city" during the Middle Ages and now a culture center with a beautiful church.

If weather conditions are right, your guide will take you on a northern lights hunt on foot in the area outside your hotel tonight, or on the evening of Day 3 or 4.

Dinner and overnight stay at IcelandairHotel Flúdir or similar

Check-In

ACCOMMODATIONS

Icelandair Hótel Flúðir

Vesturbrún

Flúðir, 845, Iceland

Phone: +354 486 6630

[Website](#)

CHECK-IN

15:00

Mon Mar 20, 2023

CHECK-OUT

12:00

Tue Mar 21, 2023

Icelandair Hotel Flúðir provides relaxing comfort in pleasant surroundings. It is situated in a modern, one-story building in the quiet community of Flúðir. Only an hour and a half's drive from Reykjavík, it's the ideal stop-off point if you're exploring the Golden Circle. The restaurant is known for its excellent organic dining and famed "Flúðasúpa" (mushroom soup) made from locally grown mushrooms in geothermally heated greenhouses. Enjoy a soak in the outdoor hot tubs and also the Garden Bar.

TUE Day 4: Iceland's South Shore

MAR **Approximate Driving Distance:** 128 miles

21

Breakfast at your hotel. Drive along the **South Shore**, an area of Iceland that is especially beautiful to view in the winter. This part of Iceland is home to the wonderful **LAVA Centre**, an interactive, high-tech educational exhibition depicting volcanic activity, earthquakes and the creation of Iceland over millions of years. Enjoy both the exhibit and viewing an interesting film about Icelandic volcanoes at the Centre's cinema.

Stop at the spectacular waterfalls **Seljalandsfoss** and **Skógafoss**. If trail conditions are right, you might be able to walk behind the ribbon-like Seljalandsfoss falls. Skogafoss is a beautifully shaped waterfall that makes a perfect backdrop for a selfie. It has an interesting history geologically, and it just may also be hiding some buried treasure from the Middle Ages.

Head onwards, passing Myrdalsjökull Glacier, to visit **Reynisfjara beach**. Take a walk on the black sands, admiring the extraordinary rock formations and thundering waves of the Atlantic Ocean. Cross **Eldhraun**, a vast lava field created from a very destructive 18th-century eruption as you head into Southeast Iceland. The snows of winter make this landscape into something very mysterious.

Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel Klaustur or similar for the next two nights.

Check-In

ACCOMMODATIONS

Icelandair Hotel Klaustur
KLAUSTARVEGUR 6, 880
KIRKJUBÆJARKLAUSTUR
Kirkjubæjarklaustur,
Kirkjubæjarklaustur ICELAND
Phone: 354-4-874900
[Website](#)

CHECK-IN

15:00
Tue Mar 21, 2023

CHECK-OUT

12:00
Thu Mar 23, 2023

Located in the South-Eastern part of Iceland, a place famous for its scenery of the biggest glacier in Europe, Vatnajökull, and right opposite lava fields, Hotel Klaustur opened its doors in 1993. Our emphasis has always been to provide a warm welcome for our guests, from family travelers to celebrity movie directors and photographers pursuing the magical views of local nature. The hotel was renovated in 2018 and re-opened recently with a unique brand identity – a fusion of modern Icelandic culture and historical heritage of the country.

Our hotel acquired the name of its village – Kirkjubæjarklaustur, or “Klaustur” as it is usually referred to by locals, a small village located on the famous Ring Road between the two of Iceland’s most famous glaciers, Vatnajökull and Mýrdalsjökull. Several tourist attractions are situated near the town, including Vatnajökull National Park, the canyon Fjaðrárgljúfur, the Laki craters, the Church floor, the Dwarf Rocks and the Glacier Lagoon. Furthermore, while driving to Klaustur, you can enjoy scenic views of waterfalls such as Seljalandsfoss and Skógarfoss and the black beach Reynisfjara. The 57 rooms at the hotel include private bathrooms with shower, LCD television, telephone and hairdryer. Three room standards are available: Guest Room, Superior Room or Junior Suite.

Klaustur restaurant seats as many as 150 guests and is an ideal venue for both romantic dinners and large gatherings. We mostly use produce from local producers, Icelandic Skyr and of course the world famous Arctic char. Adding to the restaurant’s finery, spectacular views compliment your food beautifully, making your dining experience a memorable one.

WED Day 5: Vatnajökull National Park – Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon

MAR Approximate Driving Distance: 130 miles

22

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you will be in a world of glaciers! You’ll be visiting the southern area of **Vatnajökull National Park**, named after Europe’s largest glacier. The total park area covers almost 14% of Iceland, making it the largest national park in Western Europe! Drive through vast sand plains created by glacial outwashes as you head east. Visit **Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon** where you can enjoy the breath-taking sight of icebergs floating in the fantastic 180m (591 ft.) deep glacial lagoon (make sure that camera is loaded and ready!) Nearby is the dramatic beauty of the **Diamond Beach**, where shrinking icebergs settle on the black sands before they drift out to sea.

Then view **Svínafellsjökull**, one of the most beautiful glacial “tongues” that are slowly creeping down from Vatnajökull. Visit the national park’s famous **Skaftafell** area, a site of outstanding natural beauty dominated by several magnificent glaciers.

After the day, return to the hotel for an overnight stay.

THU
MAR
23

Day 6: Hveragerði – Reykjavík

Approximate Driving Distance: 230 miles

Breakfast at your hotel. Head back along the beautiful south coast, enjoying a different view of the winter landscapes. Visit the village of **Hveragerði**, which is one of the few sites in the world located directly in the middle of a geothermal area. Hveragerði is often called "The Flower Village" because of its many flower greenhouses heated by hot water from nearby springs. Stop at Ölverk brewery in Hveragerði for brewery tour where you get to know the history of beer in Iceland, geothermal activity in the Hengill area and the use of geothermal energy in Hveragerði as well as in the whole of Iceland. The main focus of the tour however is the story of Ölverk and their brewing process. You will get to taste four different Ölverk beers during the tour. Drive to Reykjavík in the afternoon.

Overnight at CenterHotel Midgardur for the next 2 nights.

Check-In

ACCOMMODATIONS

Midgardur by Center Hotels

Laugavegur
Reykjavík, 101, Iceland
Phone: +354 595 8560

[Website](#)

CHECK-IN

15:00

Thu Mar 23, 2023

CHECK-OUT

12:00

Sat Mar 25, 2023

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FRI
MAR
24

Day 7: Reykjanes peninsula - Blue Lagoon

Approximate Driving Distance: 130 miles

Breakfast at your hotel. Today you will visit Reykjanes peninsula the Iceland's most astonishing natural wonders. This volcanic wonderland is a UNESCO GeoPark site. Take a coastal road to Lake Kleifarvatn, set in fascinating, stark, moon-like surroundings. Near the lake's southern end lies Krísvík with powerful jets of sulphurous steam escaping from deep below the earth's crust. Here you can view numerous small hot springs, mud pots, boiling pools and other types of geothermal activity. Continue under low mountains along the shore, where craggy cliffs rise steeply from the sea. Visit Grindavík, a bustling town with a large fishing fleet. Nearby is the world-famous Blue Lagoon, where you will enjoy a dip in the famous lagoon, a unique wonder of nature with pleasantly warm, mineral-rich water in the middle of a black lava field. Return to Reykjavík in the afternoon. Your guide will say farewell to you at your hotel.

Farewell dinner in the evening.

SAT Day 8: Departure

MAR Approximate Driving Distance: 32 miles

25

Breakfast at your hotel, a final chance to savor delicious Icelandic foods, *(please note that this might be a light breakfast if you are taking an early morning departure flight)*. Depending on your schedule there may be free time to explore Reykjavik and do some shopping.

Meet your bus driver at your hotel for an unguided transfer to Keflavík Airport and your return flight. Enjoy some final views of Iceland as you drive along the Reykjanes Peninsula to the airport. Enjoy your trip back to your home country and the fond memories of your time in Iceland.

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

INCLUDED:

- Meet and greet at Keflavík International Airport upon arrival and transfer to hotel in Reykjavík with Reykjavik city sightseeing
- Guided coach tour as per itinerary including accommodation and meals as needed for the guide and driver
- Departure transfer without guide
- Accommodation 4 nights with breakfast and with private facilities in Reykjavík
- Accommodation 3 nights with breakfast and with private facilities in the countryside
- Welcome dinner, 3 course (day 1)
- Entrance fee to the Aurora Reykjavík Northern Lights Centre in Reykjavík (day 3)
- Visit to outdoor geothermal bakery and taste of steam-baked rye bread (day 3)
- Entrance fee to the LAVA Centre and volcano film at the LAVA Centre Cinema (day 4)
- Brewery tour with pizza buffet at Ölverk (day 6)
- Blue Lagoon admission, including towel rental, silica mud mask and one drink (day 7)
- Farewell dinner - 3 course (day 7)
- Dinner at remote location (restaurant and location to be advised)
- Northern Lights guided hunt on foot one selected evening
- Coach parking fees where needed
- 24/7 Emergency phone service
- Lodging tax and VAT

NOT INCLUDED:

- Breakfast on arrival day
- Meals (Lunches & Dinners)

- Guide at departure transfer
- Guide service during dinners
- Optional tours and activities
- Porterage at airport and hotels*
- Guaranteed early check-in or late check-out
- Free passengers
- Any service not specifically listed under "included"

* Luggage porter service is not available at Icelandic hotels. Participants should pack light. A good rule of thumb is to bring no more than what you can comfortably carry between the bus and your hotel room.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

SEASON AND CLIMATE

The Icelandic climate is warmer than the name suggests, thanks to the Gulf Stream. Summers in Iceland are rather cool, while the winters are relatively warm. The average monthly summer temperature ranges from 10 to 13 °C. During the summer the climate is mild but unstable with possible rain and frequent weather changes. The daily temperature can fluctuate from a minimum 5 °C at night to a maximum of 25 °C during the day.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

September and October bring cooler temperatures and the beginning of Northern Lights Season while daylight hours are still normal. The season ends in mid-April when the days start to get longer. Northern lights are a natural phenomenon that cannot be guaranteed.

DAYLIGHT

Iceland's northern latitude means it experiences big differences between winter and summer daylight hours. From May to August, you won't see much darkness and in the month of June the sun never fully sets in the north. Conversely, in peak winter expect only about four to six hours of daylight but the possibility of seeing the Northern Lights on a clear night. Spring and fall daylight hours are normal.

BUSINESS HOURS

Banks are open from 09:15 to 16:00. As general rule offices are open from 09:00 to 17:00, in some cases during the summer these hours are from 08:00 to 16:00. Shops are open from 09:00 to 18:00 on weekdays. Kringlan and Smaralind shopping malls as well as souvenir and some bookshops in the city centre are open on weekends.

SHOPPING

Shopping in Reykjavik can be done in Kringlan or Smaralind Shopping mall or Laugavegur shopping street.

Laugavegur is located downtown while Kringlan is about 10 minutes away and Smaralind 20 minutes away, driving distance.

CLOTHING

Regardless of the season, pack wind- and rainproof gear (jacket and trousers), gloves and a hat, as well as thick socks and hiking boots. Warm sweaters and thermal underwear is also recommended. Good to bring casual clothes for going out in the evenings and bring a bathing suit! Iceland is renowned for outdoor swimming in the countless geothermal-heated pools and lagoons.

MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS

Please note that the following established cultural events could result in restricted vehicle access to the city centre and that some service sectors might have surcharges during these events: Culture Night/Reykjavik Marathon (3rd weekend in August) and Iceland Airwaves (beginning of November).

CREDIT CARDS

The major credit cards in Iceland are Visa and MasterCard, although other cards are widely accepted as well. Credit cards are accepted in most shops, restaurants and organisations.

TAX FREE SHOPPING/TAX REFUND

A refund of the local Value Added Tax is available to visitors to Iceland. The refund will result in a reduction of up to 15% of the retail price, provided departure (of the goods) from Iceland is within 90 days after the purchase. The purchased amount must be no less than ISK 6.000- (VAT included) per sales receipt, and all goods (except woollens) must be packed in sealed bags or containers.

INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE

Please note that individual travel insurance is not included in the tour prices. It is therefore important that travellers arrange for their own travel insurance before visiting Iceland. There are medical centers or hospitals in all major cities and towns in Iceland. The 24-hour emergency phone number in Iceland is 112. Pharmacies are called 'Apotek' and are open during normal business hours. See also www.safetravel.is.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Iceland runs on 220 volts; 50 Hz AC. Icelandic electrical plugs are of the rounded, European two-pin type.

If you plan on bringing U.S. equipment you will need an adaptor and converter. Please note that even with a converter, American hair dryers tend to burn out. Most mid-range and upscale hotels provide hair dryers in their rooms, or it's easy to purchase an inexpensive hair dryer locally.

WATER

The tap water in Iceland is safe to drink.

TIPPING

Service and VAT are invariably included in prices in Iceland. Tipping is not customary and therefore not expected. This applies to everything: restaurants, taxis, tour guides, cafes, room service etc. Tipping has become generally accepted in the tourism sector for guides and drivers for example, therefore if you feel that you have received good service Icelanders will welcome a tip.

LANGUAGE

Icelandic is the national language of Iceland although English and Scandinavian languages are widely spoken.

PASSPORT AND VISA

All travellers must ensure that they have a valid passport and all required visas. The passport should be valid for the proposed duration of stay. Travellers should check whether any additional period of validity on the passport beyond this is necessary. However, as regulations can change with little or no prior notice, or for any unexpected delay to return date, we recommend that a passport is valid for at least three months after departure.