



9 Days Itinerary

Luxury Family Iceland Adventure

Weather in Iceland

Day 1 Flight from Los Angeles to Reykjavik +1

Day 2 Transfer · Nordic
Blue Lagoon Iceland 11:00 AM
Transfer · Nordic
Sand Hotel (1 Night)
Fish Market GF

Day 3 Iconic Golden Circle Route 9:00 AM
Fridheimar Restaurant Lunch
Hella Horseback Riding 4:00 PM
Hotel Rangá (3 Nights)
Ranga Restaurant Dinner

Day 4 The South Shore 9:00 AM

Day 5 Glacier Lagoon 9:00 AM

Day 6 Transfer TBD Night before
Ferry 10:45 AM
Westman Islands
Ferry 5:00 PM
Sand Hotel (3 Nights)
Sumac

- Day 7** Snaefellsness Peninsula 9:00 AM
Kol Restaurant
- Day 8** Whale Watching Tour 9:30 AM
- Day 9** Transfer 5:45 AM
Flight from Keflavik to Minneapolis (6 hrs, 30 min)

Weather in Iceland

Iceland

Day 1



Los Angeles, Los Angeles International Airport to Reykjavik, Keflavik International Airport

Delta Air Lines (DL)

Image credits: Ross Parmly on Unsplash

DL	LAX •	+1
Carrier/Flight		KEF •

Day 2



Transfer · Nordic

Image credits: Pixabay

Vehicle

(Mercedes V-class or similar)

Notes

Driver from Nordic welcomes you at Keflavik airport transfer to the Blue Lagoon



Blue Lagoon Iceland

11:00 AM

Start Time

The Blue Lagoon is a world-renowned geothermal spa located in Iceland. It is a unique and luxurious destination that offers visitors a truly rejuvenating and unforgettable experience. Here's a description of the Blue Lagoon:

Nestled amidst a stunning volcanic landscape, the Blue Lagoon is a natural wonder that showcases the beauty and power of Iceland's geothermal activity. The lagoon's milky blue waters are rich in minerals, including silica and sulfur, which are known for their healing properties.

As you step into the warm, mineral-rich waters, you'll immediately feel a sense of relaxation and tranquility wash over you. The temperature of the lagoon is comfortably warm, making it an ideal place to unwind and soak away your cares.

Surrounded by rugged lava fields and steam rising from the water's surface, the Blue Lagoon offers a surreal and otherworldly atmosphere. The contrast between the vibrant blue waters and the stark volcanic landscape creates a visually stunning and ethereal setting.

In addition to the therapeutic waters, the Blue Lagoon also offers a range of amenities and services to enhance your experience. You can indulge in luxurious spa treatments, such as massages and facials, that utilize the lagoon's mineral-rich ingredients for a truly rejuvenating experience.

The Blue Lagoon also features a modern and stylish complex with changing facilities, showers, and a restaurant where you can enjoy delicious Icelandic cuisine. The on-site shop offers a selection of skincare products made with the lagoon's unique ingredients, allowing you to take a piece of the Blue Lagoon's magic home with you.



Transfer · Nordic

Image credits: Pixabay

Vehicle

(Mercedes V-class or similar)

Notes

Transfer from Blue Lagoon to Sandhotel



Sand Hotel

519 8090

Laugavegur 34, Reykjavík, Höfuðborgarsvæði 101

3:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

1 Night

Duration

Room Selection

Room Category

1x Superior twin + extra bed & 1x DBL

Room Description

Located in Reykjavik, Sand Hotel by Keahotels is in the city center and by the sea. Harpa and National Museum of Iceland are cultural highlights, and some of the area's notable landmarks include Hallgrímskirkja and Perlan. Looking to enjoy an event or a game while in town? See what's happening at Laugardalsvöllur or Laugardalshöll. Our guests appreciate the hotel's central location.

This smoke-free hotel features a bar/lounge, concierge services, and dry cleaning. Free continental breakfast and free WiFi in public areas are also provided. Additionally, a 24-hour front desk, tour/ticket assistance, and multilingual staff are onsite. All rooms are individually decorated and offer free WiFi and free local calls. For a bit of entertainment, flat-screen TVs come with satellite channels, and guests can also appreciate conveniences like refrigerators and coffee makers.



Fish Market GF

Aðalstræti 12, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

Image credits: Joe Rasmussen on <https://maps.google.com/maps/contrib/113525263564788026453/photos>

Restaurant Fish Market uses Iceland's freshest ingredients to prepare original fish, meat and sweet dishes with a modern twist. We buy direct from the country's farmers and fishermen to guarantee the sustainability and quality of our dishes.

Fish Market is housed in one of the central Reykjavík's oldest buildings. Head Chef Hrefna Rósa Sætran of the Icelandic National Culinary team has designed a menu using the freshest fish and meat of the season, cooking it simply in modern style.

Guests can watch each dish being prepared in the open kitchen, which has the country's only robata grill, or sit at the raw bar where the chefs create exotic dishes.

Day 3



Iconic Golden Circle Route

Image credits: Pixabay

9:00 AM

Start Time

Meeting Point

Hotel Lobby

Today you will explore iconic Golden Circle route. Start the day by heading into the countryside to Thingvellir - the site of the original Althing, the actual founding place of the oldest democratic parliament in the world. This area is noted for its spectacular lava formations and being the only place in the world where you can see the tectonic plates drift apart. Today Thingvellir is an outstanding national park, the jewel in the crown of Iceland's historical sights, by many considered the most important one where the protected area will always be the property of the Icelandic nation.

Lunch stop at Fridheimar farm (payable locally) a welcoming, friendly Icelandic family-run business. It's primarily a working farm, but is also a restaurant, an organic tomato producer, a horse-breeding stables and grocery store all in one. This may sound quirky, but in 1995 it was the dream of husband and wife team, Knútur Rafn Árman, and his wife, Helena Hermundardóttir, to combine their passions for horticulture and horse-breeding into one place. Their five children all help out with the family business.

Each year visitors flock to tour the greenhouses where tomatoes are grown all year-round in special greenhouses (no simple feat in the harsh Icelandic climate). Their technical wizardry combines greenhouses with geothermal heating from Iceland's natural subterranean supply. The result is beautiful fresh tomatoes all season, and a plethora of produce including tomato soups - and even tomato schnapps. Juicy, fresh tomatoes are of course the main theme of the restaurant, and food is served amongst the sweet-smelling tomato plants.

After lunch, continue to Haukadalur valley to see the famous Geysir, the "geyser" which gave its name to all other erupting hot springs.

While Geysir hasn't been particularly active recently, one of the most active, and reliable, geysers in the area is just 50 meters away from Geysir. Strokkur is capable of shooting water 90 feet high and erupts every five minutes on average. There are also about 30 smaller geysers and hot pools in the area, including one named Litli Geysir ('Little Geysir'), making this area a thrilling hub of geothermal activity.

Next, you will head to see one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe, Gullfoss (Golden Waterfall). Here you will see thousands of tons of icy water thunder majestically down in a double-fall into a deep gorge from the glacier Langjökull. The scale of Gullfoss and the thundering roar of the water has to be seen to be believed.

You will have the unique opportunity to get up close to the very brink of the waterfall and feel glacial water spray on you as you admire its sheer power.

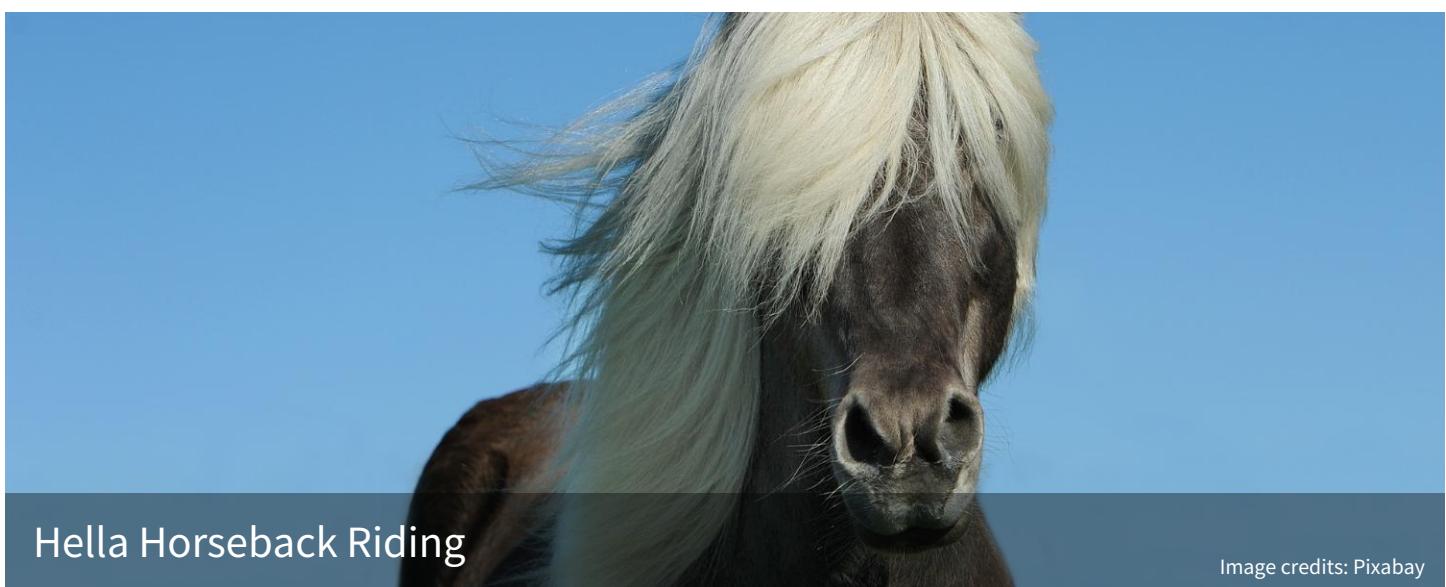


Fridheimar Restaurant Lunch

Image credits: Pixabay

Have you ever been out for a meal in a greenhouse? Come and enjoy a unique food experience at our restaurant, with tomatoes growing all around! Tomato soup and fresh-baked bread, as well as other goodies, in a charming environment among the plants.

Tomatoes are the theme of Fridheimar cuisine and that's not surprising, since three different varieties of tomato are cultivated in the greenhouses, where food is served among the tomato plants. A unique food experience come and enjoy it!



Hella Horseback Riding

Image credits: Pixabay

4:00 PM

Start Time

After check in go to Hella (10 minutes away) for a private horseback riding tour for about 2 hours. The Icelandic horse is a breed of horse developed in Iceland. Although the horses are small, at times pony-sized, most registries for the Icelandic refer to it as a horse. Icelandic horses are long-lived and hardy.

In their native country they have few diseases; Icelandic law prevents horses from being imported into the country and exported animals are not allowed to return.



Hotel Rangá

487 5700

Sudurlandsvegur, Hella, Suðurland 851

3 Nights

Duration

Hotel Rangá is a luxury countryside hotel and the only 4 star resort in Southern Iceland. It offers all the facilities and services of a modern resort and a few more. Located about an hour drive from Reykjavík, between the towns of Hella and Hvolsvöllur, it lies just off the main road right in middle of South Iceland's panoramic scenery. The resort is built in log-cabin style and has through the years acquired an excellent reputation for its gourmet food, accommodation and service. A celebrity hot spot, top honeymoon destination and favorite hotel amongst Icelanders both in winter and summer, Hotel Rangá also offers great facilities for small business meetings, weddings and social gatherings, as well as being well located for adventure tours and various attractions, including Eyjafjallajökull, the Golden Circle and the Glacier Lagoon (Jökulsárlón).

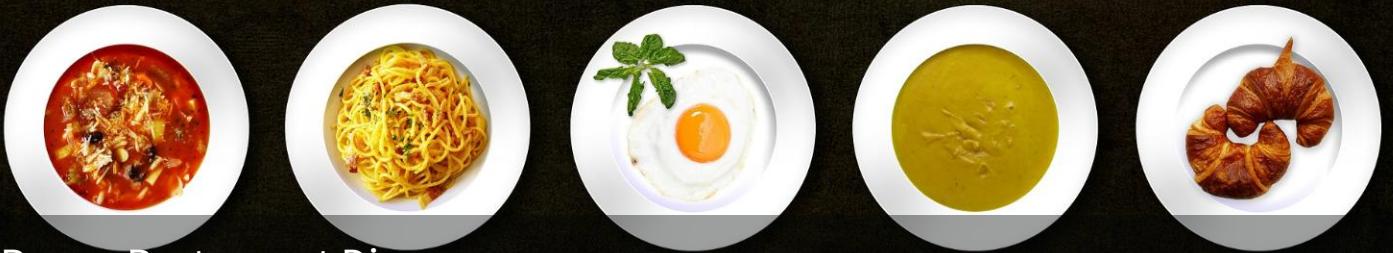
One cannot miss feeling welcome entering its warm interior where relaxed countryside feeling meets the professional ambition of pleasing its entire clientele. Upon entering Hotel Rangá, you will be greeted by a towering 10-foot tall polar bear named Hrammur that resides in the lobby. He is a favorite model for photographers and is definitely one of the most pictured objects in Iceland. This is just a prelude to the relaxing ambience that you will encounter that vibrates throughout the hotel.

Hotel Rangá presently has 52 luxuriously decorated rooms and suites. It also features an acclaimed riverside restaurant for fine dining, a lounge and bar, 2 upstairs meeting rooms, a game room, massage facilities and three much beloved outdoor hot tubs heated with geothermal water — where there is an excellent chance to view the fantastic Northern Lights during September through April and enjoy a time of relaxation and great experiences. The Hotel also has a first class observatory for stargazing.

Room Selection

Room Category

2x STD rooms, one with extra bed



Ranga Restaurant Dinner

Image credits: Pixabay

Day 4



The South Shore

Image credits: Pixabay

9:00 AM

Start Time

Meeting Point

Hotel Lobby

Today you will be travelling along the south shore to Reynisfjara and southernmost point of Iceland Vik. Waterfalls one of which you can walk behind, black sandy beaches, mountains and strange lava formations along the way.

Stop at Reynisfjara - this magnificent black beach was rated the most impressive of its kind in Iceland, and one of the world's top 10 most beautiful non-tropical beaches. The pitch-black grains of sand merge with smooth midnight-black pebbles, which are perfect for skimming across the waves. It is complimented by awe-inspiring

rock formations. Like the visions of a cubist artist brought to life in nature, the incredible basalt steps are a breath-taking spectacle which must be seen to be believed. A turf-capped pyramid of rectangular rocks of varying heights

reach upwards like skyscrapers in a futuristic metropolis. However, there is nothing man-made about these geometric marvels, they have been created entirely by nature. The gaping mouth of a cave entices you to enter and wonder at the angular shapes

woven across its roof. It is just a stone's throw from the jagged sea stacks of Reynisdrangar, which according to folklore was created when sea trolls were transformed into rock when daylight broke. Lunch in one of the restaurants (payable locally) After lunch - departure on a ice walk on Solheimajokull glacier - the southernmost glacier in Iceland, where ice is up to about 200 meters thick and the total size with the ice cap Mýrdalsjökull about 600 km². Underneath the main ice cap is the caldera of the volcano Katla, one of Iceland's biggest volcanoes.

Discover a magical frozen kingdom of glistening ice caves, crevasses, tunnels, ridges and sink holes. This is a one-of-a-kind experience takes you deep within the bowels of a glacier which formed thousands of years ago.

The shimmering palette of blues and whites creates an air of mystery and excitement as you follow the guide on this fascinating tour. The polished surfaces of the ice sparkles and gleams where it catches the light. Diffused daylight softly filters through the ice, making it bright enough to see the incredible natural structures without the aid of a torch. Listen to how these ice caves were formed, and marvel at the beautiful shapes and colours created by glacial movements powerful enough to move rocks.

On the way back to Reykjavik stop at Seljalandsfoss waterfall, thundering over the plateau, it is one of the most captivating sights in Southern Iceland. It's here that you can marvel at the forces of Mother Nature at their most stunning. An endless, grass-covered plateau suddenly drops 65 metres onto the plains, causing the glacial river fed by melted water from the glacier on Eyjafjallajokull volcano to shoot over the edge in a spectacular fashion. Power and grace combine as the waterfall pours over the drop and thunders into a deep green pool. Rainbows form in the mist when the sun casts its light upon Seljalandsfoss, but no matter the weather, this spot always has an atmosphere of enchantment. Uniquely, you can take a walk along a narrow footpath which winds through the alcove behind this waterfall to experience it from a completely different angle. It feels as if you are setting foot in a secret kingdom, hidden behind a curtain of shimmering water.

Day 5



Glacier Lagoon

Image credits: Pixabay

9:00 AM

Start Time

Meeting Point Hotel Pick UP

Visit Glacier lagoon (Jokulsarlon) - a large glacial lake on the edge of Vatnajokull National Park and developed into a lake after the glacier started receding from the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. The lake has grown because of melting of the glaciers and has increased fourfold since the 1970s. It recently became the deepest lake in Iceland, over 248 metres.

The icebergs calve from the glacier edge and then move and fluctuate towards the river mouth along with the tide and the wind and get entrenched at the bottom. It's very beautiful and calming listening to the cracking sound of the icebergs when they move and float around. Especially it's beautiful during sunrise and/or sunset. That is such a spectacular sight and once in a lifetime experience. The icebergs are seen in two shades as milky white and bright blue, which depends on the air trapped within the ice and is an interplay of light and ice crystals. Beautiful seals and birds can also be seen swimming around in the

lagoon. Doesn't this sound like a fairy-tale place? Lunch stop of your choice on the way (payable locally) At the Glacier Lagoon we will do a zodiac tour on the lagoon. When on board we will cruise around the lagoon where huge icebergs are floating around. Our experienced guides will show you all the secrets and wonders of the Ice Lagoon. This is a great way to experience the Ice Lagoon away from all the noise in the world.

On the other side of the road there is also a beautiful black sand beach where you can see ice-cubes and crystals that are washed up from the sea, which is actually very beautiful especially at dawn, sunrise or sunset because then light illuminates the icebergs. Sometimes this beach is called the diamond beach which is totally understandable.

Day 6

Transfer

TBD Night before

Departure

Departure Location

Hotel Lobby

Notes

Meet you guide in the lobby - transfer to Landeyjarhofn port (meeting time TBD night before).

10:45 am Departure by ferry to Vestmannaeyjar archipelago.



Image credits: Pixabay

10:45 AM

Departure

Notes

Transfer to Landeyjarhofn port, ferry crossing over to Vestmannaeyjar archipelago.



Westman Islands

The Westman Islands are a group of 15-18 islands, depending on how they are classed, and about 30 skerries sandrock pillars, located off the mainland's south coast. The islands were formed by submarine volcanic eruptions along a 30-km long fissure lying southwest to northeast. The largest island is Heimaey, 13.4 km². Most of the islands have steep sea cliffs and are well vegetated. Bird hunting and egg collecting are traditional to the islanders' culture.

In the early morning hours of January 23, 1973, without warning, a volcanic eruption began on the island. This eruption caused an emergency evacuation for the entire island, and it would be over a year before many of the island inhabitants could return back to Vestmannaeyjar. Sadly, many of these inhabitants would never return to their homes as the lava flow destroyed around 400 homes. The population of the entire island is 5,300, which means 400 homes was around 1/3 of all the houses on the island, that is a huge percentage!

After 5 months of lava and ash flowing out of Eldfell the eruption finally stopped and the island of Heimaey got to work rebuilding their island. Geothermal heating systems were created from the cooling lava flows and the tephra produced in the eruption was used as landfill where 200 new homes were built. Enjoy adrenaline RIB safari - sail around the islands and bounce on the waves while checking out the archipelago's nature, wildlife and sea caves. We'll take you to spots where you'll feel isolated and free from everyday life. You'll enjoy something new, different and fun while getting the inside scoop from native islanders that know the history of the islands and their inhabitants inside out. Lunch in one of the restaurants in the harbor (payable locally) After lunch departure on a tour around Eldfell - a composite volcanic cone that is 200 meters tall on the island of Heimaey. Eldfell wasn't always on the island though, it was formed in a volcanic eruption in 1973. During your tour you will visit Eldheimar museum, where you will see homes still half inside and half outside the flowing lava from 1973.

Departure back to the south shore by ferry.

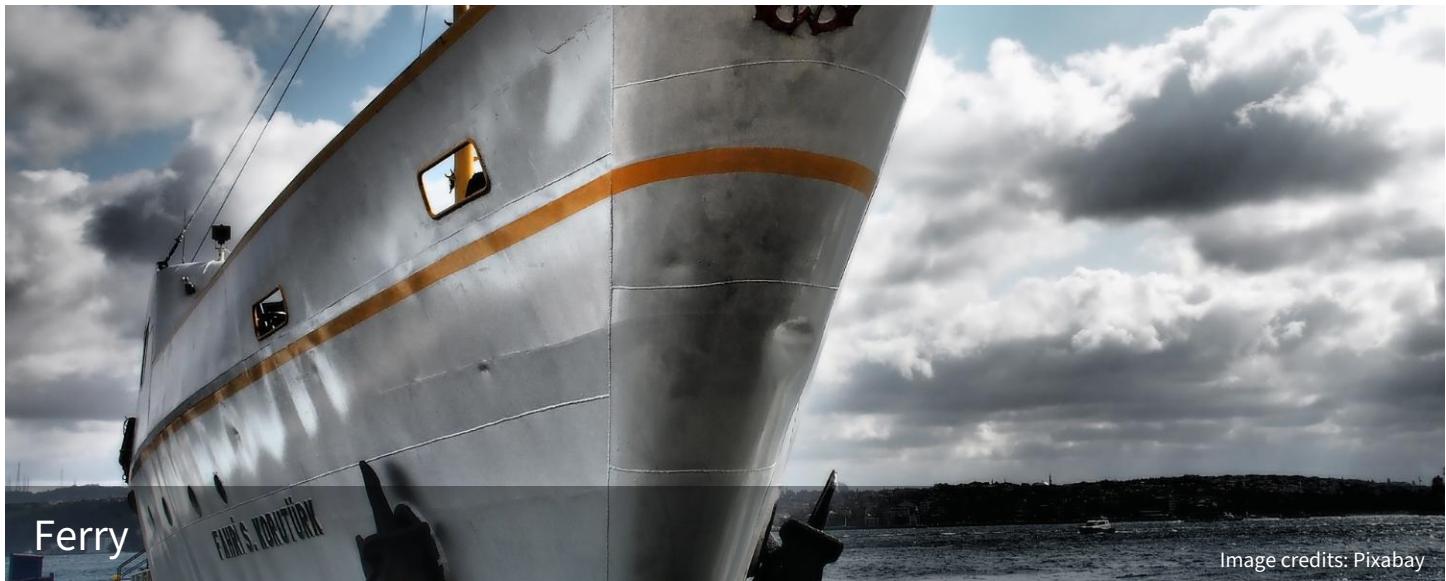


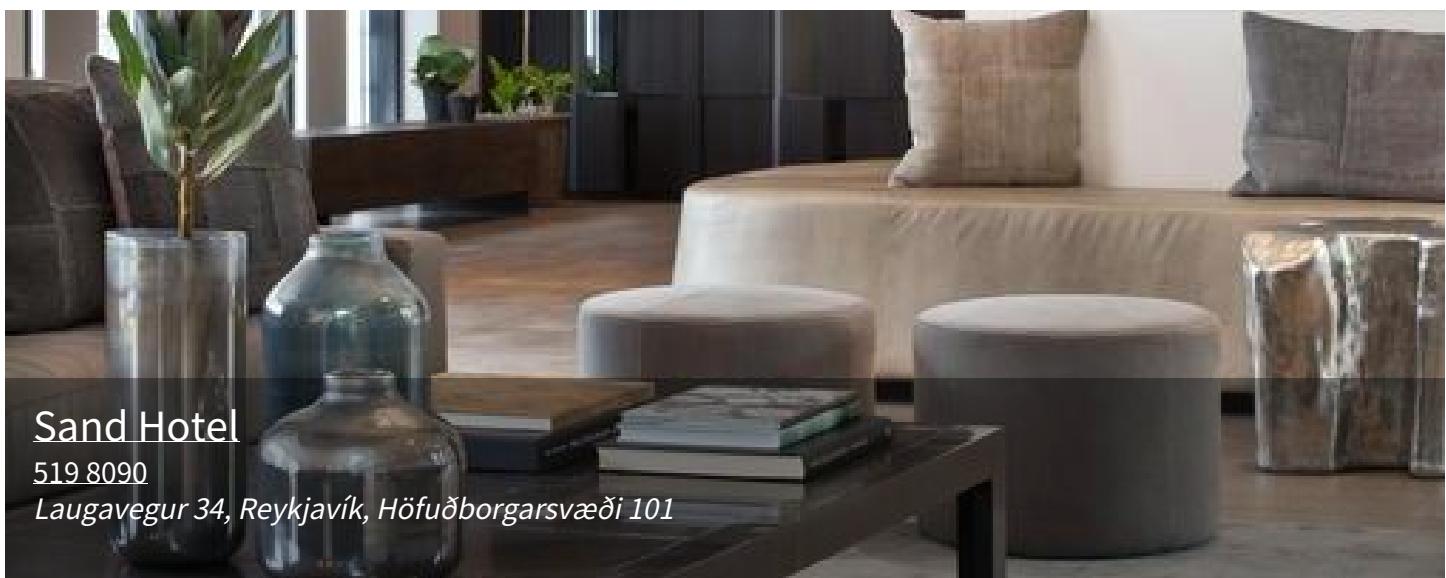
Image credits: Pixabay

5:00 PM

Departure

Notes

Transfer to Landeyjarhofn port, ferry crossing over to Vestmannaeyjar archipelago.



Sand Hotel

519 8090

Laugavegur 34, Reykjavík, Höfuðborgarsvæði 101

3:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

3 Nights

Duration

Room Selection

Room Category

1x Superior twin + extra bed & 1x DBL

Room Description

Located in Reykjavik, Sand Hotel by Keahotels is in the city center and by the sea. Harpa and National Museum of Iceland are cultural highlights, and some of the area's notable landmarks include Hallgrímskirkja and Perlan. Looking to enjoy an event or a game while in town? See what's happening at Laugardalsvöllur or Laugardalshóll. Our guests appreciate the hotel's central location.

This smoke-free hotel features a bar/lounge, concierge services, and dry cleaning. Free continental breakfast and free WiFi in public areas are also provided. Additionally, a 24-hour front desk, tour/ticket assistance, and multilingual staff are onsite. All rooms are individually decorated and offer free WiFi and free local calls. For a bit of entertainment, flat-screen TVs come with satellite channels, and guests can also appreciate conveniences like refrigerators and coffee makers.



Sumac

+354 537 9900

Laugavegur 28, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

<http://www.sumac.is/>

Image credits: Falk Uebenickel on <https://maps.google.com/maps/contrib/107533753856491087606/photos>

Sumac: Grows in clusters of small deep-red berries then handpicked and lingered in the sun to dry. The bright fragrant spice brings clean astringency and citrus tang to the dish.

Menu: Icelandic pristine seasonal ingredients subtly immersed in exotic spices adding luscious and inspiring influences from Lebanon and Morocco. An eclectically seductive culinary affair brought to the Icelandic dining experience.

Bar: Where locals and visitors can diversify their drinking repertoire with handcrafted Mediterranean cocktails, enhanced with Icelandic charisma.

Kitchen: Led by Chef Thráinn Freyr Vigfússon and culinary partner and Head chef Hafsteinn Ólafsson Chef of the year 2017, together creating an Icelandic cuisine seduced by flavors and flair from the coastline of North Africa to Lebanon yet with the quintessential Reykjavik mood.

Space: Interior is inspired by the nostalgic atmosphere of the city of Beirut, Lebanon. Where muted colors and deteriorated texture of today's Beirut meets the finesse of elegance of the city's past, formerly nicknamed: Paris of the East

Day 7



Snaefellsness Peninsula

9:00 AM

Start Time

Meeting Point

Hotel Lobby

Today you will depart towards western part of the island Snaefellsness peninsula. Sparkling fjords, dramatic volcanic peaks, sheer sea cliffs, sweeping golden beaches and crunchy lava flows makeup the diverse and fascinating landscape of the 100km-long Snæfellsnes Peninsula. The area is crowned by the glistening ice cap Snæfellsjökull, immortalised in Jules Verne's Journey to the Centre of the Earth. Good roads and regular buses mean that it's an easy trip from Reykjavík, offering a cross section of the best Iceland has to offer in a very compact region. Stop by Kirkjufell Mountain - Grundarfjörður's beautiful landmark is the most photographed mountain in Iceland. Its isolated position jutting out into the sea makes it a focal point for tourists and seamen alike. Lunch in one of the restaurants on the way (guide's advise)

2 PM:

After lunch the tour continues to Vatnshellir lava cave located in the Snæfellsjökull National Park, close to the glacier which is the setting Jules Verne chose for the start of his famous adventure. Exploring Vatnshellir you'll descend into a subterranean world of stalactites, stalagmites, and strange lava formations. The glow of your headlight may form eerie shapes and shadows, which dance across the walls of the cave. The caving is short, very easy, and suitable for everyone. Continue to the twin fishing towns of Arnarstapi and Hellnar which are connected by a very pretty cliff-side walk past interesting rock formations and through a small lava field. Take a 2-hour walk along the cliffs with views of arches below before turning back.



Kol Restaurant

+354 517 7474

Skólavörðustígur 40, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

<http://www.kolrestaurant.is/>

Image credits: Kol Restaurant on <https://maps.google.com/maps/contrib/114089321536632146225/photos>

Kol is a foodie revelation and craft cocktail heaven. The chefs have an instinctive flair for doing a twist on the classics and upscaling what might be called comfort food to a fine dining level, creating the tasty dishes to satisfy a wide range of diners. From seafood to steaks and a good variety of starters and desserts, there is something for everyone.

Kol is one of the leading bars in the rapidly growing Reykjavík craft cocktail scene, serving drinks from fresh squeezed juices and in-house made infusions and syrups. The wines of our wine list are picked to pair with the courses of our menu and we offer a good selection of wines by the glass as well as whole bottles.

The atmosphere is lively and service is welcoming and friendly. You only live once!

Day 8



Whale Watching Tour

Image credits: Pixabay

9:30 AM

Start Time

Meeting Point

Ticket Office at Old Harbor

Walk down to the harbor for a whale watching tour - The tour commences in the Old Harbor in downtown Reykjavik where you can exchange your pre-paid voucher for admission tickets. Merely steps away you will find our Visitor Centre, facilitated on board a converted fishing vessel permanently placed by the pier, which is where you will meet our crew for the day. Before (or after) the tour you can stroll through our souvenir shop, have a drink at the Whale Café or enjoy the onboard whale exhibition located in the hull of the boat. The show includes multimedia images and videos of whales as well as fun facts about the cetaceans and other marine animals we are likely to come across on the tour. From that point you will be shown to our whale watching vessel where the tour takes place.

Summer season is great for whale watching, as the wildlife in the bay is at its highest peak! This is the time when the Minke whales are at their most abundant, along with White-beaked dolphins, Harbor porpoises and the occasional Humpback whales, giving us the chance to enjoy and understand them in their natural environment. Winter season (1 November - 31 March) is a whole other experience and adventure compared to our summer tours. Each year continues to surprise us with the wildlife it offers. The winter low lying sun is also something not to be missed, as it casts a warm glow over the white-capped mountains surrounding the bay and to breathe in the winter's fresh and crisp air is just incredible. The most common cetacean in the area are the Minke whales, White-beaked dolphins and Harbor porpoises. Occasionally we spot other species including Humpback whales, Killer whales/Orcas, Fin whales and Blue whales to name but a few. Tour duration is about 3 hours.

After that you have some leisure time in the city

Day 9



Transfer

Image credits: Pixabay

5:45 AM

Departure

Vehicle

(Mercedes V-class or similar)

Notes

Transfer from Sandhotel to Keflavik Airport

Keflavik, Keflavik International Airport to Minneapolis, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport
Delta Air Lines (DL)

DL

6 hrs, 30 min

Carrier/Flight

KEF •

MSP •

Duration