

14 Day Iceland Explorer

Reykjavik

Stykkishólmur

Patreksfjörður

Northwest Iceland

Akureyri

Grimsey Island

Bakkagerdi

Heimaey

Expedition Cruises

Time to get excited

FROM

\$10,999 NZD

PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE

Explore the charming, interesting capital Reykjavik, step across the Arctic Circle, and discover the soul of Iceland on an expedition cruise around the island. There's a breathtaking variety of nature, wildlife and settlements waiting for you.

[Book Now](#)

TOUR ITINERARY



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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Home ✈ Reykjavik
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Storm Hotel by Kea Hotels, or similar

Halló! Welcome to Iceland. The world's northernmost capital, Reykjavik, lies just below the Arctic Circle.

On arrival, you'll be transferred to your accommodation. After settling in, the rest of the day is yours. This fascinating Nordic city is hip, cool and has a quiet, small-town vibe to it. Reykjavik is close to nature, nestled between volcanic mountain ranges and the scenic Icelandic coastline.

Being so small, it's a great city to explore on foot, with lots of street art to admire too. The main shopping street of Laugavegur is where you'll find the city's famed nightlife, dining scene and excellent shopping. Perhaps stroll around the city's quaint, narrow streets and visit the old harbour with its brightly coloured buildings. Stroll the waterfront walkway – be prepared for the wind – and try to take in the sunset from here.

You can't miss the famous Hallgrimskirkja church. At 75 metres tall, from the top of the steeple you can enjoy sweeping views across the city and beyond. Its iconic jagged grey spire, resembling a mountain peak, can be seen from most parts of Reykjavik.

Please note: Due to the long travel time to get to Iceland, flights will likely depart the day before.

Check-in: Passengers will be arriving at various times throughout the day from as early as 6am through to late evening. If arriving prior to standard check-in time, which is generally 3pm local time, you are welcome to leave your luggage with hotel reception and explore your surroundings until check-in becomes available, as there are generally no scheduled activities on Day 1 of the itinerary. The hotel may grant early check-in, however this is strictly subject to availability and at the hotels discretion.

DAY 2

Destination	Reykjavik
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Storm Hotel by Kea Hotels, or similar

It's a free day for you to explore Iceland's capital.

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There are plenty of museums to visit, including the Settlement Exhibition to learn more about Iceland's Viking history – it's home to remnants of the original 10th-century houses that were built when they arrived. There are still many Viking influences around the city, blending seamlessly with modern icons like the Harpa concert hall, with its distinctive honeycomb exterior. The Perlan Museum – Wonders of Iceland is situated in one of Reykjavik's most impressive buildings, with a planetarium and a replicated ice cave to explore.

Experience a quintessential Icelandic tradition by taking the waters. There are 17 thermal pools in the city, filled with the natural geothermal water this country is renowned for.

Hungry? You'll find an abundance of quirky cafes with a laidback vibe. Perhaps try a traditional Nordic delight, like fish stew or salted cod. If you're feeling brave, fermented shark – yes, rotten shark – is an Icelandic delicacy. An Icelandic hot dog is the street food of choice, made from lamb meat. Visit Reykjavik institution Bæjarins Beztu, by the old harbour, and ask for "eina með öllu" ("one with everything").

DAY 3

Destination	Reykjavik 🚗 Snæfellsnes Peninsula 🚗 Reykjavik
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Storm Hotel by Kea Hotels, or similar

Today we'll head north for the diverse landscapes of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, home to volcanic craters, black and golden sand beaches, lava fields and a glacier. A subglacial volcano towers over the scenery. It's also known for its colourful wildlife, like birds and seals.

We'll visit the black beach near Ytri Tunga farm, a favourite spot for local seals. We'll continue to Snæfellsjökull National Park before arriving at the Vatnshellir lava cave, under the glacier, where you'll descend into a magical world of stalactites, stalagmites and strange lava formations. This 8000-year-old lava tube reaches over 200 metres.

The day will continue visiting volcanic settings and black pebble beaches before finally arriving at the beautifully symmetrical Kirkjufell Mountain. One of Iceland's most iconic landmarks, it rises 463 metres above the shoreline.

Before heading back to Reykjavik, you'll make your way through the dramatic lava fields of Berserkjahraun, created some 3,000 to 4,000 years ago.

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DAY 4

Destination	Reykjavik 🚗 South Coast 🚗 Reykjavik
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Storm Hotel by Kea Hotels, or similar

Today you'll head down the South Coast of Iceland, stopping first at the remote seafront village of Vik. It's a photographer's dream, set on a dramatic stretch of coastline wedged between glacier-topped mountains, cliffs and black sand beaches.

From here we'll continue to the roots of Kötlujökull glacier, where you'll be greeted by layers and layers of different coloured ice. If any of the smaller ice caves are accessible, your guide will take you through them.

On the way back, we'll stop by the waterfalls Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss. Skógafoss, with a cascade of 60 metres and an enormous width of 25 metres, is one of Iceland's biggest and most beautiful waterfalls. There's usually a rainbow here on sunny days!

DAY 5

Destination	Reykjavik 🚢 Embark cruise
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Hotel	Hurtigruten cruise - MS Fram, or similar

Today you'll be transferred to the port at the appropriate time to board the MS Fram, your expedition ship and home for the next nine days.

Cruising the entirety of Iceland's coast is the perfect way to experience the country's rugged, wild scenery and thrilling landscapes. You'll see waterfalls, glaciers and charming towns. When you're not exploring on land, enjoy the onboard amenities, entertainment and experiences – like port presentations and in-depth lectures that provide interesting context to your voyage.

As we sail north, keep an eye out for whales as the landscape changes to vast lava fields, volcanic mountains and smooth hillsides.

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DAY 6

Destination	🏰 Stykkishólmur 🏰
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Hurtigruten cruise - MS Fram, or similar

We'll dock at the friendly town of Stykkishólmur, with its sherbet-coloured, well-preserved old houses. Enjoy exploring the interesting museums, like the Volcano Museum housed in a lovely old cinema.

DAY 7

Destination	🏰 Patreksfjörður 🏰
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Hurtigruten cruise - MS Fram, or similar

Patreksfjörður is a charming settlement on the west coast of Iceland with around 660 inhabitants. The picturesque fjord offers scenic hiking trails if conditions allow. Patreksfjörður is also close to the spectacular waterfall of Dynjandi and to Látrabjarg, a renowned site for birdwatching.

DAY 8

Destination	🏰 Northwest Iceland 🏰
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Hurtigruten cruise - MS Fram, or similar

Your experienced captain will plan a day exploring the stunning fjords of northwest Iceland. Deep fjords, steep mountains and the remote beauty of this region make for a breathtaking experience.

Conditions will determine the final program and activity for the day. We might visit a small settlement, embark on a hike or launch our kayaks.

DAY 9

Destination	🏰 Akureyri 🏰
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Hurtigruten cruise - MS Fram, or similar

In northern Iceland, Akureyri is a lively town, famous for its botanical gardens and heart-shaped traffic lights. Its brightly-coloured houses and snow-capped mountains make for a pretty sight as you cruise into the harbour. It is the most

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populous community outside Reykjavík, and is the centre of trade, culture and services for northern Iceland. Akureyri is close to many of Iceland's most renowned natural treasures, such as Lake Mývatn and Goðafoss waterfall.

DAY 10

Destination	 Grimsey Island 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Hurtigruten cruise - MS Fram, or similar

It's not every day you get to step across the Arctic Circle! We'll use the tender boats to reach this green and grassy island, best known for its proximity to the Arctic Circle, which cuts across the island. You'll have the chance to step across that legendary line, the boundary between the far north and south.



DAY 11

Destination	 Bakkagerdi 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Hurtigruten cruise - MS Fram, or similar

We'll dock at Bakkagerdi today, the main settlement in Borgarfjörður. This area is known for its natural beauty, 'the land of the elves'. Puffin colonies abound in the fjord, making this a popular place for birdwatching.

Bakkagerdi is off the typical tourist track, and offers peace, quiet and lovely views.

DAY 12

Destination	 Heimaey 
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Hurtigruten cruise - MS Fram, or similar

The island of Heimaey, or 'Home Island' welcomes us for our visit. The harbour has a very narrow entrance, caused by a volcanic eruption in 1973. The island, a modern Pompeii, was nearly destroyed by lava flow.

Most of the island has steep cliffs, is well-vegetated and provides a habitat for countless birds, including the charming puffin. In the summer, it's home to around eight million puffins.

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DAY 13

Destination	🚢 Disembark Cruise - Reykjavik ✈ Home
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	N/A

This voyage of discovery and adventure ends in Reykjavik. Upon disembarking, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight home. Please note that disembarkation times will vary and is dependent on the cruise schedule and sailing conditions at the time. Generally, you will disembark at approximately 9am.

We hope you've enjoyed this extraordinary journey.

DAY 14

Destination	Home
Meals included	
Hotel	N/A

Arrive home today. We hope you've been *inspired*.

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Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return international Economy airfares with a reputable full-service carrier
- All airport and port transfers with guide assistance
- 4 nights in comfortable, 4-star accommodation in Reykjavik
- 8 nights on board Hurtigruten's MS Fram ship
- Guiding and lectures by world-class expedition team
- Shore excursions by Zodiac boats
- No gratuities expected
- All coach and rail transportation
- Activities indicated in the itinerary
- Meals: Breakfast daily, 7 lunches & 8 dinners, as per itinerary
- Professional, English-speaking guide for land touring
- Comfortable, dedicated private transportation for land touring
- 24/7 customer service and your own Dedicated Support Agent

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Reykjavik – Explore the sights and wander the quaint streets of this quirky, hip Nordic city
- Snæfellsnes Peninsula – Descend into the magical Vatnshellir lava cave underneath the glacier, make your way through dramatic lava fields and see Iceland icon Kirkjufell Mountain
- South Coast – Experience the majesty of the stunning Skógafoss waterfalls and the colourful ice caves of the Kötlujökull glacier
- Iceland coast – Spend nine days aboard your expedition ship, cruising the entirety of Iceland's coast to discover the rugged, wild beauty of this fascinating country
- Stykkishólmur – Visit this charming town, with pastel-hued houses and interesting museums
- Patreksfjörður – Hit the hiking trails in the picturesque fjord of this remote, sparsely-populated settlement on the west coast
- Northwest Iceland's fjords – Experience the dazzling natural beauty of northwest Iceland's fjords
- Akureyri – Visit the lively commercial hub of northern Iceland, with its brightly-coloured houses and snow-capped mountains
- Grimsey Island – Step across the legendary Arctic Circle on this pleasant green and grassy island
- Bakkagerdi – Discover the secluded beauty of 'the land of the elves', a popular place for birdwatching off the beaten track
- Heimaey – Spot the charming puffin bird on this isolated volcanic island

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HURTIGRUTEN CRUISE INFORMATION

Hurtigruten offers unique expedition cruises to some of the most remote and pristine waters of the world. As with all expeditions; nature prevails. Weather, and ice and sea conditions, sets the final framework for all Hurtigruten's operations. Safety and unparalleled guest experiences are at all times our top priorities. All our indicative itineraries are continuously evaluated for adaptations, whether this is due to constraints the elements unexpectedly presents – or exciting possibilities nature and wildlife offer. That is why we call it an expedition.

Shore excursions are only made available once you are closer to departure, as these are subject to change. Once known, your Dedicated Support Agent will provide as much information to you as possible. Alternatively, these can be booked on board your expedition. Please keep in mind that all shore excursions are subject to availability and conditions on the day.

For detailed cruise itinerary, click [HERE](#).

For information on what to pack for Expedition Cruises to Antarctica and beyond, click [HERE](#).

For further information on 'Life on Board' the MS Fram ship, click [HERE](#).

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR AN ADVENTURE

- A rich program of included activities on all voyages designed to immerse you in the destinations you visit, including small boat cruising and onshore exploration with the Expedition Team
- Professional English-speaking Expedition Team - an international handpicked team of highly educated experts of various academic fields with profound knowledge of the region we sail in
- Complimentary wind- and water-resistant jacket
- Loan of boots, trekking poles, and equipment needed for optional and included activities
- Engaging onboard activities and education
- In-depth lectures on science, history, biology, geography, geology or culture that provide context to your voyage and help you understand the destinations you will experience
- Explorer Science programme, with educational and Citizen Science activities that let you learn about the sights you'll see while contributing to research
- Introduction photo lecture, camera adjustment and tips & tricks, photo and film

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footage from the voyage shared in an Expedition Logbook

- Casual opportunities to engage with the Expedition Team and other guests, including a welcome event, daily gatherings to recap the day and prepare for the day to come
- Opportunities to dine and interact with the Expedition Team and officers
- Destination-focused onboard library
- Port presentations providing destination insight
- A farewell event

PREMIUM ONBOARD COMFORT

- All meals including beverages (ship beer and wine, sodas and mineral water in all restaurants)
- Coffee and tea included throughout the day
- Early riser and afternoon treat offered in addition to breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Fredheim restaurant meals included
- A la carte restaurant (only for suite guests)
- Gym, hot tubs and panoramic sauna
- Rejuvenating wellness areas with separate treatment rooms, infinity pool, outdoor gym, running track
- Free Wi-fi on board for all guests. Be aware that we sail in remote areas with limited connection. Streaming is not supported.
- No gratuities expected

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CRUISE CABIN UPGRADES

Polar Inside - INCLUDED CABIN

Our cosy Polar Inside cabins can be found on all decks. All cabins include bathrooms with shower/WC. Most of the cabins have separate beds where one doubles as a sofa, while some are equipped with a double bed or upper and lower berths. All the cabins have individual specifications. 6-10 square metres, no window.

Polar Outside - UPGRADE FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$1,200 per person twin share (\$2,400 single share) - subject to availability

Our Polar Outside cabins are situated mostly on middle or lower deck and all have bathrooms with shower/WC. Some have double beds, others offer separate beds (where one is a sofa bed) or upper and lower berths. All the cabins have individual specifications.

Arctic Superior - UPGRADE FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$2,000 per person twin share (\$4,000 single share) - subject to availability

Relaxation and comfort are the hallmarks of our Arctic Superior cabins. Situated on both upper and middle deck, they all have bathrooms with shower and WC. They are also equipped with tea and coffee-making facilities. Most of them have separate beds, where one doubles as a sofa, and some have double beds. All the cabins have individual specifications.

IMPORTANT PRE-CRUISE REQUIREMENTS

- Personal Questionnaire - This form must be received by Hurtigruten at least 8 weeks prior to your voyage departure.
- Medical Certificate - If applicable, the cruise Medical Certificate is to be completed and approved by your personal physician not more than 8 weeks before your departure date. The completed forms must be presented to the ship's doctor upon boarding. Boarding will be denied if part III of the Medical Certificate is not approved by your personal physician. Even if the forms have been duly submitted and approved by your personal physician, the ship's doctor and the captain reserve the right to deny the boarding of guests who do not seem to be sufficiently fit for travel.

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Fine Print

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payment

- Secure your package with only a \$100 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$5,249 per person within 28 days.
- Final payment is then due 120 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

- Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!
- You will then be allocated and contacted by one of our Dedicated Support Agent's (within 48 hours) who will support you right up until you return from your journey

FLIGHTS, UPGRADES & EXTENSIONS

Airfare Information

- Full-service airline used will be Air New Zealand/Lufthansa (Singapore Airlines, Emirates, United Airlines or similar if unavailable)
- Flights are not direct and include a minimum of one connection (maximum two)
- All tickets will include 20 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.
- Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Also, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters is not included. If travelling over this amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable direct.

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- Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable; any changes will be subject to the airline rules and change fees
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required
- Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control
- Any airline 'extras' such as pre-allocated seating are at your own arrangement (additional charges apply)

Premium Economy or Business Class upgrades

- Premium Economy - not available.
- Business Class available from an additional \$7,500 per person (subject to availability).

Please specify this as a 'Special Request' when completing your booking and you will be quoted for the additional fare. In the event your selection is unavailable, or that you are dissatisfied with the quote, you will be provided with a full refund.

Land Only discount

A reduction of \$1,800 per person applies if you wish to arrange your own airfares. To purchase a land-only fare, please select this option in the booking process under 'Departure City'.

Please note, if you are not arriving or departing as per the group itinerary, airport transfers are also no longer included. If you would like us to arrange this service for you, please refer to the 'Extra services' section for pricing.

How to extend your stay

Some customers like to enhance their holiday by extending their stay pre- and/or post-tour. If you wish to do so, please follow these steps:

1. Follow the 'Book Now' prompts after signing up, until you reach the 'Special Requests' field
2. Here, please specify your preferred flight arrangements and if you require additional accommodation, with the number of nights needed.
3. After finalising your purchase and submitting your booking form, a member of our team will be in contact with you via email to verify your request.

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Please note, a supplement of \$150 per person (plus any applicable fare and tax differences) applies to deviate from the standard itinerary. We will contact you via email with a quote and proposed flight itinerary, and then proceed with collecting the additional payment required to confirm your request.

EXTRA SERVICES

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour, adding a stopover package en-route or booking a tour extension. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

Pre and post tour accommodation (deviating from group flights forfeits your group airport transfers)

- Pre/post-tour accommodation (Reykjavik): \$464 per room per night for double/twin including breakfast and transfer

Arrival and departure airport transfers

- Arrival/Departure Transfer (Reykjavik): \$260 per vehicle per direction (based on 1 to 3 people)

Please specify in the 'Special Request' field when making your purchase your preferred travel arrangements and if you would like our team to book additional nights' accommodation and/or airport transfers. The additional cost for these land arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

Please note, the transfers are not private and you may be grouped with other Inspiring Vacations customers.

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EXCLUSIONS

- Visas
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Optional Shore Excursions
- Personal expenses

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Fitness Requirements

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.

As a general rule, portorage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

This particular tour is categorised as a “3”.

3 – Moderate Tour: A good level of fitness and mobility is required, as this tour includes a moderate level of physical activity and is considered a medium-fast paced tour. You should be able to walk up and down stairs, get on and off the coach and able to walk reasonable distances of approximately 2 kilometres per day or more with ease. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to determine your suitability. If you have any form of walking aids, other than a walking stick or hiking poles, then this tour is not suitable.

Tipping

Please note gratuities are not included on the cruise BUT they are not expected. It is typical throughout the Arctic and Scandinavia that tipping is not expected nor is it a requirement. It is at the customer's discretion. You may consider tipping your tour leader and driver for outstanding service throughout your trip. Remember, a tip is not compulsory and should only be given when you receive excellent service, which we are certain is guaranteed.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however any changes are beyond our control.

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Single Supplement

Single supplement is \$7,500 per person in addition to the twin-share price.

Triple Share

Not available.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

Visa & Passport information

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return.

New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa for travel to Iceland.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://safetravel.govt.nz/> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements. Visas should not be applied for before receiving final documentation.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation including, e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Group Size

2-40 people.

Trip Style

Expedition Cruise - These trips are for the true explorer. Expedition small ship cruising is the best way to get off-the-beaten-track and see some of the world's most unspoilt and remote destinations. The experience on an expedition cruise is very different from that of a conventional, larger cruise ship. The focus is not about the ship's creature comforts but very much about about the destination, it's nature and wildlife. Daily shore excursions by zodiac inflatable boats allow you to step on to shore in the world's most remote locations where few have ever been before. These trips will be a mix of fully guided or self-guided depending on your chosen package, on board your small ship you'll have an expert expedition team giving you informative lectures and educational lectures in many different scientific fields.

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Children

Children must be 12 years old or above and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Tour Length

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent inflight and is subject to change, depending on the flight schedule. Please refer to the day-by-day itinerary for the time spent in your destination(s).

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