

SAMPLE SELF DRIVE TOUR ("SLOWER PACED"):

(This is from a suggested itinerary – it is fully customizable as we delve down into your wishlist.)

Please note – for two weeks driving in Iceland, many people are reporting spending \$350-\$500+ in gas. Meals can also be expensive.

“Scenic Ring of Iceland” – 14 days/13 nights

- I picked this itinerary because it has you spending two nights in almost every hotel – allowing you to feel somewhat relaxed as you can choose what to do with your time.
- I also picked it due to the many opportunities you will see for “hiking” in the descriptions.
- There are optional excursions at most of the hotel stops, meaning that if you wish to take a bus tour one day to a special location, you are free to do so if you want a break from driving. (Example: glacier hike, horseback riding...)
- Most people recommend if you have 12-14 days to do Iceland, this is much better than 7 (the typical tour) as you will feel less rushed.
- **TOUR COST: approximately \$2600 per person for July**
 - INCLUDED WITH THIS PARTICULAR TOUR SERVICE:
 - Transfer from KEF airport to Reykjavik on arrival
 - Accommodation (“comfort” – clean, 3-star lodgings with private bathrooms and breakfast) for 13 nights, includes breakfast
 - Rental car of your choice with unlimited mileage, CDW and VAT for 12 days
 - Free use of GPS & two authorized drivers for the duration of the vehicle rental period
 - Transfer from Reykjavik to KEF airport on departure
 - Map of Iceland and Detailed Personal Itinerary
 - Road atlas & “Highlights of Iceland” booklet
 - Driving in Iceland Pamphlet
 - Temporary use of mobile phone
 - 24-hour Emergency Service
 - Taxes & Service Fees

Total driving distance: 1835/1182 km/mi

Map:



Day 1: Welcome to Reykjavík



On arrival to Keflavik Airport, you will be greeted by a driver who will take you to your accommodation in Reykjavík. After settling in, the rest of the day is yours to explore the vibrant capital at your own pace.

Spend the night in Reykjavík.

Day 2: The Golden Circle



After breakfast, it's time to pick up your rental car for your Icelandic road trip! The journey begins on the Golden Circle route -- home to some of the country's best-known natural phenomena. The first stop is the beautiful Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site, where early Viking settlers created the world's oldest parliament in the midst of unique geological features. Further down the road, make a stop to admire the great Geysir and Strokkur geysers before heading to the Gullfoss, one of Iceland's most iconic waterfalls.

Spend the night in the Selfoss area.

Driving distance approx 185 km / 115 mi.

Day 3: Scenic South Iceland



Enjoy the day in the area around Selfoss, where you may wish to do some hiking or other optional activities such as horse riding, bathing in a natural geothermal stream, river rafting, sea kayaking, golfing, quad biking, caving or a farm visit.

Or take a side trip to the charming coastal villages of Stokkseyri and Eyrabakki or perhaps drive up to Þjórsárdalur and Mt. Hekla. Those with a 4x4 rental vehicle can also venture out to the surreal, mountainous area of Landmannalaugar.

Spend another night in the Selfoss area.

Day 4: Black Sand Beaches



Begin the day with a visit to Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss -- two postcard-perfect waterfalls. Continuing east to Vík í Mýrdal, take a break to enjoy the volcanic black sand beach, where you can see the jagged rock formations of Dyrhólaey and Reynisdrangar. Nearby at the Mýrdalsjökull glacier, you have the option to experience a guided glacial hike. The last stop of the day is the stunning Fjaðrarárgljúfur canyon before settling in for the evening.

Spend the night in the vicinity of Kirkjubæjarklaustur or Skaftafell.

Driving distance approx. 205 km / 127 mi.

Day 5: Skaftafell and Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon



Spend the morning at Skaftafell in Vatnajökull National Park, where many interesting trails await hikers. One of most popular pathways leads to the Svartifoss waterfall, which spills over a wall of dark, hexagon-shaped basalt columns. Then head east to the sparkling Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon, where in summer you can take a boat ride among the floating icebergs and curious seals.

NOTE: Suggested optional activity for hiking lovers: **Hay Cart Bird Watching Tour**

Cape Ingólshöfði is an isolated headland on Iceland's south coast, halfway between Skaftafell in Vatnajökull National Park and the Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon. This historical nature reserve is home to thousands of nesting seabirds, such as puffins and great skuas.

To get to Ingólshöfði, you will ride on a tractor-drawn hay cart over 6 km of waters, marshes and sand plains. (The drive takes about 25 minutes each way.) You will then spend about 1 - 1.5 hours hiking around the nature reserve in the cape with the tour guide. The total hike is 2 - 3 km long, and after a steep sand slope in the beginning it gets easier on mostly flat grasslands. There will of course be plenty of stops on the way to enjoy the scenery and birdlife.

Spend the night in the Höfn area.

Driving distance approx. 210 km / 130 mi.

Day 6: Vatnajökull National Park and Höfn



Enjoy the many sights and activities today at the foot of Europe's largest glacier, Vatnajökull. Pay a visit to the glacier museum in Höfn before enjoying some fresh air on a glacier hike (optional) or with a stroll along the coast. Since the town of Höfn has been nicknamed the "Lobster Capital of Iceland" we highly recommend ending the day with a delicious lobster dinner here!

Spend another night in the Höfn area.

Day 7: Off the Beaten Path in the East Fjords



Driving along the scenic East Fjords today, take a break in the charming village of Djúpvogur or get out for a hike in the Hvannagil canyon. Anyone who enjoys offbeat tourist attractions may also want to visit Petra's Mineral Collection in Stöðvarfjörður, a small, eclectic museum of natural objects and mineral rocks that originally started as a hobby by a long-time local resident. Finally, make a stop to Fáskrúðsfjörður, a small fishing village with French connections.

Spend the night in the area of Egilsstaðir or Seyðisfjörður.

Driving distance approx. 250 km / 155 mi.

Day 8: Seyðisfjörður and Borgarfjörður Eystri



Start the day with a drive to Seyðisfjörður, one of the most enchanting villages in Iceland with its well-preserved wooden houses, steep mountains and picture-perfect fjord scenery.

Then head to Bakkagerði, a great setting for hikes and one of Iceland's most isolated villages with a population of under 130 people. What it lacks in humans, it makes up for with other "residents" – it is rumoured to have the largest colonies of elves and fairies in the country as well as a thriving bird population. Other notable attractions in the area include the monster habitat at Lagaflljót, the beautiful Hengifoss waterfall and the Hallormsstaðarskógur forest, the largest wooded area in Iceland.

Spend the night in the area of Egilsstaðir or Seyðisfjörður.

Driving distance approx 200 km / 124 mi.

Day 9: Lunar Landscapes of Lake Mývatn



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Once you've crossed the East Fjords, prepare to be amazed by the radically different scenery you are soon to encounter near Lake Mývatn. With the lunar landscapes of Námaskarð Pass, the Skútustaðagígar volcanic pseudocraters, Mt. Krafla and the starkly beautiful Dimmuborgir lava formations, you may feel like you've just landed on the moon! Later in the afternoon, head to the amazing Mývatn Nature Baths for an ideal way to rejuvenate after this enjoyable day of sightseeing.

Spend the night in the Lake Mývatn area.

Driving distance approx. 165 km / 102 mi.

Day 10: Hiking and Whales in North Iceland



Use this day to further explore the area of Lake Myvatn with its many interesting hiking trails and unusual sights. You can also enjoy an optional whale watching tour in nearby Húsavík, the "Whale Watching Capital of Europe". Spend the night in the Lake Mývatn area.

Day 11: Jökulsárgljúfur National Park



Start the day with a scenic drive through the wonderful Jökulsárgljúfur National Park (part of Vatnajökull National Park), visiting such fascinating sights as the mythical Ásbyrgi canyon, the Hljóðarklettur (“rock of echoes”) area and Dettifoss, the most powerful waterfall in Europe. This park also offers ideal hiking conditions with its stunning lava landscapes and woodlands.

Spend the night in the Lake Mývatn area.

Driving distance approx 220 km / 137 mi.

Day 12: Akureyri, Capital of the North



From your accommodation in the Lake Mývatn area, drive west and make a stop at Goðafoss (waterfall of the gods”) before arriving to Akureyri, the “Capital of the North”. This charming town offers an interesting variety of shops and museums as well as one of the world’s most northerly botanical gardens. From Akureyri, continue to the valley of Skagafjörður, the perfect place to experience firsthand the pleasure of riding a friendly, sure-footed Icelandic horse. Spend the night in the Skagafjörður area.

Driving distance approx. 200 km / 124 mi.

Day 13: Waterfalls and Viking Heritage



Explore West Iceland with its diverse attractions, including the Icelandic Settlement Centre exhibition in Borgarnes and Deildartunguhver, the largest hot spring in Europe. Further along your drive, make a stop at to the beautiful Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls. History buffs may also enjoy a visit to Snorrastofa, the medieval research institute at Reykholt, where the early settler Snorri Sturluson wrote his famous Saga Heimskringla in the 13th century. And on your way back to Reykjavik, take a short break at Fossatún, a waterfall said to be guarded by a troll woman named Drifa.

Spend the night in Reykjavík.

Driving distance approx. 270 km / 168 mi.

Day 14: Home Sweet Home

As your amazing holiday comes to an end, transportation to Keflavík Airport is provided via bus in time for your departure flight. Travellers departing in the afternoon will have some extra time to enjoy the Blue Lagoon or perhaps take a short sightseeing tour of the Reykjanes peninsula.