

# WESTFJORDS, NORTH & WEST ICELAND SELF-DRIVE TOUR



## ITINERARY

*The following itinerary is an example of a possible route with various activities. It can be reorganized to fit your interests, budget and schedule. It can also be combined with any of the other programs on our website.*

*Itinerary is subject to change with or without notice. The sequence of day trips may vary. The final itinerary will be given at the start of the trip.*

### **Day 1 - Welcome to Iceland - Reykjavík**

Welcome to **ICELAND**! After you arrive at **Keflavik** International Airport, you will be greeted by a driver who will take you to your accommodation in **Reykjavik**. After settling in, the rest of the day is free for you to explore the vibrant city centre with its abundance of museums, restaurants and bars to suit all tastes. If you're interested in checking out Icelandic design or experiencing the city's thriving coffee culture, head to the main street, Laugavegur, and enjoy its various shops and cosy cafes.

Spend the night in Reykjavik.

### **Day 2 - West Iceland: Hote Springs, Waterfalls & Glacier Adventure**

Begin your journey today by driving through the bountiful Borgarfjörður area. Sights along the way include the twin waterfalls Hraunfossar and Barnafoss along with the Deildartunguhver hot spring, and Háafell Goat Farm. You also have the choice to join optional activities such as visiting the Krauma to soak in soothing geothermal baths, exploring the lava tunnel Víðgelmir or venturing inside of a glacier. Continue the drive towards Skagafjörður, known for their Icelandic horses and amazing midnight sun displays.

Spend the night in the Skagafjörður area.

*Driving distance approx. 395 km/245 miles*

### **Day 3 – The Splendour of Skagafjörður, Icelandic Horses & Charming Akureyri**

Skagafjörður is a region rich with culture, purebred Icelandic horses and numerous natural sites. You can stroll along a black sand beach, explore the turf houses of Glaumbær, visit the pool Grettislaug, enjoy a horseriding adventure or join other optional activities. You will continue the day driving to Akureyri, the unofficial capital of north Iceland. There are numerous museums, galleries, and cafes to visit, as well as outdoor areas like the botanical gardens and the harbour area to roam. You could also stroll along the historical town centre on the streets of Hafnarstræti and Aðalstræti to view the old houses and visit the Nonni Museum.

Spend the night in Akureyri

*Driving distance approx. 160 km/99 miles*

### **Day 4 – Magical Lake Myvatn: Dimmuborgir & Geothermal Waters**

Today's drive brings you to the Lake Mývatn region, a hotbed of volcanic landscapes including the Námaskarð Pass, Skútustaðagígar pseudo craters, Dimmuborgir lava formations and Krafla, one of Iceland's most fascinating volcanoes. Later, take a dip in the soothing milky blue geothermal waters of the Mývatn Nature Baths, the perfect way to relax after a full day of sightseeing.

Spend the night in the Mývatn area.

*Driving distance approx. 105 km/65 miles*

### **Day 5 – Jökulsárgljúfur National Park**

Use this day to explore more of Lake Mývatn and its unique surroundings. We recommend a drive through the Jökulsárgljúfur part of the vast Vatnajökull National Park, visiting such sights as the Ásbyrgi canyon and Dettifoss, the most powerful waterfall in Europe. Another great option is to join a whale watching tour at the nearby village of Húsavík, "the whale watching capital of Europe".

Spend another night in the Mývatn area.

*Driving distance approx. 250 km / 155 mi.*

### **Day 6 – Majestic Fjords of the Troll Peninsula**

After your time in Myvatn, head to Tröllaskagi (the Peninsula of the Trolls), where you can enjoy fantastic scenery of beautiful mountains, jagged cliffs and wide fjords. Then, continue through Siglufjörður, which was once the centre of Iceland's herring fleet, and make a stop at Hofsós to relax in the thermal pool (optional) before arriving to Skagafjörður, an area known for its abundance of purebred Icelandic horses.

Spend the night in the Hvammstangi area

*Driving distance approx. 360 km/223 miles*

### **Day 7 – Journey to the Westfjords**

Today marks the beginning of your journey around the beautiful Westfjords, one of the most remote, unspoilt regions in Iceland. Sights along the way include the countless mounds of Vatnsdalshólar, the Borgarvirki natural fortress, the impressive Hvítserkur rock formation (which some say resembles a rhino) and Illugastaðir, where you are likely to find seals at play.

Continue the drive to Hólmavík where you will find the Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft Museum, the Sorcerer's Cottage and the hot natural pools in Drangsnes are also well worth a visit.

Spend the night in the Hólmavík area.

*Driving distance approx. 145 km / 90 miles*

## **Day 8 - Explore Ísafjörður**

Start your day early from Hólmavík and get ready for a splendidly scenic drive to Ísafjörður. The coastal roads weave in between mountains and fjords, allowing you to enjoy awe-inspiring views. The journey is very much part of the adventure. Once in Ísafjörður, explore the bustling downtown area close to the harbour, where there are shops, cafes, and museums. For those seeking a little nature, there are well-maintained trails just outside of town. After a full day, dine at one of the town's restaurants serving fresh fish.

Spend the night in Ísafjörður.

*Driving distance approx. 220 km/231 miles*

## **Day 9 - Dramatic Dynjandi Waterfalls & Látrabjarg Cliff**

Today you will be treated to two pearls of the Westfjords. Be sure to have your camera batteries charged! Drive from Ísafjörður along Dýrafjörður to the delicate, yet powerfall Dynjandi waterfall. Often described to a bridal veil, the 7-tiered waterfall is possibly the most romantic one on the island, and the largest in the Westfjords. Next, drive to Látrabjarg, a favourite area for birdwatchers and puffin-enthusiasts. The gigantic bird cliff, which sits on the westernmost point of Europe, is dotted with thousands of birds during the summer months. Catch a glimpse of the adorable Atlantic puffins!

Spend the night in the Patreksfjörður area.

*Driving distance approx. 170 km/136 miles.*

## **Day 10 - Rauðisandur & Ferry Crossing Breiðafjörður Bay**

Kick off the day with an early visit to the rich golden sands of Rauðisandur, or take a relaxing dip in a natural hot pool at Vatnsfjörður nature reserve. Take the Baldur ferry at noon across Breiðafjörður Bay to the village of Stykkishólmur on the Snæfellsnes peninsula, passing the island of Flatey along the way\*. The duration of the ferry ride is about 2 Hours and 45 minutes.

If you have time to explore after your arrival in Stykkishólmur, we recommend spending the afternoon roaming the region's unique sights, including Snæfellsjökull glacier in Snæfellsjökull National Park, the Dritvík cove and the small, charming hamlets of Arnarstapi, Hellnar and Búðir.

Spend the night on the Snæfellsnes peninsula.

*Driving distance approx. 55 km/34 miles*

*In May and September, the Baldur ferry departs only in the evenings, so we recommend that you drive around the bay to Stykkishólmur village. The drive adds approximately 280 km / 173 mi to your journey, but it is very scenic.*

## Day 11 – Snæfellsnes Peninsula

Experience the geographically diverse Snæfellsjökull National Park, with rich birdlife, lush valleys and lava fields. It's an ideal road trip to drive around the peninsula, exploring Dritvík Cove, Lóndrangar Cliffs as well as Hellnar and Arnarstapi Cliffs with its abundant birdlife and the quaint villages along the coast. You might wish to test your strength at the stones of the black volcanic beach of Djúpalónssandur like the sailors did years ago to prove their strength and vie for choice roles in ships. In Snæfellsnes, you can choose from a variety of activities such as hiking, taking a boat cruise or simply relax and take in the glacier's alleged supernatural energy.

Spend the night in Reykjavík.

*Driving distance approx. 290 km / 180 mi.*

## Day 12 – Departure from Iceland

On your day of departure, a shuttle bus will collect you from your hotel in Reykjavík and transport you to Keflavík International Airport ahead of your scheduled flight. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can fit in a relaxing visit to the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa or even take a short guided tour of the volcanic Reykjanes Peninsula (optional; not included).



**Globe trotter travel** – Via Salaria 195 – 00198 Rome – Italy

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Booking: Tel +39 339 4640439 – Fax +39 06 97255820

E-mail [g.strada13@libero.it](mailto:g.strada13@libero.it)

[www.toursitalyandeurope.com](http://www.toursitalyandeurope.com)