

## Iceland Luxury Trekking Tour

Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. By the very nature of what we do, each private tour itinerary is custom, exclusive and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.

### Overview

It's no hyperbole to state that Iceland is one of the most truly otherworldly places on Earth! The tiny country's contrast in nature, topography, and outdoor activities make this an idyllic private tour and trekking destination. Based on the unprecedented rise in Iceland's tourism, particularly during the peak June – August season, you must book nine months to one year in advance in order to secure the highest quality guides, hotels, and trek (lux!) permits.

Among our favorite activities/sights is the Laugavegur Trek (among the most beautiful hikes in the world, including luxury camping), the many relaxing and therapeutic hot water baths, including the Blue Lagoon, whale watching, lush, green Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon, and Icelandic horse-riding.

**Based on the limited number of high-quality accommodations and guides, coupled with the extraordinary tourist demand in this tiny country, Iceland private tour costs are among the highest in the world. During the three-month, peak, summer season (June – August) Iceland hosts nearly 700,000 tourists, despite the country's total population being only 350,000. Over the past several years, Iceland has experienced an incredible, 25% per year tourist growth!**

#### **ICELAND**

#### **TEMPERATURE RANGE**

Highs: Mid 50's

Lows: Mid 30's

#### **AREA**

103,000 SQ KM

39,769 SQ MILES

#### **POPULATION**

328,000

#### **LANGUAGE**

Icelandic

#### **CAPITAL**

Reykjavik

#### **CURRENCY**

Krona

#### **Day 1**

##### **Fly to Reykjavik**

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

#### **Day 2**

##### **Arrive Reykjavik + Transfer to Blue Lagoon**

Upon arrival at Keflavik Airport in Reykjavik, you will be privately transferred to the Blue Lagoon Spa. The world-renowned Blue Lagoon is heated by geothermal energy and contains skin nurturing mineral salts and silica.

##### **The Retreat at the Blue Lagoon**

The Blue Lagoon is a man-made geothermal hot spring like no other, and the only 5-star luxury hotel in Reykjavik. The silica and chalcedony minerals cause the water to turn a milky, ethereal blue and is one of the most popular attractions in all of Iceland. The Retreat at the Blue Lagoon has taken this ultra-lux hotel to a

whole new level of pampering. The 62-suite hotel/spa/resort features terraces leading directly into the Lagoon's sulfur and silica-rich therapeutic waters. The Retreat Spa is built into 800-year-old lava flows and features steam rooms and therapeutic "bathing chambers" carved directly into the rock. Our family's four-hour spa experience here was among our most memorable anywhere! Included is the "Blue Lagoon Ritual" featuring a silica, algae, and mineral body treatment provided in three connecting rooms. Following our ritual

and massage, the Retreat's "Nest" was a fitting space to end with a blissful nap. The Nest provides unique suspended chairs with floor to ceiling windows looking out at the therapeutic water of the Blue Lagoon. Kudos to the Retreat's mastermind, Grimur Saemundson! This truly is a remarkable place.

***Meals: Lunch***

***Accommodations: The Retreat at Blue Lagoon***

**Day 3**

**First Day of Trekking: Reykjavik/Laugavegur**

During the drive to the trail, you will pass by the Hekla volcano and other volcanoes in the Dómadalur area. Arriving in Landmannalaugar at noon, you will meet your guide and, after lunch, explore the area including the crater Ljótípollur and the canyon Grænagil. Those up to it may even climb the Bláhnjúkur Peak. You will camp at Landmannalaugar for the night.

***Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner***

***Accommodations: Laugavegur Luxury Camp***

**Day 4**

**Trek Landmannalaugar/Hraftinusker/Álftavatn**

As you make our way towards Álftavatn, you will pass small gorges, hot springs, and yellow mountain ridges, ascending up Hraftinnusker. Following, you will descend down into the gullies of Jökultungur with hundreds of steaming hot springs and mud pools and a picturesque view of the Álftavatn area (Swan Lake) and the Mýrdalsjökull and Eyjafjallajökull glaciers. In the afternoon you will arrive at Álftavatn, your camp for the night.

***Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner***

***Accommodations: Laugavegur Luxury Camp***

**Day 5**

**Trek Álftavatn/Emstrur**

You will continue south across the Mælifellssandur sand plains, crossing a few rivers. The Mælifellssandur sand plain stretches south hemmed in by the Mýrdalsjökull ice cap to the east. At the south of the sand-plain is the Emstrur area, a green spot where the farmers used to take their sheep in the old days for summer grazing. Close by is the canyon of Markarfljótsgljúfur, that you can visit en route to camp or after a short break at camp.

***Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner***

***Accommodations: Laugavegur Luxury Camp***

**Day 6**

**Trekking + Transfer Þórsmörk / Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon**

Following breakfast at the camp and a little more trekking, you will be transferred from Þórsmörk to the Fjaðrárgljúfur canyon, considered one of the most beautiful canyons in the world. After trekking through the Canyon, you will visit the black beach of Reynisfjara and Dyrhólaey cliff, before being transferred to Hotel Ranga for the evening.

## **Hotel Ranga**

The luxury, 51-room, log cabin-style Hotel Ranga is our most frequently requested hotel in Iceland. Located 60 miles southeast of Reykjavik, one of the biggest draws of the Ranga is its reputation for outstanding Nordic cuisine, using its gourmet restaurant concept “Famer’s Market.” The property’s location overlooking the salmon-rich East Ranga River surely provides a plentiful supply of this delicious food! Though we are not big timber design fans, the timber and terra-cotta floors and handmade furniture at the Ranga certainly create an open and comfortable atmosphere. The hotel was renovated in 2008 under the management of its engaging and friendly owner, Friorik Palson.

***Meals: Breakfast & Lunch***

***Accommodations: Hotel Ranga***

## **Day 7**

### **Fly Reykjavik/Akureyri + Transfer to Lake Mývatn**

Following breakfast at Hotel Ranga, you will be privately transferred to the Thrihnukagigur Volcano. You will be lead across a lava field before being professionally lowered into the belly of the volcano to see the incredible complexity of the crater. You will then be privately transferred to your onward flight to Akureyri.

## **Hotel Laxá**

Opened in 2014, the 80-room “green” Hotel Laxa is far and away the finest hotel in northern Iceland/Mývatn Lake area. Using western, 5-star luxury hotels as a reference point, we consider the Laxa to be an upper 3-star/4-star property, but certainly the highest quality among the limited choices here. The Laxa rooms are quite spacious, with big windows and nice views, all integrating a modern, minimalist design, or as a client once put it, “upscale spartan”. The property’s Eldey restaurant is noteworthy for creating menus around northern Iceland’s unique, organic ingredients, with their smoked arctic char and lamb being most popular. Another big plus at the Laxa is its ideal location: only one mile from Lake Mývatn and a 30-minute drive to the Mývatn Nature Baths.

***Meals: Breakfast***

***Accommodations: Hotel Laxá***

## **Day 8**

### **Lake Myvatn Private Tour**

Your full-day tour will include the Námafjall volcanic area and the Mývatn Nature baths, where the water reaches a temperature of about 265°F! A local lunch located inside a cowshed is available as well.

***Meals: Breakfast & Lunch***

***Accommodations: Hotel Laxá***

## **Day 9**

### **Húsavík (Whale Watching!) + Fly Akureyri/Reykjavik**

Your day will begin with a visit to the Húsavík Whale Museum, an excellent educational stopover before you board a small boat on Skjálfandi Bay. Here, you will have the chance to view several marine wildlife such as orcas, humpback whales, blue whales, and dolphins. Following your excursion, you will be privately transferred to the airport for your flight to Reykjavik.



**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodations: The Retreat at the Blue Lagoon (or various, quality, 4-star hotel options convenient for city shopping)**

**Day 10**

**Gullfoss Private Tour**

Your last day in Iceland, you will take a trip to the Hvítá River, where you will be able to see it plunge 105 feet. You will then journey to a geothermal area where you can view magnificent geysers.

***Meals: Breakfast***

***Accommodations: The Retreat at the Blue Lagoon (or various, quality, 4-star hotel options convenient for city shopping)***

**Day 11**

**Fly Reykjavik/Home**

***Meals: Breakfast***