

# The Beyond Borders Collective

TRAVEL BREAKS BARRIERS AND BRINGS US TOGETHER

## Iceland: Reykjavik, Golden Circle, South Coast

5 Day Itinerary (November - March)

### Summary Information

#### Transportation

International Airline	United Airlines
Airport Hub	Keflavik International Airport (KEF)
Rental Car	<a href="#">Blue Car Rental</a> - Keflavik Airport

#### Accommodations

<b>Golden Circle (Nesjavellir)</b>	<a href="#">Ion Adventure Hotel</a> Nesjavellir vid Thingvallavatn 801 Selfoss, Iceland
<b>Blue Lagoon (Grindavik)</b>	<a href="#">Silica Hotel</a> Norðurljósavegur 7 240 Grindavík, Iceland
<b>Reykjavik</b>	<a href="#">101 Hotel</a> Hverfisgata 10 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

#### International Travel Requirements\*

Tourist Visa	Tourist visa not required for stays less than 90 days
Passport Validity	Three months required. Six months of remaining validity recommended.
Source*	<a href="https://travel.state.gov">Travel.state.gov</a>
*Based on requirements for US Citizens. For all others, check local government website	

## Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Golden Circle		
<b>Morning</b>		
Transportation	Arrive in Reykjavik, pick up rental car at Keflavik (KEF) airport	Drive to Ion Adventure Hotel (90 minutes). Note: during the winter certain roads are closed that aren't recognized on Google maps. Hotel should inform you in advance of any closers/detours.
<b>Afternoon</b>		
Activity	<a href="#">Snowmobile Tour Langjökull Glacier</a> – Half Day	Meet at Gullfoss Café (Gullfossi Bláskógabyggð 801 Selfoss) at 1:30pm
<b>Evening</b>		
Dinner	<a href="#">Silfra Restaurant and Bar</a> at Ion Adventure Hotel	There are not many restaurant options near the hotel due to its remote location. Reservation at hotel is recommended.
Day 2: Golden Circle		
<b>Morning</b>		
Breakfast	At hotel	
Activity	Spa treatment at <a href="#">The Lava Spa</a>	Natural spa with sauna and outdoor hot pool
<b>Afternoon</b>		
Transportation	Transfer from Golden Circle to Blue Lagoon	Great opportunity for sightseeing along the way. See below.
Activity	<a href="#">Thingvellir National Park &amp; Laxnes Horse Farm</a>	Both attractions are in route to the Blue Lagoon. Check Laxnes Horse Farm website for advanced booking.
<b>Evening</b>		
Dinner	<a href="#">LAVA Restaurant</a>	Restaurant at the Blue Lagoon
Day 3: Blue Lagoon		
<b>Morning</b>		
Breakfast	At hotel	Breakfast included at Silica Hotel
Activity	Blue Lagoon – <a href="#">Premium Pass</a> 8:00am lagoon entry, 10:30am <a href="#">In-Water Massage</a>	Premium passes to the Blue Lagoon are included as part of stay at Silica hotel. Arrive at opening to beat the crowds!
<b>Afternoon</b>		
Activity	<a href="#">Silica Lagoon</a>	Silica offers its own private lagoon for resort guests only. We retreated here once the Blue Lagoon got too crowded. This alone made the stay at Silica totally worth it!
<b>Evening</b>		
Transportation	Transfer from Blue Lagoon to Reykjavik	40-minute drive from Silica Hotel to 101 Hotel in Reykjavik

Dinner	<a href="#">Messin Seafood Restaurant</a>	Note: We ate at El Santo (now permanently closed). Try Messin instead!
Activity	<a href="#">Northern Lights and Stargazing Tour</a>	Happy World Tours – pickup from hotel in Reykjavik at 8:30pm. Guides take you to a remote destination based on aurora forecast. Professional photography included!
<b>Day 4: South Coast</b>		
<b>Morning / Afternoon</b>		
Activity	<a href="#">South Coast and Glacier Tour</a>	Full day private tour offered through <a href="#">Happy World Tours</a> (note: now offered through a third party). Includes Black Sand Beach, Sólheimajökull Glacier, Skógafoss, Vik
<b>Evening</b>		
Dinner	Downtown Reykjavik	Good walking streets: Laugavegur, Klappartígur, Skólavörðustígur, Bergstaðastræti, Smiðjustígur
Drinks	<a href="#">Kaffibarinn</a>	Kaffibarinn has a casual atmosphere with a variety of local beers on tap. You can also make your own heart-shaped waffles!  Additional recommendations include Boston, Leowski Bar, Bravo
<b>Day 5: Reykjavik</b>		
<b>Morning / Afternoon</b>		
Lunch/Snack	<a href="#">Kaffivagninn</a> (Fish and Chips)	Note: We ate at Icelandic Fish and Chips (now permanently closed). Try Kaffivagninn instead!
Activity	Explore Reykjavik	Attractions include: <a href="#">The Church of Hallgrímur</a> , <a href="#">Árbær Open Air Museum</a>
<b>Evening</b>		
Transportation	Depart Keflavík International Airport (KEF) for flight home.	Tourists who reside abroad can claim a proportional VAT refund when shopping in Iceland. Refer to <a href="#">Government Website</a> for further information.

### **Travel Tip #1: Book a Rental Car**

There are no Ubers or Lyfts in Iceland (at least while we were there) and cabs are very expensive. Budget for higher gas prices (2-3 times the price in the US). Pay attention to the transmission type as many cars are manual. A rental car may not be needed if you choose Reykjavik as a central hub and rely on tour guides for transportation.

### **Travel Tip #2: Stop to Visit an Icelandic Horse on the Roadside**

If you happen to stop and visit an Icelandic horse along the roadside, be respectful of their owner's property and don't hop any fences! You can also book tours to both pet and ride them. We visited Laxnes Farm.

### **Travel Tip #3: Book a Northern Lights Tour**

Even when the aurora activity is high, a sighting is not guaranteed. This is especially true when you are in Reykjavik where there is greater light pollution. Our guide took our group to a remote location for optimal viewing based on the aurora activity and took professional photos of us with the northern lights.