Itinerary • Highlights of Iceland in 2 Weeks.

Above: Seljalandsfoss, one of the most pictured falls in Iceland

More in demand than ever before, record numbers of tourists descend upon Iceland throughout the year to experience the island in all its spell-binding beauty.

For those who cherish the natural world, Iceland is heaven on Earth. Everything your heart could desire from grandiose towering waterfalls, fiery-tale canyons and extensive ice caves carved into gigantic glaciers are abundant.

So much so, one trip will never be enough to indulge in the full romantic experience.

Reykjavik • Vik • Hof • Seljalandsfoss • Akureyri • Grundarfjörður

Resources.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ICELAND IN 2 WEEKS.

Price Guide.

Planning your Jökulsárlón excursion adventure is easy with the help of the interactive Price Guide.

14-day itinerary from £1,820 per person.

Reykjavik • 3 nights.

Your first port-of-call is the colourful capital of Reykjavik. This city serves as a charming base to explore the famed Golden Triangle and the Blue Lagoon, two of the most popular attractions in Iceland.

Above: Since its unveiling, Hallgrímskirkja has become a powerful symbol of the Reykjavik.

KEX Hostel.
Dorms from £49 per night

Located about a 40-minute drive Reykjavik is a natural wonder that you have no doubt heard all the hype about. The enchantments of the **Blue Lagoon** ( ) must be experienced first-hand to be believed. These geothermal spas are a by-product of colossal volcanic activity — prevalent across Iceland, whose waters are reputed to be rich in minerals beneficial those suffering from skin conditions and joint pain.

Admission tickets aren't so cheap, however. Expect to pay roughly €70.00 per person to access the spa, parking is included at no additional cost.

A famous driving circuit in Iceland is the nearby Golden Circle, encompassing explosive geysers, stunning natural parks, and some of the best waterfalls anywhere on Earth. Highlights include the other worldly landscape of **Thingvellir National Park**, home to the majestic falls of **Dverghamra** ( ) and the astounding **Gullfoss** ( ), which cascades thunderously down the dramatic cliff face.

Reykjavik is worthy of exploration, showcasing vibrant, quirky murals painted on many townhouses, laid-back cafes, and hefty bars that welcome tourists to socialise with locals and absorb their culture. Icelandic people are exceptional hosts, so don't hesitate to have a chat!

The towering **Hallgrímskirkja** is a futuristic spectacle that must be seen to be believed. A modern masterwork, the towering church dominates the skyline of the city. Its architect drew inspiration from the rugged rocks, glaciers and mountains to create an evocative tribute to Iceland's wholly unique and spellbinding landscape.

Loft HI Hostel.
Dorms from £49 per night

Vik • 2 or 3 nights.

A 2½ hour drive south-east of Reykjavik, the tiny coastal town of Vik serves as your base for exploring some of the most awe-inspiring landscapes Iceland has to offer. The town itself is a sleepy village of just 318 residents, allowing for a tranquil getaway.

Above: Admiring the elegance of Seljalandsfoss ( ) from a small cave behind the falls.

With that said, a consistent high inflow of tourists needs to announced arrive for accommodation during summer, in particular. Try to plan ahead and snag a spare in the great hostel situated in the heart of town.

The black sands of **Reynisfjara** ( ) are travellers to leave the wind-battered southern coast to explore the rugged landscape of this astounding beach. The stacks of basalt columns that cling to the edge of land are remnants from a time when the area was being shaped by the lava, which flowed across the region.

Vik Hi Hostel.
Dorms from £49 per night

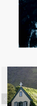
With you never tire of being in the presence of incredible waterfalls? Definitely not here. Perhaps the best double-bill of falls can be found less than an hour outside of Vik.

The enchanting falls of **Seljalandsfoss** ( ) and **Skógafoss** ( ), separated by a mere 25 minute drive. Pictures speak a thousand words, and simply taking a look at each of these waterfalls should be enough to evoke similar emotions of magic and enchantment that are conjured up in fairy-tales.

Scratch beneath the surface in the immediate vicinity to uncover two of the best hidden gems. Located adjacent to Seljalandsfoss, the stunning **Gljúfrabúi** ( ) entices visitors to wrap on their hiking boots and navigate the narrow canyon that consumes this mystical cascade.

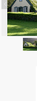
Similarly obscured **Kvernufoss** is a stunn's three from Skógafoss, but inhabits terrain far less trodden. Walk behind this elegant single-drop waterfall and revel in the peaceful serenity of the landscape.

If possible, allow time in your itinerary to explore amazing **Fjaðrárgljúfur** ( ). Complete with verdant mossy cliffs and waterfalls, it's easy to fall in love with in this mystical place.



Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon.
Dorms from £84 per night

Hof • Vatnajokull® • 1 or 2 nights.



Above: Mouth of a gargantuan ice cave inside Vatnajokull ( )

Depending upon when you have decided to visit Iceland, a 2 night stop-over in Hof is recommended for those who wish to explore the jaw-dropping **Ice caves of Vatnajokull** ( ), whole Iceland's largest glacier.

You definitely don't want to skip out on at least a day in Hof at all times of year. The unique beauty of the area is home to some of the best gems in the country.

In summer, make sure to visit the **Jökulsárlón** ( ) glacial lake at the fringes of Vatnajokull. Boat tours offer you the chance to drift away on the tranquil blue waters while admiring the backdrop of staggering icebergs.

Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon.
Dorms from £84 per night

Charming **Hofsósfjörur** ( ) flourishes in all its glory during summer. The verdant sloping roof of this traditional turf structure is nestled into the landscape as if plucked from a fantasy novel.

A short 20-minute drive away, the dramatic **Svartifoss** ( ) cascades elegantly from jagged rock, surrounded by hexagonal basalt columns which create a surreal backdrop. Slightly off the well-worn path, peaceful isolation and tranquility can be found here.

Visitors who brave the chill during winter are in for an unforgettable experience when visiting **Vatnajokull National Park** ( ). Expansive ice caves lay beneath the surface of the colossal Vatnajokull glacier, offering the opportunity to roam vast icy caverns with an expert guide. You can explore the caves year-round, however, to make sure to secure a place on a tour, such as those at Extreme Iceland.

In summer the caves are not safe to visit. If this applies, you may wish to shorten your stay.

Seyðisfjörður • 2 nights.

Nestled between mountains at the innermost point of a dramatic fjord, the setting of Seyðisfjörður is absolutely stunning. A row of colourful fisherman's houses align the banks of the fjord, creating the base of this tiny rural community. Flanked by some monumental peaks, hiking trails guide your ascent to jaw-dropping vistas high above the settlement.

Hi Hafaldan.
Dorms from £84 per night

During summer, **Lungá Art Festival** sees the community come together with vibrant contemporary art and concerts that will add a bit of cultural fun to your travels.

Your time outside of Seyðisfjörður is all about waterfalls. In fact, some of the best hidden gems in Iceland are tucked away here. Incredible **Hengifoss** ( ) and **Litlanesfoss** are back to back, and definitive highlights. A colourful cliff face backdrops Hengifoss, giving insight to different layers of volcanic rock that toiled centuries ago.

Closer to town, **Gufufoss** create a misty pool below as they plunge from the cliff top, creating a truly magical spectacle. Nearby, hike the trail to the enchanting **Fardagafoss**. If you want to uncover a gem for yourself.

Akureyri • Diamond Circle • 3 nights.

The area to the east of Akureyri is often dubbed the Diamond Circle owing to the astounding natural beauty on display. Often inclusive of Myvatn, the Diamond Circle is home to more geothermal spots such as Hverir and is replete with waterfalls.

Akureyri Backpackers.
Dorms from £84 per night

An island drive of 4 hours separates Seyðisfjörður from our next stop on this itinerary. Positioned at the feet of towering mountains, Akureyri is the second largest urban area in Iceland. Shelter from strong winds creates one of the milder climates in the country despite its close proximity to the Arctic Circle.

A 3 day stay allows you plenty of time to explore the Diamond Circle. Drive down to Myvatn, a volcanic lake where you will find the **Myvatn Natural Baths** - geothermal hot springs with supposed healing properties thanks to bubbling lava tubes below the surface. Whilst in the area, seek out the diverse **Krafla Lava Caves** ( ) and uncover a true magical gem.

Grundarfjörður Hi Hostel.
Dorms from £84 per night

Grundarfjörður • 1 or 2 nights.

An otherwise arduous 5 hour drive between Akureyri and your next stop will be made a completely different experience, channelling two opposing sides of the natural beauty found here. Multiple visits may be a necessity if — or when — you fall madly in love with this spell-binding dreamland.

The quaint falls of **Kirkjufellsfoss** ( ) stage elegantly into the tranquil pool below back dropped by one of the most recognisable and iconic peaks in the country - **Kirkjufell**.

Skarðsvík Beach at the eastern tip of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula is a beach whose sand prevents a distinct rusty tint, best enjoyed in summer time. Skarðsvík and **Vatnshellir Cave** are the two main draws for extending your stay.

Grundarfjörður Hi Hostel.
Dorms from £84 per night

Rounding off...

On the way back to Reykjavik, you will have a chance to reflect on your travels across the unparalleled landscapes that you have traversed. Conquering canyons, waterfalls, enormous glaciers and plenty of time spent relaxing in re-vitalising thermal baths.

Make sure to give your car a quick clean before you return it to the car hire company, and be wary that some cars are based on a 'full-to-full' basis, whereas the car is supplied with a full tank of petrol on the precedent that it will also be returned with a full tank.

Regardless of when you travel to Iceland, one trip will never be able to sum up its countless wonders. Summer and winter expeditions are completely different experiences, channelling two opposing sides of the natural beauty found here. Multiple visits may be a necessity if — or when — you fall madly in love with this spell-binding dreamland.

ICELAND

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