

Topdeck

DELVE DEEP: ICELAND



TRIP CODE:
TIEJJ3



TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Hope you've packed your spacesuit – this eight-day orbit is about to transport you to another world. Blast off in Reykjavík and discover Iceland's star attractions: glowing geothermal pools, gobsmacking glaciers and WOW-worthy waterfalls. Then delve deeper into the fascinating folklore, magical myths and traditional treats this one-of-a-kind country has to offer. Ready to REALLY explore the Land of Fire and Ice? We have lift off!

WORTH NOTING...

On this trip, you'll get two in one – your Trip Leader is also your Driver. Fact: Iceland is mind-blowing. But it's also rain, snow and wind-blowing. Occasionally, the itinerary may change due to weather conditions. DW – your Trip Leader always has a back-up plan.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



Nights



Download app



Meals

Thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

Ready for the time of your LIFE?

The countdown's on...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

IMPORTANT: please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Icelandic beer tasting experience
- Orientation walk of Dalvík with Trip Leader
- Whale-watching tour
- Orientation walk of Akureyri with Trip Leader
- See Goðafoss and Dettifoss waterfalls
- Visit Dimmuborgir lava field
- Visit Námafjall geothermal area
- Drive through the East Fjords
- View of Vatnajökull glacier
- See Svínafellsjökull glacier
- Visit Reynisfjara black-sand beach
- Visit Seljalandsfoss waterfall
- Golden Circle expedition (including Thingvellir National Park)

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Reykjavik
Iceland

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Reykjavik
Iceland

TRIP CURRENCIES

- Iceland - ISK

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | REYKJAVÍK (ICELAND)

Gobsmacking scenery. Richer-than-rich culture. Bucket-list topping activities. Plus all the weird, whacky and wonderful in between – welcome to Iceland. With these out-of-this-world landscapes, you might as well have landed on the moon. Dump your stuff at the hotel and say halló to your fellow explorers. We may be a mixed bunch but we're in this together – like it was meant to be. Then? We'll head to a local haunt to kick things off with an included dinner and tasting (of the local Icelandic beer variety). This is gonna be good.



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Icelandic beer tasting experience

DAY 2 | REYKJAVÍK – DALVÍK – AKUREYRI

Bless (read: bye) Reykjavík – we'll be back for you later. Ngl, we've got a bit of drive today – so snag a window seat and soak up all the screensaver-worthy scenery as we head north. Fun fact: the small fishing village of Dalvík has produced four Eurovision Song Contest entrants. Must be something in the (ice-cold) water here. Hum a tune as your expert Trip Leader points out the village highlights. Then: prepare for a whale of a time (we went there) and take to the seas for an UNforgettable whale-watching experience. If we're lucky, we'll hear the thunderous crash and see the saltwater spray as these mighty creatures come up for air. Cue: all the goosebumps. Last but not least, it's time to make tracks towards Akureyri for the lowdown on the 'Capital of the North'.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Orientation walk of Dalvík with Trip Leader
- Whale-watching tour
- Orientation walk of Akureyri with Trip Leader

DAY 3 | AKUREYRI – THE EAST FJORDS

You want fire, water, earth and air all in one day? Greedy, but luckily Iceland's got all the elements covered. First, we'll check out Mother Nature's mad skills at Goðafoss Waterfall – aka the Waterfall of the Gods. Then we'll switch to the dark side at Dimmuborgir lava field. This jigsaw of spiky rocks was formed by a volcanic eruption over 2,000 years ago, and it's said the devil landed here when he was chucked out of heaven. Ouch. Next: hold your nose. Don't blame your trip mates for that eggy smell – it's the sulfurous gases rising from Námafjall's bubbling geothermal pools. This place looks like Mars, and you'll deffo wish you had a space helmet on. Finally, we'll treat our peepers to rip-roaring Dettifoss waterfall before rolling into our hotel for the eve. What. A. Day.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- See Goðafoss and Dettifoss waterfalls
- Visit Dimmuborgir lava field
- Visit Námafjall geothermal area

DAY 4 | THE EAST FJORDS – VATNAJÖKULL GLACIER – JÖKULSÁRLÓN REGION

Ready to see Iceland live up to its name? We'll ooohh and aaahhh our way through the mystical East Fjords for a slice of real Icelandic life. Think snow-capped mountains, charming AF villages, and maybe even a puffin or two. Next up: Vatnajökull glacier. This jaw-dropping, GINORMOUS ice cap covers approx 8% of the country in a blanket of kryptonite-style blue ice and thick layers of volcanic ash. Watch out for White Walkers – Game of Thrones' 'North of The Wall' was filmed here. Tonight, dinner's on us when we settle into the b-e-a-u-t Jökulsárlón region this evening.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Drive through the East Fjords
- View of Vatnajökull glacier

DAY 5 | JÖKULSÁRLÓN REGION – SOUTH COAST REGION

Another day, another mind-blowing frozen landscape. Keen to delve deeper (literally)? Channel all the Indiana Jones vibes and explore Vatnajökull's eye-popping ice caves. It's like being dropped into a snow globe. Or opt for a boat trip around Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon to gawp at some enormous icebergs (not in a Titanic way) and maybe spot a resident seal. Next? We'll seek out the immense Svínafellsjökull glacier before rounding off the day in a sweet spot along the South Coast. All the icy adventuring got you yawning so loud it rivals an orca? Grab a bite to eat and get to bed. We've got another jam-packed day tomorrow!



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- See Svínafellsjökull glacier



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Crystal ice cave tour in Vatnajökull glacier: from 20500 ISK
- Public amphibian boat tour of Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon: from 6300 ISK

DAY 6 | SOUTH COAST REGION – THE GOLDEN CIRCLE – REYKJAVÍK

If beaches went goth, they'd look like this. This morning we'll sink our toes into the black sand of Reynisfjara. The dramatic basalt columns here are actually trolls that got turned into stone (allegedly). Next, we'll lay eyes on super-scenic Seljalandsfoss waterfall before exploring the legendary Golden Circle. 300 kilometres of phenomenal Icelandic landscapes. Natural wonders don't get any better than this. Trust us. We'll check out the roaring Gullfoss Falls. 'Holy sh*t' our way around the Great Geysir. And soak up all the amazingness at UNESCO World Heritage-listed Thingvellir National Park. SD cards full and tummies rumbling, it's time to hunt down some street food – traditional sheep soup and fish stew are a must. Then? Locate a local bar and hit the d-floor with your trip mates.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Reynisfjara black-sand beach
- Visit Seljalandsfoss waterfall
- Golden Circle expedition (including Thingvellir National Park)

DAY 7 | REYKJAVÍK

This is your day to delve deeper into Iceland's quirky capital. Need some suggestions? Get the blues in the BEST way possible soaking in the magical geothermal pools of the Blue Lagoon (psst: we recommend you book on the official Blue Lagoon website before you jet off – it sells out during busy times). Check out the Saga Museum, National Museum of Iceland or Phallogological Museum (for something a bit... different). Or sink your 'Jaws' into a traditional local delicacy – fermented shark. Tonight: we'll give this incredible Icelandic adventure the send-off it deserves at our final group feed.



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Blue Lagoon (including transport): from 18980 ISK (booking in advance recommended)

DAY 8 | REYKJAVÍK

You tried the food. You met the locals. You said yes to culture. Yes to history. Yes to the new and the unique. You embraced it all. And now, it's over (no crying). Head down to breakfast and swap those socials – you're gonna need them for that meet-up on mainland Europe. Where to next?



MEALS:

- Breakfast

OTHER INFORMATION

TOPDECK APP

Feeling appy? Download the Topdeck app and get PUMPED for the adventure ahead. Best bit is: from 45 days before departure you'll be able to chat with your soon-to-be tripmates.

Plus, get your itinerary at your fingertips – so you know where you'll be going and what you'll be doing on each day of your trip. Nice!

Links:

Apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/topdeck/id994727866>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.FlexiTechSolutions.TopDeck&hl=en>



YOUR SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, remember to avoid walking alone – particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking – and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana – even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip immediately. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

REMEMBER: if you are found in possession of drugs, not only do you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if they are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you don't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!

- Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home too – so they're sure to know some tried- and- tested ways to beat the blues
- Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (fact!)

TRAVEL SINCE COVID-19

Travel looks a bit different since COVID-19. That's why we've put some new procedures in place to help keep you safe on the road.

What remains the same? Your Topdeck trip will be run hygienically, responsibly, and with your safety at the forefront of everything we do. End of.

Here's the info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/travel-safely>

RESPECT ON THE ROAD

RESPECTING FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow tripmates . The golden rules? Respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation, and treat others how you'd wish to be treated. Easy!

HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome adventure AND a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your room towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets, and book tours and activities run by local guides
- Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

Head to our FAQ for more info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/faqs-0>

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team: <https://www.topdeck.travel/about-us/contact>

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling. Check out our handy interactive map showing global visa requirements:

<https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/latest-border-restrictions>

PLEASE NOTE: some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

TIPPING

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it (as long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- 4 shirts/T-shirts
- 2 sweaters/jumpers
- Smart casual evening wear
- 1 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket

- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear



THAT'S IT!