

# EXPLORE

## *Iceland by 4x4*

14 Days

17 Jul - 30 July 2024

07 Aug - 20 Aug 2024

Great Divide Tours and Self Drive Adventures have joined forces to offer you an absolutely unforgettable experience. This unique adventure is not available through any other company worldwide, it is specifically designed and tried and tested with our Great Divide Tours guests on two groups in 2019.

You will travel through some of the most remote and wild areas of Iceland led by a local Icelandic guide with over 25 years' experience in 4x4 touring. The adventure is escorted by an Australian based tour guide from Great Divide Tours and organised by Self Drive Adventures. This is a simply amazing adventure.



**Great Divide Tours**

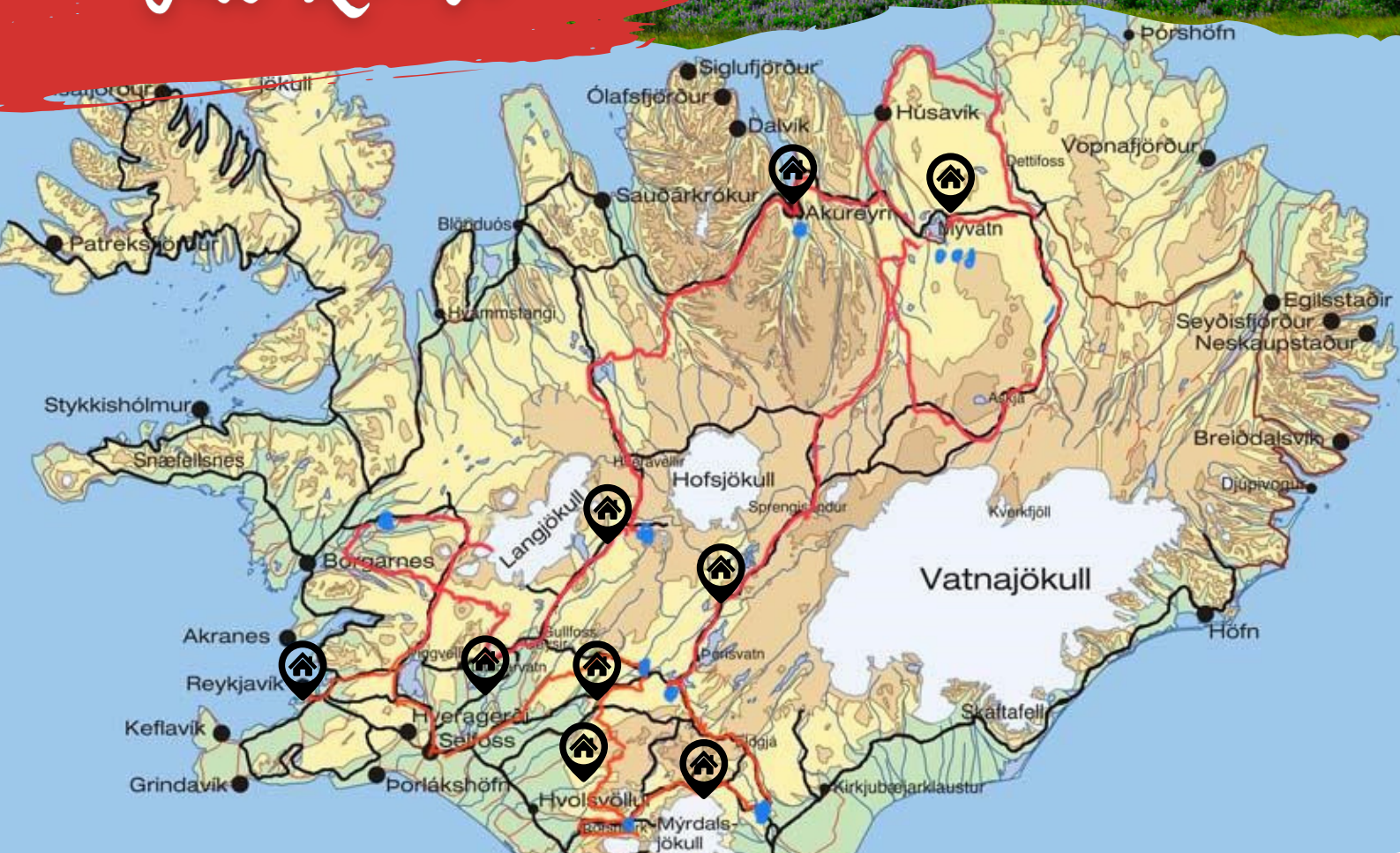


**Self Drive Adventures**  
GUIDED TAGALONG TOURS WORLD WIDE





# The Route



Please Note: Red line shows proposed route. Approx. 2,000km Guide decides on final route as per current conditions on day of travel.

## Iceland...

...the land of fire and ice, can you think of a better way to see it than in a 4x4 along the remote tracks forged by Vikings? This adventure takes in the "must see" sights as well as a wild adventure up the remote central highlands of the country. You will see parts of Iceland rarely seen by others—this is not the usual tourist route on the tar ring road around the island. During the adventure we stay in mountain huts, comfortable hotels, guest houses and hostals.







# The Itinerary

1

## Reykjavik

Arrival in the most northerly capital city in the world and make your own way to our accommodation centrally located in Reykjavik.

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## Reykjavik

Free day to explore the city before 5pm briefing with our local guide followed by a welcome dinner.

Reykjavik is a city that is easy to explore on foot.

Places of interest include: Hallgrímskirkja, the largest church in the country inspired by Icelandic traditions, a modern cathedral consecrated in 1986, with a 73m-high tower; Harpa, the opera house; Settlement Exhibition where remnants of 10th-century Viking settlements in Reykjavik are preserved in this interactive museum.

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## Hólaskógur

After breakfast we will have a group transfer to collect our 4x4s. We will visit Thingvellir, home of the ancient Icelandic Viking parliament that is a UNESCO world heritage site. It's then a short walk to Öxarárfoss where the basalt rock formations in Thingvellir National Park create this spectacular waterfall. We'll also visit the Thingvellir church before having a picnic lunch. Today we will visit Hjalparfoss a picturesque pair of cascades near the merging of 2 rivers located in the lava fields of Mt. Hekla; The Commonwealth Farm a Replica Viking-era farm & stave church with turf roofs, based on the ruins of an excavated site; and Haifoss Iceland's second highest waterfall before arriving at our accommodation for the night.





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## Hellishólar

Today our route takes us east of river Thjorsá and head onto the F roads, only open to 4x4s in the Summer. We start on the Landmannaleid F road through the locations of Bjarnalón; Hrafninnusker; Laufafell; Laufahraun; and Thrihyrningur travelling mostly on the most remote back roads.

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## Hólaskjól

We'll follow the South Fjallabak track, north of Myrdalsjökull glacier. Early in the morning, weather and rivers permitting we head into the Thorsmörk National Park. This majestic mountain range features hiking trails amid sweeping canyons, glaciers & wildlife. Rivers to cross include Steinholtsá, Hvanná and Stakkholtsá. From there we visit places like Einhyrningur; Markarfljótsgljúfur Canyon; Emstrur; Maelifellssandur; Maelifell; Hólmsá; Axlafoss; and Álft avötn hut in the beautiful valley of Álft avatnkrókur.

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## Hrauneyjar

Our first stop is Eldgjá canyon formed during a gigantic eruption in 934, this 50km long volcanic canyon is 600m wide & 200m deep. At Ófærufoss there is a hike to the waterfall, approx. 20 minutes each way or we can drive an interesting route to look at the waterfall. If the weather allows we'll visit Langisjór to take in the views and then on through Fjallabak Nature Reserve to Landmannalaugar with it's unique, colourful landscapes. Other places we may visit today include: Ljótípollur a crater with interesting colours and lake at the bottom; Bláhyllur, another waterfilled crater; and Sigoldufoss waterfall accessible by a 10 minute walk.

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## Mývatn

Today we follow an ancient Viking route crossing the central highlands, still marked by some original cairns. We follow the Sprengisandur route crossing Iceland from South to North for approx. 250km. We'll stop at Nyidalur FI Mountain Hut for coffee then to Laugafell with its comfortable warm pond to have our picnic lunch. We'll visit Aldeyjarfoss a scenic 20m. waterfall amidst black basalt columns formed by lava thousands of years ago before traveling on to Lake Mývatn and our 3 night stay at Vogafjós Farm.

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## Mývatn

A day in the Myvatn area visiting Skútustaðagígar a series of pseudocraters formed by lava flow, surrounded by Lake Mývatn; wetlands, known for birdlife; Grjótagjá an ancient lava cave that houses a geothermal spring once used for bathing; Mt. Namafjall (Namaskard); Krafla Lava Fields; Lake Viti; Mývatn Nature Baths lagoonlike outdoor baths with milky blue mineral-rich water, naturally heated by hot springs.





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## Mývatn

A day trip to Lake Askja, a tranquil & deep lake set in a caldera formed when the adjacent Askja volcano erupted in 1875. This includes a 20 minute walk to the lake. The route will follow Hrossaborg; Herðubreið a prominent volcanic peak amid a desert landscape with a nearby hiking trails; Drekagil; Lake Askja; Dyngjufjöll; and Sandvatn before returning to Mývatn.



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## Akureyri

We will travel the Diamond Circle and then on to Akureyri at the north of the country. We will visit: Dettifoss Europe's most powerful waterfall in Vatnajökull National Park; Hljóðakletta; Vesturdalur; Ásbyrgi; Tjörnes; Húsavík; Goðafoss Waterfall before arriving in Akureyri. Akureyri is a city at the base of Eyjafjörður Fjord in northern Iceland. In the centre stands the 1940 Akureyri Church with interesting stained-glass windows.



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## Kerlingarfjöll

We head back to the interior heading for Kerlingarfjöll. Along the way we'll visit Glaumbær in Skagafjörður with old farmhouse buildings; Skagafjörður and head north of Blöndulón; and Hveravellir Natural hot springs on the picturesque Kjölur plateau, one of which is used for bathing.



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## Borgarfjörður

Today we make our way to Borgarfjörður. We'll visit on route: Hvítárvatn; Blafellshals; Hlöðufell; Skjaldbreiður; Lundarreykjadalur; Deildartunguhver; Krauma; Reykholt and Hraunfossar where waterfalls cascade into the Hvítá river over ledges of lava rock. We will also visit Geysir and Gullfoss along the route.



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## Reykjavík

The primary activity today is to visit the Langjökull Glacier and take part in the Into the Glacier Tour. After that we'll visit the caves at Viðgelmir. Underground tours are offered of this massive lava tube cave featuring unique colours & formations. We'll then start our journey back to Reykjavík to drop off our cars and transfer back to our accommodation and enjoy a farewell dinner.



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## Depart

Make your own way to the airport for flights home or your next destination.





## Prices, Dates...

### Prices...

USD14,990\* per person

- Prices are based on 2 people per 4x4 on a double/twin share basis where available
- Single supplement: we can provide pricing for when single rooms available
- 3rd and 4th passengers: we can provide pricing if you have more than 2 people per 4x4

\*Rate subject to exchange rate variance. Prices assume a minimum of 5 vehicles (plus support vehicles) and 10 people (plus support staff), maximum of 7 vehicles (plus support vehicles). The above pricing is based on current 2023 rates. We would expect rates to increase in range of around 10%. 2024 pricing will be confirmed by approx. October 2023. Please see terms and conditions for all booking conditions.

### Inclusions...

Accommodation as per the itinerary including: accommodation in hotels, guesthouses, hostals and remote huts sleeping in bunk style beds with sleeping bags and shared facilities, pick up and drop off at accommodation in Reykjavik for vehicle hire, radios in vehicles, guide car and local guide with assistant, into the Glacier Tour, Lava Tour, Great Divide Tours escorts, Toyota Prado with standard vehicle insurance (CDW, SCDW, TP, GP insurances, unlimited mileage, VAT, Sand and Ash damage), some meals (breakfasts daily, 11 picnic lunches, 4 dinners (includes welcome and farewell dinner and 2 dinners in huts).

### Exclusions...

Airfares, arrival/departure transfers, fuel (budget approx. USD750-1,000 per 4x4), meals or beverages other than stated in the above inclusions, optional tours and activities, travel insurance, visas (if required), vaccinations (if required), vehicle excess, local tips, any service not specifically listed under "included".

### Dates...

14 Days

17 Jul - 30 July, 2024

07 Aug - 20 Aug, 2024







## Other Information

### Accommodation...

Hotels, guest houses, hostel and huts will be used. In the mountain huts (2 nights) you will be in close quarters in bunk room style accommodation with a sleeping bag supplied. You will have your own bunk, not shared. The kitchen and bathrooms are shared. You may be sharing these bunk rooms with other hikers exploring this area but we will do our best to secure a space for just our group.

### Vehicles...

We will be using Landcruiser Prados. Fuel is not included in the price. Budget approx. USD750 or AUD1,100 per 4x4.

### Driving Ability...

The skills required are a driver's license and a good dollop of common sense. Some 4x4 experience would be recommended.

### Terrain...

The route is planned largely avoiding main roads with extensive travel off road and on remote tracks, trails and through river crossings.

### Meals...

Breakfast will be provided daily. Picnic lunches will be supplied for days we are on the road. Other meals will be in restaurants, cafes, guest houses, hotels or mountain huts. See inclusions for which meals are included in the price. When dinner is not included there will be a restaurant in the accommodation or you may be able to go to a restaurant in the town you are staying in. What meals will cost is highly dependent on what you order. As a guide a soup (which is usually pretty common on menus) is around USD5/AUD7 whereas a restaurant main meal could be USD35-45 / AUD45-70 per person. Draft beer in a restaurant is around USD11/15, a glass of wine in a restaurant USD15-20 / AUD22-30. For some of the places we stay you could take your own drinks that you can purchase from a Vínbúðin see their website for prices: <https://www.vinbudin.is/english/home>







## Other Information

### Daylight Hours...

In mid July the sun will rise at around 3:45am and set around 11:15pm. In mid August the sun will rise around 5am and set at 10pm. Both dates have many daylight hours so we can make the most of our time in Iceland.

### Weather...

The joke is "If you don't like the weather, just wait five minutes". Due to the Gulf Stream, Iceland enjoys a cool, temperate maritime climate; refreshing summers and fairly mild winters. The weather is also affected by the East Greenland polar current curving south-eastwards round the north and east coasts. As a result, sudden weather changes are common, and travellers should prepare accordingly. Temperatures should range between 7-15 degrees C. There is a chance of rain. We will supply a packing list to help you pack the correct clothing for the weather you will encounter. The days will be very long at this time of year maximizing the amount of time you can spend exploring.

### Booking Terms & Conditions...

The booking terms and conditions will be supplied separately. Self Drive Adventures (SDA) has been commissioned by Great Divide Tours (GDT) to help design and book, on their behalf, vehicles, accommodation, activities and a guide to conduct the tour.

The route agreed for this tour is similar to the route followed on the last tagalong tours in Iceland. GDT will be sending a representative on the tour and this representative will be ensuring the tour is conducted to the satisfaction of GDT. There is no SDA representative on the tour.

All booking enquiries are to be directed to Great Divide Tours.



# FAN MAIL

## *Amazing Iceland*



How to describe it? The mundane view would be...approximately 2,000km in 10 days. The experience is anything but mundane.

In no particular order: waterfalls: just a few (that's irony but you won't get that unless you go); river crossings: numerous; glaciers: several; volcanic activity: some (but not too close); stunning views: innumerable; stark landscapes: I lost count; amazing people; plenty; incredible Icelandic guides: two; geothermal baths in the middle of the wilderness: a couple; Sprengisandur (Dead Horse Track): words fail; black lava sand deserts; a few: Apollo space program lunar training areas: one (don't believe me, look it up); weather?: if you don't like it wait 5 minutes; amazing tracks to drive on: remember 2,000 kms in 10 days?; Oh and Self Drive Adventures? An amazing team that deliver fantastic experiences. Don't believe me, go and find out for yourself. Highly recommended!!

Dave, Canberra, Australia

