



GETAWAY TO ICELAND

WEEKEND ESCAPE TO ICELAND

FEBRUARY 16TH - 20TH 2023

Iceland . . . the Land of Fire and Ice is a country full of contrasts. From steamy hot springs to top-notch spas, spectacular scenery to art museums, this unique land is the perfect place to relax, recharge, and explore. Legends say that the ancient gods themselves guided Iceland's first settler, Ingolfur Arnarson, to make his home in Reykjavik ("Smoky Bay"), named after the geothermal steam he saw. Today this geothermal energy heats homes and outdoor swimming pools throughout the city – a pollution-free energy source that leaves the air outstandingly fresh, clean and clear.

On this exciting long weekend getaway, you will dine on Icelandic specialties, including delicious seafood, ocean-fresh from the morning's catch, highland lamb, and unusual varieties of game. It's purely natural food imaginatively served to delight the most discerning of diners. Reykjavik is also renowned as one of Europe's hottest nightspots, where the action in the friendly pub and club scene lasts right through the long winter nights.

But perhaps the greatest draw is the Aurora Borealis – the Northern Lights. This is the best time of year to see them because it has to be totally dark to get the best effect – and this is a country where the sun never fully sets in the summer! In the evening of our arrival day, we'll head out to try and see the real thing (weather permitting). If the weather doesn't cooperate with us we'll try again the next night . . . and the next.

We will stay in the capital city, Reykjavik, to experience the city's vibrant culture, learn about the region's Viking heritage, and explore the unbelievable natural landscape of the surrounding countryside, including magnificent waterfalls, lava fields, glaciers, and (with luck) the Northern Lights.



THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, IS:

BOS OR JFK DEPARTURE:	\$3390
LAND ONLY:	\$2690
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	\$ 490

Airfares are available from many other cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

AIRFARE:	Round-trip airfare from Boston or New York, including all customs fees and airport taxes
HOTELS:	3 nights' accommodation in a first class hotel including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	4 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners
GUIDES:	Discover Europe tour guide throughout
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH - Evening departure from your chosen gateway city, aboard your direct Iceland Air service to Iceland. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH - Early morning arrival in Iceland where you will be met and escorted to your hotel in Reykjavik, where a sumptuous breakfast buffet awaits. This morning we have a bus tour of downtown Reykjavik for a wonderful introduction to Europe's smallest capital city! The tour covers the Old Town, the shopping districts, the Parliament, Hofdi House, Hallgrim's church, the Harpa concert hall and much more! Our hotel knows that we will be arriving early and will do everything possible to help us check in upon arrival. However, this is not always possible and if the rooms are not ready, you will store your luggage and go off on the city tour. When you return to the hotel after free time for lunch, you will then be able to go to your rooms and take a short nap before you gather for your introductory lecture. Dinner will be at the hotel and this evening after dinner, weather permitting, we will head out to attempt to view the Northern Lights.

(B, D) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH - Our excursion today takes us along the south coast of the island to Vík. At Vík, we'll stop at the black volcanic beach south of the village - from here you can view the rock formations Dyrhólaey and Reynisdrangar. After a stop for lunch, we visit the fairytale-like Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where you can experience walking right behind the misty cascade, and the gorgeous 60-metre high Skógafoss waterfall, just a short drive down the road. Heading back to Reykjavik, we will stop at the renowned Fjoruborðið restaurant in the village of Stokkseyri, where a traditional Icelandic lobster feast awaits us (more like Langoustine than Maine lobster). **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK**



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH - Avoiding the tourist traps of the regular "Golden Circle" tour, Discover Europe has created a customized tour of the Iceland countryside. Leaving Reykjavik, your first stop is Þingvellir National Park, site of the world's first parliament. Here you can walk from America to Europe! You'll then stop at the Fontana spa at Laugarvatn, a naturally occurring hot spring bath, where you will spend some time relaxing in the waters and have time for lunch (included). Continuing on to the south coast, you'll visit the church at Skálholt, and stop to peer into the icy depths of Kerið volcanic crater, before you return to your hotel in Reykjavik for a free evening. Why not sample one of the city's award-winning restaurants for dinner - making sure to reserve ahead of time for the more popular ones. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH - This morning is free to take advantage of one of the many optional activities offered through the hotel tour desk - you can visit the Blue Lagoon, go on a whale watch, or ride an Icelandic horse, to mention just a few. Alternatively, you can visit some of the sights and museums around the city - or do a little shopping. You leave the hotel after lunch (at 2 p.m.) to transfer to the airport for your return flights to the US. **(B)**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner

