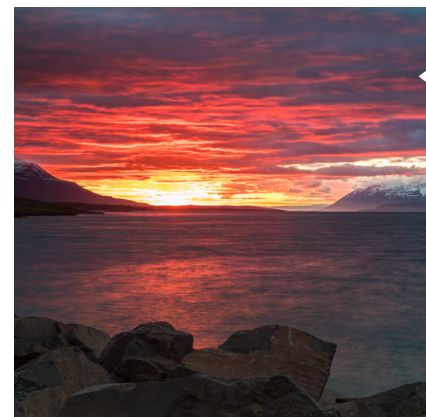
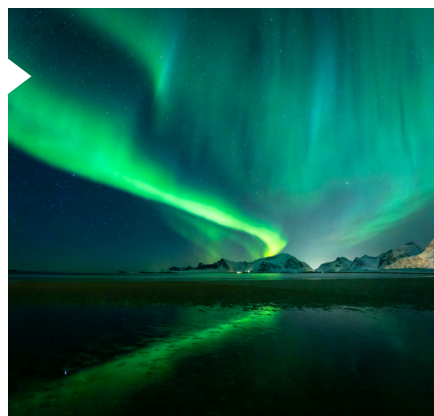


10 REASONS TO VISIT ICELAND

For a perfect blend of modern entertainment and natural attractions, nowhere does it better than Iceland. Situated south of the Arctic Circle, visitors can explore its Viking history, dance the night away in Reykjavík, see its geothermal power first-hand in the famous Blue Lagoon, and catch a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis. There are so many reasons to enjoy Iceland and we explore 10 of the best here.

1 CELESTIAL WONDER

Due to its location near the top of the globe, Iceland is a prime spot to see the famous Northern Lights, also known as Aurora Borealis. It's one of the world's most magical sights, producing a symphony of spectacular green light across the night sky. No visitor is ever guaranteed to see it, but if you head to Iceland between September and April you will have the best chance to catch this celestial show.

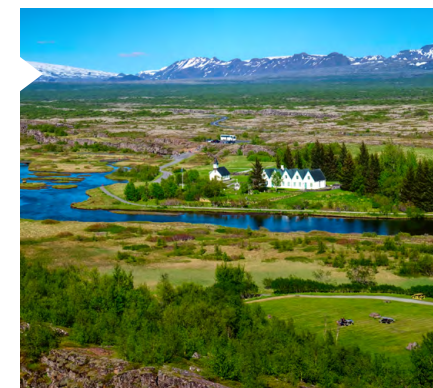


2 THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Iceland's ethereal crown jewel, the midnight sun, can be enjoyed for six straight weeks on either side of 21 June. During this incredible phenomenon, when the sun lingers long and low on the horizon, visitors can make the most of endless days, joining hiking, biking, fishing, horse-riding and whale-watching tours that go long into the night. Midsummer festivals further take place in Reykjavík and Grímsey.

3 STUNNING WILDERNESS

As one of Europe's less populated nations compared to its land mass, Iceland has a breadth of stunning open wilderness. Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a must-see for its beauty and historical significance, as Icelandic parliament was initially founded here in 930. It has countless natural features such as Thingvallavatn – Iceland's largest natural lake.



Jökulsárlón tour – Image by: DreamHack / Shutterstock.com

4 GLACIER TOURS

This nation has a vast array of glaciers, such as Vatnajökull, which covers much of its southern and central highlands. Tours are hugely popular amongst visitors, involving hikes, snowmobiles, and even a birds-eye view from a helicopter. The Jökulsárlón is a renowned glacial lagoon that is filled with melt water, regularly home to white and blue-dyed icebergs that have broken away from the glacier.



Blue Lagoon

5 GEOTHERMAL BATHS

The land of fire and ice, Iceland sits on one of Earth's hot spots, making it an incredibly volatile, volcanic island which benefits greatly from an abundance of geothermal heat. The most famous of Iceland's geothermal pools is undoubtedly the Blue Lagoon, beneath which a layer of silica mud allows visitors to enjoy a mineral-rich face mask. Other not-to-be-missed natural hot springs include those found within stunning Landmannalaugar, as well as Krossneslaug and Krauma.

6 LOCAL SEA LIFE

Surrounded by water, boat tours have become popular amongst visitors to Iceland, offering an exceptional opportunity to see the local sea life. Whale watching in-particular is a must, with more than 20 species of whale living in the surrounding waters. Spotting minke whales and the gigantic humpback whale are real possibilities, whilst you could also find dolphins breaching alongside and saying hello.



7 THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

The Golden Circle is a stunning 140-mile round trip that comprises three of the country's biggest attractions: Thingvellir National Park, the Great and Strokkur Geysir, and Gullfoss Waterfall. It will also take you through beautiful countryside to see some of Iceland's most awe-inspiring sights. The iconic road trip usually starts and finishes in the capital, Reykjavik, and can be completed in a single day.



Strokkur Geysir

8 REYKJAVÍK

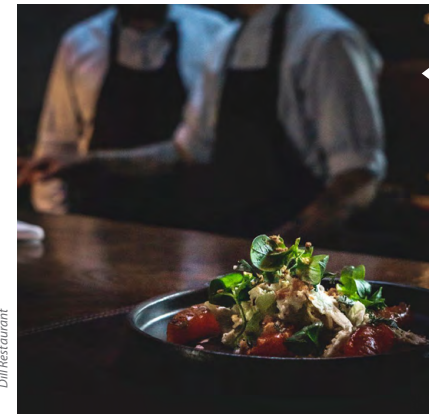
While it may be small in stature, there are plenty of things to see and do in the Icelandic capital. Its size means it is easy to walk around on foot, so visitors can explore the Viking Maritime Museum, marvel at the unique Hallgrímskirkja Church, and enjoy one of its shopping districts in an afternoon. The city has a thriving nightlife and music scene too, hosting the annual Icelandic Airwaves festival in November each year.



Hallgrímskirkja Church

9 NEW ICELANDIC CUISINE

Iceland's brand of cuisine has often centred around seafood, meat, and dairy, whilst Icelandic lamb is its national staple. But the region has seen a reinvention of its cuisine in recent years, putting a modern stamp on tradition and overseeing an explosion of fine-dining restaurants such as the Michelin-starred Dill Restaurant in Reykjavik, led by chef Gunnar Karl Gíslason.



Dill Restaurant

10 FRIENDLY LOCALS

Icelanders are exceptionally welcoming and happy to receive visitors. Reykjavik is often seen as one of the cleanest and safest cities in the world and Iceland as a whole has been declared the world's most peaceful nation, whilst it also has a strong reputation for promoting gender-equality. Furthermore, many locals speak fluent English and will be happy to direct you on your trip.

