

Iceland – Beyond the Wall

Iceland is an otherworldly place of fire and ice, marooned near the top of the globe, where the mighty forces of nature have created a volatile playground, perfect for a unique adventure motorcycle tour experience.

Glaciers, lava fields, volcanoes, tundra, geysers, hot springs, waterfalls and fjords form the pristine wilderness landscape, as we explore this island on isolated roadways and stunning coastal routes.

Iceland's breath-taking natural sights, such as the original Geysir, the Dettifoss Waterfalls, Vatnajökull Glacier and Pingvellir are all part of this incredible motorcycle tour.



This Iceland Motorcycle Tour is primarily paved road only.

At a glance

Duration (days): 12
Miles Covered: 1700
Riding difficulty: Moderate
Unpaved Roads: 2%
Culture Shock: Small

Highlights

- Iceland's Capital, Reykjavik – see the settler building architecture and experience the vibrant downtown bars and restaurants.
- Ride by Iceland's geothermal pipeline, an amazing achievement with over 85% percent of houses in Iceland being heated with geothermal energy.
- Ride past the largest glacier in Europe, Vatnajökull, used by Game of Thrones as a "Beyond the Wall" setting!
- Enjoy the pure bliss of empty, remote roads with hardly any other traffic to interrupt your riding pleasure.
- Cross the spot where the Eurasian and North American Tectonic plates meet in Iceland, literally tearing the island in half at the rate of one centimeter per year
- You'll see some of Europe's most spectacular waterfalls, including Gollfoss, Dettifoss, Skogafoss and Seljalandsfos and can ride to within 5 minutes walk of the face of Svinafellsjokull Glacier.
- Westfjords, the most remote and isolated part of Iceland, where we ride deserted and twisty roads along the fjords. Visit the witchcraft museum and learn about some of the magic of the Westfjords
- Explore Iceland's medieval past at the Settlement Centre in Borgarnes or at the Snorrastofa Cultural Centre in Reykholt
- Go native with Icelandic cuisine – if fermented shark sounds too extreme, sample smoked puffin, with a shot of Brennivin, an Icelandic Schnapps!
- Try a dip in geothermally heated pools, as great way to relax after a days ride!

Routes show are illustrative and for guidance only – they do not accurately reflect the whole route.

Itinerary

This is a 12 day itinerary, with 11 nights accommodation and 10 riding days.

Day 1: Arrive Reykjavik

We arrange transportation from Keflavik Airport (Reykjavik) to your hotel in Reykjavik. Please fly in no later than 15:00. We'll welcome you to Iceland with a Group Evening Dinner where you can meet the other participants and maybe try some Icelandic delicacies.

Day 2: Reykjavik to Haukadalur (near Gullfoss & Geysir)

In the morning, we will collect any final bikes from the port, have our Motorcycle Tour Briefing and aim to leave Reykjavik by midday. Ride by Iceland's geothermal pipeline and visit waterfalls, geysers and glaciers along the way. Pingvellir – see the continental drift and the ancient place where Iceland's chieftains first met to create what is now the oldest existing parliament. You will see the original "geysir", after which all are named and wonder at the mighty Gullfoss Waterfalls. We overnight in pine cabins next to Geysir.

Day 3: Huakadalur to Kalfafell

Heading back to the main Ring Road, we see the waterfalls of Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss. All spectacular, thundering cascades of water. You'll also visit the most southern point of Iceland and the Dyrholaey Reserve.

Day 4: Kalfafell to Stodvarfjordur

You continue this motorcycle tour with amazing views as you ride towards the largest glacier in Europe, Vatnajokull and the Skaftafell National Park. Get up close to Svinafellsjokull and hear it cracking and grinding as it moves and melts. Cross vast glacial plains and head to Glacier Lagoon and Iceberg Beach, where chunks of the glacier break off and float down to the ocean.

Day 5: Stodvarfjordur to Lake Myvatn

Stunning, remote landscapes around the north of the island. Stop off at Hverir, a geothermal spot with mud pots and fumaroles – smell the sulphur! We detour to Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall and then spend the night overlooking Lake Myvatn.

Day 6: Lake Myvatn to Akureyri

It is a short morning ride to give you the afternoon free to enjoy Iceland's 2nd city or to take a whale watching tour. It's also possible to take a boat trip to Grimsey Island – the only part of Icelandic Territory that is on the Arctic Circle.

Day 7: Akureyri to Laugarbakki

Ride along the Eyjafjordur, with great coastal views to Siglufjordur, before reaching a perfectly preserved turf farmhouse, Glaumbaer. Overnight at Hotel Laugarbakki, close to Hvammstangi, with the opportunity to visit the Seal Centre.

Day 8: Laugarbakki to Heydalur

Now we head to the Westfjords, the most remote and isolated part of Iceland and we think maybe the most stunning part of this motorcycle tour! There are some small sections of good graded unpaved road on this section, easily done by a road bike. In Holmavik, you can visit the small witchcraft & sorcery museum and learn about some of the magic of the Westfjords. We stay overnight on a traditional farm, that has some wonderful "hotpots" to soak in. You can try horse riding and kayaking here too.

Day 9: Heydalur to Patreksfjordur

We wind in and out of the fjords and the possibility of spotting whales along the coast. This is simply stunning coastal riding and we can stop off in Isafjordur for a fish lunch before reaching the tiny town of Pingeyrie, where the paved road stops and there is 60 miles of solid dirt road (achievable by a road sports bike, last year a BMW R1200S rode this route) to get us to the stunning cliff and coastal views from our hotel in Patreksfjordur.

Day 10: Patreksfjordur to Gilsbakki

Stunning coastal riding on the mainly tarmac road on the southern edge of the Westfjords. You can visit the Settlement Centre in Borgarnes before stopping in Reykholt, where you can visit the Snorrastofa Cultural Centre; most famous for being the home of Iceland's best-known author Snorri Sturluson, with an ancient geothermally-heated pool, Snorralaug, named after him.

Day 11: Gilsbakki to Reykjavik

A short ride into Reykjavik with a lunchtime arrival. Early afternoon, we all drop off the bikes at the depot for return date freight to the UK (or back at the motorcycle rental depot). Our motorcycle tour of Iceland has come to an end, but you will leave with unforgettable memories, which we no doubt will be celebrating at our final group evening dinner.

Day 12: Depart Reykjavik

We arrange transportation from your hotel in Reykjavik to Keflavik Airport.

Flights

For clarity, we do not include your passenger flights. It is your responsibility to organise your own flights to and from the destination. You need to book an outward flight to our start point, Reykjavik to arrive no later than around 3pm on the official start day. The earliest leave date is any time on the official end date. However, **do not book your flights until the tour is designated as a Guaranteed Departure.**

Should you wish to arrive before the official start date or stay after the official end date, please simply request extra nights at the time of booking and we can make the reservation at our group hotel.

Please also refer to our terms and conditions.

Accommodation

It is important to understand that other than Akureyri (18,000 popn) and Greater Reykjavik (200,000 popn), all other settlements in Iceland are very small. Places marked in large, bold writing may be villages of 200 – 1,500 people. Places marked on a map can look as if they will be towns, but they are only a family homestead or a ranch. Some hotels are on the map in their own right as they consist of a hotel, a restaurant (maybe a petrol pump) and that's it. Outside the greater Reykjavik area in the South West and Akureyri, everywhere in Iceland is remote and quiet, dominated by farms and fishing activities. This is great for our motorcycle tour as it means that the roads are very quiet!

In Reykjavik, we stay at a good standard 3* hotel with private parking. However, once we leave Reykjavik, the accommodation varies, but we always aim for it to be an equivalent 3* standard. It has been chosen to reflect the area we are in; sometimes it is the only accommodation available in the area that can accommodate a group of our size. On other occasions the location of the accommodation is stunning and the local food served is excellent, whilst the rooms may be small, more basic, but clean and tidy. Sometimes rooms do not have televisions and on rare occasions you may have to share a bathroom. Wifi is available at all hotels, but in remote locations, you need to expect it to be slow and not consistent.

Just a note about the sleeping arrangements and what is the norm in Iceland. Beds are often single beds which are pushed together (for a double bed) or pulled "apart" (for two single beds), depending on the type of bed you have requested. Two single beds for people who are sharing, can still often be pushed close together. Please feel free to pull the beds away from each other! You should also note that it is normal to have two separate sleeping duvets for a couple using one large bed (one large duvet is just not the way it is done in Iceland).

We also like to draw to your attention that Iceland uses its geothermic waters for heating and bathing. In some

areas, the hot water in the hotels is incredibly hot immediately and it can often have a sulphuric smell, which people can find a little “distracting”!

Rooms will be on a double occupancy shared basis, unless you have booked for a Single Room. Peak season in Iceland means a single room needs to have been requested at the time of making your booking to ensure availability.

Whats Included

You have the benefit of booking your motorcycle tour with a UK tour operator who has in place Financial Payment Protection Insurance with Towergate Stevens & Chapman, so that your money paid to us in advance is protected in accordance with The Package Travel Regulations 1992.

Before you go

- The assurance of booking with a UK tour operator and knowing that your money paid in advance is protected.
- Access to GlobeBusters Team pre-departure to request individual meeting about preparing for the trip
- Departure Handbook, with maps, daily route notes and GPS information where available

En Route

- Hotel bed and breakfast accommodation on a shared basis (unless Single Room booked).
- Standard of accommodation is mainly 3* (or equivalent) and some 4* hotels. Some accommodation may be in cabins. Not all locations have rooms with television. All rooms have private bathrooms. Most hotels have restaurants and bars.
- 6 evening meals, including your Welcome & Farewell Meal.
- Local overnight hotel parking charges.
- Entrances to National Parks are free.

Support Crew

- Motorcycle Tour Leader on motorcycle to accompany the group.
- GlobeBusters Support Vehicle, equipped with satellite phone, spare fuel, water, tools, selected spare parts and emergency first aid kit, acting as a sweeper vehicle
- Support Driver, with motorcycle mechanical experience and first aid qualifications

Motorcycle Freight

- Sea freight of your motorcycle from UK to Iceland return, with all Customs formalities done on your behalf.
- In transit marine insurance for your motorcycle (but not personal belongings) during freight, subject to £500 excess

Motorcycle Rental

- The rental of your selected motorcycle, including side panniers and top box. No other motorcycle accessories are included.
- GPS rental is available for £100 – you can add this when you make your booking.
- Insurance is included – the excess for motorcycle damage is 2000 Euros. You will be required to leave valid credit card details with the local rental agency.

Not Included

- Airport Transfers in Iceland
- Return passenger airline flights to get to the start and from the finish point for the tour.
- Personal travel, accident and medical insurance
- Entrance fees to sights and parks, optional excursions, meals (all except where stated).
- Personal spending money, tips, souvenirs or other extras.
- Personal documentation (eg visas, passport), vaccinations, personal taxes, border crossing fees.
- Fuel, oil & other motorcycle consumables, toll road fees, traffic fines.
- Any other item not specifically included in the price.

Flights

For clarity, we do not include your passenger flights. It is your responsibility to organise your own flights to and from the destination. You need to book an outward flight to our start point, Reykjavik to arrive no later than around 3pm on the official start date. The earliest leave date is any time on the official end date. However, **do not book your flights until the tour is designated as a Guaranteed Departure.**

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Useful Info

What riding experience do I need?

This is a paved road motorcycle tour, with occasional short sections of solid dirt road that in total is no more than 80 miles for the whole trip and has been ridden on previously tours by sports tourer style of bikes. Traffic levels are extremely low with good driving standards. Iceland can have changeable weather conditions all year; however summer season (June, July and August) are the best times for motorcycle touring. We recommend this motorcycle tour for riders who have toured previously in Europe and are confident road riders.

How does the motorcycle freight work?

Your tour price includes the freight of your motorcycle from the UK to Reykjavik. You must bring your bike to our shipping depot (close to Grimsby, UK) for sea freight out to Iceland. The drop off for your motorcycle is normally around 10-12 days prior to the start date. Our shipping agent will load the container and once it arrives in Iceland, we do the Customs procedures and take your bike to the hotel so it is waiting for you. If you arrive early, you can collect your own bike with us. At the end, on the final day, we all take the bikes back to the shipping depot in Iceland for sea freight back to the UK.

Can I hire a bike?

If you are not based in the UK and want to take part in this motorcycle tour, you can hire a BMW GS motorcycles from our local third party rental agency. Just book this option.

What about flights?

We do not include flights in your tour price. Once we tell you that this motorcycle tour is a Guaranteed Departure, you must book your own passenger flights to arrive / depart Reykjavik. From the UK, there are direct flights from London, Aberdeen, Belfast, Manchester with a combination of Iceland Air, British Airways, Easyjet, WOW. Airport transfers are not included – you can use an airport taxi or the coach transfer. Details of this are provided in our Trip Notes prior to Departure.

Do I have to ride in a group?

No! We do not make you ride in convoy. We offer you the freedom to decide how you would like to ride. We give

you a road book, GPS co-ordinates and hotel information. You can use this to self-navigate. If you prefer to ride with our Motorcycle Tour Leader, then you can do this – just let them know and be ready to ride at the leave time in the morning.

What is the average group size?

Our groups are normally 10 – 12 riders (some riders will have passengers).

Is this ride suitable for a passenger?

Absolutely. This is mainly a paved road motorcycle tour, with a good standard of accommodation. We have a support vehicle, which can be used by a passenger (but subject to any ongoing emergency, ill or injured party)

Is there a support vehicle?

Yes, this tour operates with a GlobeBusters Support Vehicle and Driver. It will carry one small piece of luggage per person (maximum 60 litre bag), which must be waterproof and dustproof. Suitcases and wheelie trolleys are not suitable and can be left in the hotel in Reykjavik.

What will the weather be like?

Iceland is a long way north, so it is never going to be hot and weather can be unpredictable, even in peak summer season. We have chosen to travel just before the height of the summer season, so that there is less crowding at the key sights and temperatures are normally between 10 – 15C. It will rain at some point during the tour (although June is the month with the lowest rainfall), so make sure you have rain gear. But there is also the possibility of it being quite chilly and sea mists, so you need to make sure you have extra layers with you. Think of riding in Iceland a bit like, riding in the UK on a day in Spring.

What documents do I need?

You will need your original documents as follows: Passport, Driving Licence, Motorcycle Registration / Title Document (in the UK, V5, log book), Motorcycle Insurance Certificate. We will need you to upload copies of these documents to our secure website so that we can make the necessary freight arrangements (or if you prefer, you can email these documents). In addition you must have travel/medical insurance. Visas are not required for UK/EU, USA or Canadian citizens. For other nationalities, please check with our preferred visa agency www.thevisamachine.com.

Available Dates & Prices

Date	Rider Shared Room	Single Supplement	Passenger Shared Room	Bike Rental
Aug 8 – 18, 2020	£4,495	£1,300	£2,995	BMW R 1200 GS: £2,250 BMW F 800 GS: £1,850 BMW F 700 GS: £1,380