

Iceland Tour – Beyond the Wall

This Iceland Motorcycle Tour is the best way to experience this incredible country. Iceland is an otherworldly place of fire and ice, marooned near the top of the globe. Here the mighty forces of nature have created a volatile playground. It is as if this place has been created specially for a unique adventure motorcycle tour!

Glaciers, lava fields, volcanoes, tundra, geysirs, hot springs, waterfalls and fjords form the pristine rugged landscape. We explore this island using remote roadways and stunning coastal routes.



This country is one of the least densely populated on the planet, with only 340,000 people. So you can be sure that once out of Reykjavik, finding your own slice of isolation will never be that hard. The roads are empty and it's where wilderness rules supreme! Park up and take a moment to delight in the incredible views and breathe the fresh air. But that's not all! Why not soak in natural hot springs by the road side or crawl along the cliff edge to spot puffins?!

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

This Motorcycle Tour is primarily paved road only. If you prefer a tour with a mix of road and off road, then look at our [Iceland Arctic Desert Tour](#).

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

Please fly in no later than 12:00 and make your way to the group hotel by taxi or shuttle bus. We will collect our bikes from the port this afternoon, only a few miles from our hotel. Then we'll welcome you to Iceland with a Group Evening Dinner where you can meet the other riders and maybe try some Icelandic delicacies.

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

In the morning, we will 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.

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 close to [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 mid-day 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 [Booking 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 tour operator with Financial Payment Protection Insurance with Towergate Travel and your money paid to us in advance is protected in accordance with The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. You may wish to know that during the COVID-19 crisis, we gave a cash refund to all customers for all monies paid to us within 14 days as required by law.

Before you go

- The assurance of booking with a fully bonded and insured UK tour operator and knowing that your money paid in advance is protected.
- Access to the GlobeBusters Team for one to one meeting about preparing for the tour and what to expect.
- Motorcycle Tour Travel Pack, including Tour Specific Guidance Handbook & hard copy Michelin / Reise Know How Maps, marked with route.
- Daily hard copy route notes with GPS co-ordinates and information about the hotels, the roads and the sights
- Loan SD Card with open source GPS mapping for the region (suitable for Garmin units), downloadable routes and custom waypoints for hotels, lunch stops, viewpoints etc

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.
- Team Tour Shirt

Support Crew

- Motorcycle Tour Manager 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.

Not Included

- Transfers to / from the airport at the start and end of the tour.
- Return passenger airline flights to get to the start and from the finish point for the tour.
- Personal travel, accident and medical insurance (covering matters such as medical expenses, repatriation, cancellation, curtailment, loss or damage to property)
- 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, motorcycle documentation
- Fuel, oil & other motorcycle consumables
- Toll road fees, traffic fines or other charges relating to breach of the law
- Any travel, subsistence & hotel costs to and from the freight depot when you drop off or collect your motorcycle.
- We do not supply riding gear; you must bring a minimum of your own helmet, jacket, trousers, boots and gloves.
- 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 mid-day 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.**

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 [Booking Conditions](#).

Useful Info

What type of bike do I need?

We recommend that you use a dual purpose / adventure style bike. **We support any make and model.** Our Support Crew normally ride the Triumph Tiger 900XCA or Tiger 1200XCA. We also have extensive experience with the BMW GS motorcycle range, having ridden them for over 15 years. What is important is that you have a reliable and robust bike that you are comfortable riding and that it has been properly prepared and fully serviced prior to the start and has new tyres.

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 facilitate the Customs procedures. Depending on timing, we may take your bike to the hotel so it is waiting for you or you may be required to collect your own bike from the port with us. The port is only located 3 miles from our hotel. At the end, on the final day, we all ride the bikes back to the shipping depot in Iceland for sea freight back to the UK.

Can I hire a bike?

If you do not have a suitable bike for this trip, you can hire one from the largest motorcycle rental provider in Reykjavik. They are called **Biking Viking** – just google them – previous riders have rented bikes from Biking Viking for our tours. It is cheaper for you to book this directly with them. This is a separate arrangement between you and the rental provider and does not form part of your tour contract with us. Additionally, we will provide you with a £1,000 discount from the tour price to reflect motorcycle freight that you will not use. If you book our tour and are unable to secure a rental motorcycle we will refund your tour deposit.

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. Airport transfers are not included – you can use an airport taxi or the coach transfer. Details about this are provided in our Tour Guidance Handbook 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, with recommendations for lunch or coffee stops, fuel stops and hotel information. You also get an SD card with mapping, custom routes & GPS co-ordinates to download to your GPS. You can use these tools to self-navigate. Most riders prefer to have this freedom, so they can stop where they want and for how long they want without feeling under pressure. However if you prefer to ride with our Motorcycle Tour Manager, then you can do this. They will give you a time to start in the morning, so please be prompt and ready to ride with them. Each day you can change between riding on your own, or with a small group of other riders or with the Tour Manager. We like to have a very flexible approach.

What is the average group size?

Our groups are normally 10 – 12 riders (some riders will have passengers). The majority of customers are from the UK, but we also get riders from North America and other European countries.

Is this ride suitable for a passenger?

Absolutely. This is mainly a paved road motorcycle tour, with a good standard of accommodation. Your passenger must ride the motorcycle each touring day – there is no option to sit in the support vehicle as this is for participants who are ill or injured, unless the road conditions are too difficult for a rider and passenger to attempt two-up.

Is there a support vehicle?

Yes, this tour operates with a GlobeBusters Support Vehicle and Driver. It is capable of carrying two motorcycle and two passengers. Our support vehicles carry a satellite phone, mobile phone, medical bag and spinal board, spare fuel, water, tools, some spare parts, some spare tyres. Our support vehicle provides temporary assistance to you if you have a mechanical problem or an accident and are injured. 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, 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.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather>
<http://www.worldclimate.com/>

How expensive is Iceland?

So it comes as no shock to you once you are there, and so that you can budget, we estimate the following approximate costs for food & drink in Iceland – don't be surprised to spend a minimum of £50 per night per person on a three course evening dinner.

- Cup of coffee – £4 + (although with some meals, coffee is provided free)
- Starter – £10 +
- Main course – £20-£30 + (sometimes soup is provided free of charge with a main meal)
- Dessert – £10 +
- Bottle of wine with dinner – £30 +
- Bottle of beer in bar or restaurant – £8 +

What documents do I need?

You will need your original documents as follows: Passport, Motorcycle Registration Document or Title, Driving Licence from the country of your residence, minimum 3rd Party Motorcycle Liability Insurance (where available), Travel Insurance Certificate (see below).

You should note that we need to request copies of some of the above documentation, which we have to send to suppliers in respect of motorcycle freight, customs authorities in Iceland and the UK, hotels. Please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#).

Visas are not required for UK/EU, USA or Canadian citizens. For other nationalities, please check with our preferred visa agency www.thevisamachine.com.

What about my health when I am abroad?

You need to be physically fit and healthy and also take the necessary health precautions. It is essential for you to consult your doctor or travel clinic for up-to-date medical travel information prior of travel, particularly if you have a pre-existing medical condition. For up-to-date medical advice you may wish to use the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad "MASTA" <https://www.masta-travel-health.com/>, the NHS website <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home.aspx> or NaTHNaC <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>.

You will be obliged to disclose any medical condition or medication that you are taking to GlobeBusters in advance and to your Tour Manager at the start of your Tour, for health and safety purposes. We provide you with our Emergency Details Form for this purpose and to collect information about who to contact for you back home in the event of an emergency.

Do I need Travel / Medical Insurance?

It is a condition of you travelling with us that you are adequately insured. Your insurance policy must cover you for the costs of any medical expenses, medical treatment or repatriation needed, due to injury or illness on this trip, including those that occur whilst motorcycle touring, either as the rider or a passenger. It is important that your insurance company understands that the MAIN PURPOSE of your trip is motorcycle touring, using your own large capacity cc motorcycle or a rental motorcycle. Your insurance must cover you for the full duration of the trip and for all countries we travel through.

In addition, we strongly recommend that your insurance policy has cover for loss or damage to your personal belongings, delay at your outward or homeward point of departure, personal liability, overseas legal expenses and

cancellation and curtailment.

We also strongly recommend that you take out your travel **insurance at the time of booking your trip** as cover will commence for pre-departure cancellation from the policy issue date. This will therefore provide cover should you have to cancel your trip for an insured reason such as illness or serious injury. We do not refund your deposit simply because you failed to take out insurance in sufficient time.

Is Iceland safe?

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) (www.fco.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) monitors overseas destinations and provides destination travel advice for UK nationals. GlobeBusters monitors the advice from the FCO and any decisions taken regarding a Tour's safety and security will use the vast experience of the company's 16 years of operating as well as the FCO advice. In the interests of your safety and security, changes may be made to your Tour based on any FCO warnings given.

We strongly recommend that you read the information about the country you are planning to visit to be fully informed – each country has a summary and general information as well as advice on safety & security, local laws & customs, entry requirements and health, and road conditions.

Currently, Iceland is exempt from the “essential travel only warning” given by the British Government. There are travel restrictions in Iceland due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which require travellers to self isolate for 14 days or have a COVID-19 test on arrival. We assume that by the time of travel all additional measures will have been lifted.

If you are not a UK national please make sure you have checked your own country's travel advice for your destination/s: The US Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov> Canadian Foreign Affairs: www.voyage.gc.ca Australian Government Travel Advice: www.smarttraveller.gov.au NZ Government Travel Advice: www.safetravel.govt.nz.

What about local currency?

The local currency in Iceland is the Iceland Krona. Pounds, Euros and Dollars are readily exchangeable. However you should note that Iceland is largely a cashless society with the use of credit/debit cards on a chip and pin basis being very common and can be the only way to pay for fuel at remote petrol stations. Make sure you bring debit/credit cards with you. Websites below will give you the current rates of exchange.

<http://www.oanda.com/>
<http://www.travelex.co.uk/>

Minimum Numbers

We require a minimum number of 8 riders on this tour. If we do not have this number of bookings, then we reserve the right to cancel the tour. If we have to cancel the tour we will provide you a minimum of 84 days notice prior to departure.

Available Dates & Prices

Date	Rider Shared Room	Single Supplement	Passenger Shared Room	Bike Rental
Aug 6 – 17, 2021	£4,595	£1,400	£2,995	
Aug 12 – 23, 2022	£4,695	£1,460	£3,095	