

Itinerary - South West Highlights - 4 Days

DAY 1: REYKJAVÍK AND THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

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You might want to make your espresso a double or skip that milk in your tea as you're going to have a busy day! You will see some of the most popular tourist attractions in the whole of Iceland. Leave Reykjavík and visit **Gljúfrasteinn**, the home of the most famous Icelandic novelist and Nobel-prize winner, Halldór Laxness, before reaching **Pingvellir National Park**. The park is not only home to the most important place in Icelandic history, where one of the world's oldest parliaments was founded in 930, but also Iceland's largest natural lake and a lava field, situated right on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates are moving apart. At Pingvellir, you can walk through parts of the ridge. Carry on through the town of **Laugarvatn**, with a pretty lake bearing the same name. Next up, it's the hot spring area of **Geysir**, including the very active geyser **Strokkur**, erupting every 5 to 10 minutes. Spend time walking along the paths and looking at the different geothermal phenomena. Carry on to the beautiful **Gullfoss** waterfall or the "Golden Waterfall". 32 m high and 250 m wide, the water falls into a 70 m deep gorge, allowing for breathtaking views from different viewpoints. Finish the day with a visit to **Skálholt** church and archaeological remains, one of Iceland's places of special historical interest.

DAY 2: WATERFALLS, PUFFINS, AND BLACK SAND BEACHES

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Today is full of beautiful waterfalls and breathtaking nature. You start the day off by visiting the small town of **Hvolsvöllur**, where if you're all about the Icelandic Sagas, you can check out the Saga Centre. Carry on your drive to one of the most famous waterfalls in Iceland, **Seljalandsfoss**, a narrow but high and powerful waterfall that you can walk behind (as long as it's not too icy). Breathe in the fresh air and forces of nature, all the while getting dewy from the waterfall. Next up: another beautiful waterfall! This one is called **Skógafoss**, and has plenty of walking paths and amazing views. The area also has a very interesting folk museum that comes highly recommended. You then reach the **Vík** area with views of the impressive cliffs of **Reynisdrangar**. Before returning to your accommodation have a look at **Sólheimajökull**, a glacier tongue that juts out of **Mýrdalsjökull** glacier.

DAY 3: SOUTH COAST, BLACK SAND BEACH AND PRETTY VILLAGES

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Today, you head back along the south coast and get a chance to visit even more amazing places that the area has to offer. Unbelievable, we know, but this is Iceland after all! Start off by going to the black sand beach of **Reynisfjara**, at the foot of the mountain **Reynisfjall**. Watch out for the strong tide along the shore here! All around, you will find interesting geological phenomena, such as cliffs and caves with basalt column formations, so take your time and see if you can spot the puffin colonies on the cliff faces of **Dyrhólaey** (in the summertime). You can at least admire the magnificent view from up there. Carry on your journey and pass through the town of **Selfoss** on the banks of the beautiful and powerful river **Ölfusá**, Iceland's largest river. Spend some time down by the river, breathing in the fresh air. From here, you drive down to the very pretty seaside villages of **Eyrbakkí** and **Stokkseyri**, a few minutes apart from one another. Both villages have many lovely old timber houses and pretty churches, as well as some interesting museums and amazing seafood restaurants. Enjoy a nice stroll along the seafront.

DAY 4: REYKJANES PENINSULA, THE BLUE LAGOON, AND A GEOTHERMAL AREA

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Get ready for a fantastic day full of top attractions! You start off by heading out to the **Reykjanes** peninsula. Your first stop is at **Strandarkirkja** church with its rich history and beautiful surroundings. From here, you drive to the fascinating **Krýsuvík** hot spring area, where you can walk around some interesting - and smelly - hot springs, steam rivers, and bubbling mud pots. Remember to watch your step! Carry on your trip and drive through the small town of **Grindavík** by the sea, where you might want to stop for a visit to the Icelandic Saltfish Museum, or check out the fishing industry by the harbour before heading over to the **Blue Lagoon**, one of Iceland's most famous attractions (make sure to book in advance). Enjoy relaxing in the pale blue water, so very warm and rich in minerals. Once you've had a proper soak and are totally relaxed, you're ready to end your day and this tour at Keflavík International Airport, or at your accommodation if you're staying for longer in this magnificent country.

