

# Topdeck

## DELVE DEEP: ICELAND



TRIP CODE:  
TIEJJ2

## TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. Hope you've packed your spacesuit – this eight-day orbit is about to transport you to another world. Blast off in Reykjavík and discover Iceland's star attractions: glowing geothermal pools, gobsmacking glaciers and WOW-worthy waterfalls. Then delve deeper into the fascinating folklore, magical myths and traditional treats this one-of-a-kind country has to offer. Ready to REALLY explore the Land of Fire and Ice? We have lift off!

### WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



Nights



Android/iPhone  
app download  
info



This is a sector  
trip.

# Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

## ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

**PLEASE NOTE:** We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

### ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Icelandic beer tasting experience
- + Orientation walk of Dalvík with Trip Leader
- + Whale-watching tour in Dalvík
- + Orientation walk of Akureyri with Trip Leader
- + See Goðafoss and Dettifoss waterfalls
- + Visit Dimmuborgir lava field
- + Visit Námafjall geothermal area
- + See Vatnajökull glacier and the Eastfjords
- + See Svínafellsjökull glacier
- + Visit Reynisfjara black-sand beach
- + Visit Seljalandsfoss waterfall
- + Golden Circle expedition (including Thingvellir National Park)

### MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Icelandic beer tasting experience
- + Orientation walk of Dalvík with Trip Leader
- + Whale-watching tour
- + Orientation walk of Akureyri with Trip Leader
- + See Goðafoss and Dettifoss waterfalls
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- + Golden Circle expedition (including Thingvellir National Park)

## YOUR TRIP WILL START

### PICK UP:

Reykjavik  
Iceland

## YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

### DROP OFF:

Reykjavik  
Iceland

## TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Iceland -

# YOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | REYKJAVÍK (ICELAND)

Gobsmacking scenery. Richer-than-rich culture. Bucket-list topping activities. Plus all the weird, whacky and wonderful in between – welcome to Iceland. With these out-of-this-world landscapes, you might as well have landed on the moon. Dump your stuff at the hotel and say halló to your fellow explorers. We may be a mixed bunch but we're in this together – like it was meant to be. Then? We'll head to a local haunt to kick things off with an included dinner and tasting (of the local Icelandic beer variety). This is gonna be good.



### MEALS:

+ Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Icelandic beer tasting experience

## DAY 2 | REYKJAVÍK – DALVÍK – AKUREYRI

Bless (read: bye) Reykjavík – we'll be back for you later. Ngl, we've got a bit of drive today – so snag a window seat and soak up all the screensaver-worthy scenery as we head north. Fun fact: the small fishing village of Dalvík has produced four Eurovision Song Contest entrants. Must be something in the (ice-cold) water here. Hum a tune as your expert Trip Leader points out the village highlights. Then: prepare for a whale of a time (we went there) and take to the seas for an UNforgettable whale-watching experience. If we're lucky, we'll hear the thunderous crash and see the saltwater spray as these mighty creatures come up for air. Cue: all the goosebumps. Last but not least, it's time to make tracks towards Akureyri for the lowdown on the 'Capital of the North'.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Orientation walk of Dalvík with Trip Leader  
+ Whale-watching tour  
+ Orientation walk of Akureyri with Trip Leader

## DAY 3 | AKUREYRI – EGILSSTAÐIR

You want fire, water, earth and air all in one day? Greedy, but luckily Iceland's got all the elements covered. First, we'll check out Mother Nature's mad skills at Goðafoss Waterfall – aka the Waterfall of the Gods. Then we'll switch to the dark side at Dimmuborgir lava field. This jigsaw of spiky rocks was formed by a volcanic eruption over 2,000 years ago, and it's said the devil landed here when he was chucked out of heaven. Ouch. Next: hold your nose. Don't blame your trip mates for that eggy smell – it's the sulfurous gases rising from Námafjall's bubbling geothermal pools. This place looks like Mars, and you'll deffo wish you had a space helmet on. Finally, we'll treat our peepers to rip-roaring Dettifoss waterfall before rolling into Egilsstaðir for the eve. What. A. Day.



### MEALS:

+ Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

+ See Goðafoss and Dettifoss waterfalls  
+ Visit Dimmuborgir lava field  
+ Visit Námafjall geothermal area

## DAY 4 | EGILSSTAÐIR – VATNAJÖKULL GLACIER – HÖFN

Ready to see Iceland live up to its name? Enter: Vatnajökull glacier. This jaw-dropping, GINORMOUS ice cap covers approx 8% of the country in a blanket of kryptonite-style blue ice and thick layers of volcanic ash. Watch out for White Walkers – Game of Thrones' 'North of The Wall' was filmed here. Next, we'll ooohh and aaahhh our way through the mystical Eastfjords for a slice of real Icelandic life. Think snow-capped mountains, charming AF villages, and maybe even a puffin or two. Finally: the Lobster Capital of Iceland is a must, right? Dinner's on us when we settle into the remote fishing town of Höfn this evening.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + See Vatnajökull glacier and the Eastfjords

## DAY 5 | HÖFN – JÖKULSÁRLÓN – VÍK

Another day, another mind-blowing frozen landscape. Keen to delve deeper (literally)? Channel all the Indiana Jones vibes and explore Vatnajökull's eye-popping ice caves. It's like being dropped into a snow globe. Or opt for a boat trip around Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon to gawp at some enormous icebergs (not in a Titanic way) and maybe spot a resident seal. Next? We'll seek out the immense Svínafellsjökull glacier before rounding off the day in the picture-perfect seaside village of Vík. All the icy adventuring got you carb-craving? Swing by Smiðjan Brugghús brewpub for chunky burgers, loaded fries and local craft beer. Skál (read: cheers)!



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + See Svínafellsjökull glacier



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Crystal ice cave tour in Vatnajökull glacier: from 20500 ISK
- + Public amphibian boat tour of Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon: from 6000 ISK

## DAY 6 | VÍK – THE GOLDEN CIRCLE – REYKJAVÍK

If beaches went goth, they'd look like this. This morning we'll sink our toes into the black sand of Reynisfjara. The dramatic basalt columns here are actually trolls that got turned into stone (allegedly). Next, we'll lay eyes on super-scenic Seljalandsfoss waterfall before exploring the legendary Golden Circle. 300 kilometres of phenomenal Icelandic landscapes. Natural wonders don't get any better than this. Trust us. We'll check out the roaring Gullfoss Falls. 'Holy sh\*t' our way around the Great Geysir. And soak up all the amazingness at UNESCO World Heritage-listed Thingvellir National Park. SD cards full and tummies rumbling, it's time to hunt down Bæjarins Beztu Pylsur for the world's best hot dog (as voted by Bill Clinton). Or go authentic with some street food – traditional sheep soup and fish stew are a must. Then? Download 'appy hour', locate Lebowski Bar and hit the d-floor with your trip mates.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast



### INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Reynisfjara black-sand beach
- + Visit Seljalandsfoss waterfall
- + Golden Circle expedition (including Thingvellir National Park)

## DAY 7 | REYKJAVÍK

This is your day to delve deeper into Iceland's quirky capital. Need some suggestions? Get the blues in the BEST way possible soaking in the magical geothermal pools of the Blue Lagoon. Check out the Saga Museum, National Museum of Iceland or Phallological Museum (for something a bit... different). Head to Álfaskólin elf school for a diploma in magical creatures (no bullsh\*t). Or sink your 'Jaws' into a traditional local delicacy – fermented shark. Here during winter? Don your thermals and practice those panos – there's the option to chase the illusive Northern Lights this evening. Visibility can't be guaranteed (obvs), but if you do catch them, you've got bragging rights for life. Tonight: we'll give this incredible Icelandic adventure the send-off it deserves at our final group feed.



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Visit the Blue Lagoon: from 7000 ISK
- + Northern Lights tour (seasonal): prices available locally

## DAY 8 | REYKJAVÍK

You tried the food. You met the locals. You said yes to culture. Yes to history. Yes to the new and the unique. You embraced it all. And now, it's over (no crying). Head down to breakfast and swap those socials – you're gonna need them for that meet-up on mainland Europe. Where to next?



### MEALS:

- + Breakfast

## TIPPING

### NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

## TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

### TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

### ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

## CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

## BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

## MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



# PASSENGER SAFETY

## NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, remember to avoid walking alone, particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking, and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

## RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

## DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana, even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

**REMEMBER** – if you are found in possession of drugs, not only could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up again.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- + Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- + Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!
- + Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink, you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- + Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home, too – so they're sure to know of some tried-and-tested ways to beat the blues
- + Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (trust us).

## HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome holiday AND have a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- + Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your hotel towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- + Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- + Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets and book tours and activities run by local guides
- + Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- + Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

# OTHER INFORMATION

## INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information,

visit [www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance](http://www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance).

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

## WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it (as long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is!)

Heading on our Namaste India trip? Your luggage is capped at 15kg, so maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

- + 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes
- + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- + 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- + 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- + 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- + 4 shirts/T-shirts
- + 2 sweaters/jumpers
- + Smart casual evening wear
- + 1 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear





**THAT'S IT!**