

Topdeck

DELVE DEEP: ICELAND (WINTER)



TRIP CODE:
TIWJJ4

TOPDECKER, meet Europe (TD)

TRIP VIBE = in-depth adventures and real af moments with a local Trip Leader. Hope you're keeping your eyes peeled – this eight-day trip is gonna take you halfway to Valhalla. You don't wanna miss a **THING**. Start the journey in Reykjavík and delve into favoured wonders of the gods: wowzer waterfalls, next level national parks, gobsmacking glaciers and a G-I-A-N-T geyser. There's more. Get all the local eats, insider deets on fascinating folklore, and see magic happen right in front of you, if you're lucky enough. Ready to delve in deep? Let's go!

WORTH NOTING...

New trip alert! Book one of our first departures and you'll get a sweeet price.

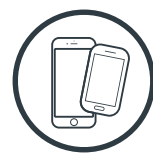
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



Nights



Download app



Meals

Thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

Ready for the time of your LIFE?

The countdown's on...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – from where to meet your Topdeck fam to what we suggest you bring.

Read them on the train, in the supermarket queue or on the loo – we don't mind, just look through them carefully so you know what to expect on your trip. We recommend you download this document so it's with you when you travel (and give a copy to your MVPs so they know what you're up to).

IMPORTANT: please refresh this doc as close to your departure as possible. This means you'll have the most up-to-date info available.

INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Icelandic beer tasting experience
- Golden Circle expedition (including Thingvellir National Park, Gullfoss Waterfall & Strokkur Geysir)
- Remotely located hotel for Northern Lights spotting (weather dependent)
- Visit Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls & South Coast area (including Laki lava fields)
- Visit Skaftafell National Park
- Visit Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon
- Visit Reynisfjara black-sand beach
- Walking tour of Reykjavík with Trip Leader
- Visit Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls & Deildartunguhver hot spring
- Snæfellsnes Peninsula tour
- Visit Liston's stone carving studio

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Reykjavik
Iceland

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Reykjavik
Iceland

TRIP CURRENCIES

- Iceland - ISK

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | REYKJAVÍK (ICELAND)

Home to glaciers that give Elsa a run for her money, you're in ICELAND. First things first: meeting the people you're gonna be exploring this incredible place with – your awesome Topdeck travel fam. Then, we're heading to an included dinner to really get to know one another. Ain't nothing like good food and good company, right? After: an included beer tasting is on the cards to get your tastebuds Iceland ready for the week!



MEALS:

- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Icelandic beer tasting experience

DAY 2 | REYKJAVÍK – GOLDEN CIRCLE REGION

Prepare your eyes cos they're gonna explode with the natural wonders we're seeing today. First up: a tour of the Golden Circle. It doesn't have gold status for nothing. We'll stop at Thingvellir National Park: majestic rock formations, hills to get your booty in top shape and views outta this world? Yes pls. Then, it's a mighty geyser's turn to dazzle you with its magic. Strokkur is top of its game. Gulfoss waterfall is last up on the tour. Breathtaking doesn't cover it. After, you've got an opportunity to stop at the Secret Lagoon. Brave the weather and swim in its thermal waters. Moments like these are next level. Tonight, we're staying in a remote location. You know what that means? Prime opportunity to see the Northern Lights in all their glory. Just have a word with the old gods to keep the skies clear.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Golden Circle expedition (including Thingvellir National Park, Gulfoss Waterfall & Strokkur Geysir)
- Remotely located hotel for Northern Lights spotting (weather dependent)



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit the Secret Lagoon: from 3880 ISK

DAY 3 | GOLDEN CIRCLE REGION – JÖKULSÁRLÓN REGION

Wrap up warm, we've got another day of outdoor discovery. And what better way to start the day than with a visit to more awesome waterfalls. Walk behind Seljalandsfoss to see the world from a new angle. Learn the legend of Skógafoss and dare to find the treasure chest left by a Viking settler way back in the year 900. Then: discover the South Coast, including the Laki lava fields. You wanted to delve deeper into Iceland? This is it. Later: we're exploring even more Icelandic beauty. This time, Skaftafell National Park – a UNESCO site made of fire and ice. Tonight, we're heading to our stop in a remote village. Yep: there's another opportunity to see the Northern Lights. Don't say we don't treat you.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls & South Coast area (including Laki lava fields)
- Visit Skaftafell National Park
- Remotely located hotel for Northern Lights spotting (weather dependent)

DAY 4 | JÖKULSÁRLÓN REGION – REYNISFJARA BEACH – REYKJAVÍK

Ready for some glacier action? We've got Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon to get to – it legit looks like it's been taken from a wintery fairytale. You've also got the opportunity to make use of your hiking boots. Get those legs burning (in the best way, obv) up Vatnajökull glacier. Your prize at the end? Views your mates back home won't believe. Or go below ground on a tour of Vatnajökull ice caves. No photo will ever do this place justice, so you gotta see it IRL. No cap. Then, hop back on the coach cos we're going to the beach. It's not any beach. It's made of black sand. Haunting. Gooseflesh-worthy. Holy-Sh*t-this-is-ace vibes. Later: it's back to where the adventure began. Get a taste of city life with your travel fam. Feed those rumbling bellies – order fermented shark, sheep heads or ram testicles for a taste of REAL Iceland. Try a load of craft beers. And hit a music venue. Skál to another day of real adventures.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Visit Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon
- Visit Reynisfjara black-sand beach



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Hike Vatnajökull glacier and crystal ice cave tour (weather dependent): from 14500 ISK

DAY 5 | REYKJAVÍK – SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA

Delve deeper into Iceland's capital on a walking tour with our expert Trip Leader. They're gonna give us a taste of Norse mythology and Viking life as we take in sights like Hallgrímskirkja Church, the Sun Voyager and the Old Harbour. Head filled with facts, we're off to Snæfellsnes Peninsula. This place: unmatched. But first, we'll stop at Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls as well as Deildartunguhver hot spring. Make sure your phones are fully charged for all those TikToks you wanna make. Then, put them away and take in this moment. With these people. Wanna feel alive? Strip your clothes off and feel the bite of Iceland winter before plunging into thermal water on an optional visit to Krauma geothermal baths. Bliss. Tonight, swap your fave moments over a homemade dinner (farmhouse style) and look to the skies. The Northern Lights might bless you with an appearance!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Walking tour of Reykjavík with Trip Leader
- Visit Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls & Deildartunguhver hot spring
- Remotely located hotel for Northern Lights spotting (weather dependent)



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Visit Krauma geothermal baths: from 6800 ISK

DAY 6 | SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA

Today's all about Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Get a view of the Centre of the Earth aka Snæfellsjökull glacier. Known for its energy and mysticism among locals, this place is one of the world's ancient sources of power. Then: visit the small village of Arnarstapi. It's giving witchy vibes. Stykkishólmur's up next – another lil fishing village with PLENTY of real good oceanic culture. After, feast your eyes on some Icelandic artwork at Liston's stone carving studio. Tonight, it's our last opportunity to see the Northern Lights. Huddle together in the winter air as the skies *fingers and toes crossed* transform. Magic.



MEALS:

- Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- Snæfellsnes Peninsula tour
- Visit Liston's stone carving studio
- Remotely located hotel for Northern Lights spotting (weather dependent)

DAY 7 | SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA – REYKJAVÍK

Wave bless (what an awesome way to say bye!) to this beaut part of the world. We're heading back to Reykjavík. Here, you've got an afternoon that's all yours. Hit The National Musuem to get that last burst of history. Eat alll the local snacks. Skyr and chocolate-covered liquorice are must-haves. Stumble across one of the city's six municipalities to delve deeper into local life. Float in the heated waters of a local swimming pool. Or (get ready for it), spot mammoth whales on an experience of a lifetime. Sighting one of these majestic creatures IRL? That feeling's pretty damn special. Tonight, we have one final dinner together. Cheers (soz, skál) to a road trip none of us will ever forget!



MEALS:

- Breakfast
- Dinner



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Whale-watching tour in Reykjavík (weather dependent): from 13990 ISK

DAY 8 | REYKJAVÍK

This is it. The moment we say goodbye. Pinky swear to keep in touch on the TOPDECK LEGENDS group chat. Start planning the reunion. Where shall we meet up next year?



MEALS:

- Breakfast

OTHER INFORMATION

TOPDECK APP

Feeling appy? Download the Topdeck app and get PUMPED for the adventure ahead. Best bit is: from 45 days before departure you'll be able to chat with your soon-to-be tripmates.

Plus, get your itinerary at your fingertips – so you know where you'll be going and what you'll be doing on each day of your trip. Nice!

Links:

Apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/topdeck/id994727866>

Android <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.FlexiTechSolutions.TopDeck&hl=en>



YOUR SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

We love a good night out – experiencing the nightlife and entertainment places have to offer is a big part of travelling. But alongside the fun it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety.

When you're out late, 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 so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. Make sure you have your 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.

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Customers 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 immediately. 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 do you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if they are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you don'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.

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 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 (fact!)

TRAVEL SINCE COVID-19

Travel looks a bit different since COVID-19. That's why we've put some new procedures in place to help keep you safe on the road.

What remains the same? Your Topdeck trip will be run hygienically, responsibly, and with your safety at the forefront of everything we do. End of.

Here's the info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/travel-safely>

RESPECT ON THE ROAD

RESPECTING FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Our trips are for everyone. We're a family – and we want every Topdecker to have an incredible time.

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

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 adventure AND 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 room 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!

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.

Head to our FAQ for more info: <https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/faqs-0>

Got more Qs? Chat with our Customer Service team: <https://www.topdeck.travel/about-us/contact>

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's 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. Check out our handy interactive map showing global visa requirements:

<https://www.topdeck.travel/resources/latest-border-restrictions>

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.

TIPPING

Basically: it's not necessary.

Your Trip Leader and Driver don't expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. Meaning? More dollar to spend on optional activities (and a souvenir for your nan).

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!).

Off to Japan? Your luggage must be no bigger than 160cm in total (height x width x length). So maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

Psst: this is a packing list for Topdeck trips in general. Obv you'd look silly splashing around the Greek islands in a snowsuit.

- 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 warm jacket + 1 rainproof jacket

- Underwear and socks + swimwear
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Hat and sunscreen
- Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- Adaptor plug
- Reusable water bottle
- Snow gear



THAT'S IT!