



# The Northern Lights at New Year



**HOLIDAY TYPE:**  
**VISITING:** Iceland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 29019  
**DURATION:** 4 nights

## In Brief

Celebrate the New Year in Iceland during this four-night holiday. This iconic island offers a wealth of unforgettable experiences and we include some of the highlights. Search for the Aurora by super jeep, go whale watching and reach a unique Northern Lights vantage point by boat.

## Our Opinion

“ *This trip gives you the opportunity to experience every aspect of this fantastic country - culture, nature, architecture – whatever you want to see, the option is there. The most popular sights in Reykjavik are within easy walking distance, as you will stay in some of the best and most central accommodation. If you want to explore more of the country itself, a transfer can pick you up directly from your hotel and take you on some amazing adventures.* ”

Amy Hope



## What's included?

**ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES LISTED BELOW ARE INCLUDED IN THE HOLIDAY PRICE**

- **Transfers:** return scheduled airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights in a hotel in Reykjavik in a double/ twin room
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Northern Lights chase by super jeep, whale watching cruise and Northern Lights tour by boat (order subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- **A note on flights:** flights are not included in the holiday price so that the best possible fares and schedule can be found at the time of booking. There are low cost and scheduled flights operating this route and our travel experts will happily provide a quotation and arrange the flights as part of the package

## Trip Overview

This four-night Northern Lights short break lets you hunt the Aurora, celebrate New Year in style and take in some of the islands incredible natural wonders. This holiday has been designed to help improve your Aurora viewing potential at night during two dedicated activities, whilst leaving you free time each day to tailor your stay. We do however include one of Iceland's must-do activities, whale watching. This is a much more independent holiday than some others which you will find on The Aurora Zone as Iceland lends itself so wonderfully to our guests setting their own agenda and priorities.

Iceland has always had a great reputation for the Northern Lights, but to really capture the best displays you must get away from the light pollution of Reykjavik and head out in search of darker skies. Therefore, on two nights we have included Aurora hunting activities for you. Firstly, you will travel by super jeep to some of the best Northern Lights viewpoints, away from the city lights. The super jeeps give you the mobility and freedom to head to locations where the larger tourist coaches are unable to go. It will also hopefully allow your guide to outrun any localised cloud cover. Later in your holiday, you enjoy an Aurora boat trip which takes you out of Reykjavik harbour and out to sea, where there is no light pollution. With luck, your Aurora efforts will be rewarded with a show.

Whilst whale watching is included in your holiday, the days are primarily free for you to explore Iceland your own way. You can be as active or relaxed as you like. We have a range of tours available and more information can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page. You might like to ride an Icelandic horse, unwind in the idyllic Blue Lagoon, clamber and crawl on a blue ice glacier hike or try snorkelling in some of the clearest water in the world. Alternatively, you can sit back on a coach tour and take in the city's sights or some of the best natural wonders that Iceland has to offer such as Gullfoss Waterfall and the amazing hot spring geysers.

To top it all off, as you are in Iceland for New Year, you can relish in the exciting New Year's Eve celebrations that take place all over Reykjavik city. Book a mouth-watering dinner in one of the many restaurants, and make sure that you have a good view of the magnificent fireworks that will fill the sky in the evening.

*@Iceland Pro Travel, Visit Reykjanes, Alan Middleton, Iceland.is, ThorirNK, Visit Iceland, Ragnar Th. Sigurdsson / ARCTIC IMAGES*

## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

### ARRIVAL AND NORTHERN LIGHTS SUPER JEEP TOUR

Upon arrival at Keflavik Airport, you will make your way to the transfer bus to be taken into central Reykjavik where you will check in to your hotel.

Tonight, you will plunge straight into a Northern Lights adventure as you take a Northern Lights super jeep hunt. You will be picked up near your hotel by the 4x4 super jeep and taken to off-the-beaten-track locations that a tour bus would be unable to reach, away from the city light pollution and any big crowds. Your expert guide will use the latest forecasts in order to ensure your route offers the best possible Aurora potential. If a display does appear then it will be a truly memorable start to your holiday.

Please note, this is a much more independent holiday than some others which you will find on The Aurora Zone as Iceland lends itself so wonderfully to our guests setting their own agenda and priorities.

**Included Meals:** None

DAY  
2

### FREE DAY FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Following breakfast, you can book one of the optional activities listed in the '[Personalise](#)' section, or simply take yourself into Reykjavik for some exploration. You might decide to take a guided tour of the city to ensure that you don't miss any of the best sights, or you may prefer to take in the city

independently. There is simply so much to see and do here that the hardest thing will be knowing where to start.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY  
3

## WHALE WATCHING AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

After breakfast at your hotel, you will walk the short distance to Reykjavik Harbour to take to the seas in search of the majestic whales which frequent these waters.

Marine life which is commonly seen on this tour includes minke and humpback whales, white-beaked dolphins and harbour porpoises. The expert guide onboard will point out any sightings as you cruise along (they have an incredible ability to spot the whales from far away). The trip is of course operated in a responsible manner, so the animals are never disturbed by the boat's presence. Whilst whale sightings can never be guaranteed, if there are no sightings, then you are issued with a free ticket to try again (time permitting)! The tour will last between 2 to 2.5 hours and is on a larger sized boat with an expansive outside viewing deck and comfortable interior. Warm overalls and blankets are provided but we do suggest you dress as warmly as possible. There is a café onboard where hot drinks can be purchased.

Tonight, there will be a great number of celebrations around the city to bring in the New Year. There will be firework tours, but we have found in the past the firework displays can be enjoyed from pretty much anywhere in the city. Your evening meal is not included tonight but we are able to offer guests the chance to pre-book a wonderful New Year's Eve Gala Dinner at a renowned central restaurant, full details of which can be found in the '[Personalise](#)' section of the holiday page. If you would rather arrange an alternative, then we recommend that you make restaurant reservations at the earliest opportunity after booking to secure your preference.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY  
4

## FREE DAY AND NORTHERN LIGHTS TOUR BY BOAT

This morning, you are once again free to choose from our range of activities. You might like to relax after last night's celebrations, in which case we recommend a visit to the famous Blue Lagoon hot spring and spa. Unwind in the misty blue waters as you admire the striking volcanic landscape. More active exploits are also available.

This evening you will head back to the harbour and travel out into the North Atlantic Ocean. Watching the twinkling lights of Reykjavik fade into the distance as you head out to sea is a really special sight. On a clear evening, you can even see the mountains outlined above the city. Few places are less impacted by light pollution than the ocean, so fingers crossed there will be clear skies, good solar activity levels and you will be rewarded with a wonderful Northern Lights display on your final night in Iceland.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY  
5

DEPARTURE

After a final breakfast in your hotel, you will end your trip and be transferred to the airport ready for departure.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

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### Our pick



### Visit to the Blue Lagoon

A visit to the Blue Lagoon is an unforgettable experience, as you can relax and soak in the soothing, milky blue waters, and enjoy the incredible, mountainous scenery that surrounds the lagoon. The pools are filled with geothermal seawater from deep below the lava, which proves perfect for bathing and unwinding.

If you want to go the extra mile and truly treat yourself, there are a range of luxurious massages to choose from here, in the Blue Lagoon itself and in their special spa.

**Availability:** daily every hour from 8 am – 6 pm (dependent on availability)

**Transfers:** you will be picked up from your hotel and transferred to the Blue Lagoon (approximately 1-1.5-hours)

**Price:** the price will vary depending on the date and time of your visit and will be confirmed at the time of booking

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**Image Credits:** Blue Lagoon

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### Other options

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## ACTIVITIES



## Golden Circle Day Tour

This jam-packed tour takes you out of the city and into the incredible countryside of Iceland. Your transfer will pick you up from the hotel and take you to Þingvellir National Park, an area of great geological and historical significance, where you can admire Þingvallavatn, Iceland's largest natural lake. You will also see the ethereal Gullfoss waterfall and the Geysir hot springs which includes Strokkur - the most active geyser in Iceland.

*\*Please note that this can be extremely busy on 01 Jan\**

**Duration:** 8 hours (approximately)

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## South Coast day tour

Once you board the tour coach at your hotel, you can admire the ethereal and iconic Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls and explore the eerie, black sand, volcanic beach of Reynisfjara on this day tour. The views will be spectacular as you travel across lush farmlands that lie between the coast and the mountain ranges, as you are exposed to the vast variety of diverse landscapes that Iceland has to offer.

**Duration:** 9 hours

**Group Size:** no min, no max

**Availability:** daily at 9.30 am **\*Please note that pick-up from your hotel is 30 minutes before these departure times\***

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## City Sightseeing and Grand Tour

The tour bus will pick you up from your hotel and set off on its journey, covering all of Reykjavik city's top attractions. Firstly, you will visit the Perlan glass dome, where the viewing deck offers a phenomenal 360° view of the city and its surroundings.

You will then head to Reykjavik's seafront to visit the historical Höfði building, and to the incredibly unique Hallgrímskirkja church, its architecture mimicking the common volcanic rock formation that can be found in Iceland, explaining its striking exterior. Finally, the bus

travels through Laugardalur, a major centre for sports and recreation in Reykjavik. Here you will find the city's largest outdoor thermal swimming pool, a picturesque botanical garden and a small Zoo containing Icelandic animals such as seals, foxes, reindeer and minks.

**Duration:** 2.5 hours

**Group Size:** no min, no max

**Availability:** daily at 9.00 am *\*Please note that this activity is NOT available on 25/12 and 31/12, pick-up from your hotel is 30 minutes before these departure times\**

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**Image copyright:** Iceland Excursions



## Whale watching

This tour will begin at Reykjavik's old harbour, which is only a short walk from all of the possible accommodation for this trip, or for an additional charge you can add a pick-up service from your hotel. From here, you will head onto the boat and stand on its safe viewing deck, ready to admire the ocean's wildlife. Expert guides will point out the best places to spot the whales, and with any luck, you will see a variety of magnificent whales emerging from the water.

There is also an array of other wildlife to look out for, including a variety of seabirds that scale the waves. Life jackets are provided on this tour.

**Duration:** 3 - 3.5 hours

**Group Size:** No min, no max

**Availability:** 13.00 daily

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Image copyright: Special Tours



## Lava horse riding tour

Your transfer will take you on a twenty-minute drive from your hotel directly to the stables. This tour is perfect for beginners and experienced riders as, prior to the start of the tour, the group will be organised according to their riding skill level.

This means that beginners will be comfortable in their ride, and allows experienced riders to take a more fast-paced tour if they wish to do so. Accompanied by specially trained guides, you will ride for around two hours through the beautiful scenery complete with lava

fields and rolling green hills.

After the ride, you will enjoy a hot drink at the stables where the staff will be more than happy to answer any questions you might have about the unique Icelandic horses.

**Duration:** 4 hours

**Group Size:** maximum 20

**Availability:** daily at 10 am and 2 pm, 25th December 2 pm, 31st December 10 am and 1st Jan 2 pm *\*Please note that pick-up from your hotel is 30 minutes before these departure times\**

Image copyright: Íshestar



## Blue Ice Glacier hike

A transfer will pick you up from your hotel and take you to the glacier. The transfer takes around 3 hours but is worth the long drive as this thrilling tour gives you the opportunity to hike and climb the breath-taking and magnificent Sólheimajökull glacier.

You will explore the deep crevices, jagged ridges and incredible ice formations of the glacier, and even try out your ice-climbing skills. This is an unforgettable and unique tour, and an experience not to be missed. All of the tools that you need to explore the ice are provided

for you, including ice axes, crampons, helmets and safety lines, plus the support of guides to ensure your complete safety on the ice. The hike lasts for around 4 hours before you are taken on your return journey to your hotel, during which you will stop to admire the beautiful waterfall, Skógafoss.

**Duration:** 10 hours

**Group size:** min 2, max 24

**Availability:** daily at 8.30 am *\*Please note that this activity is NOT available on 24/12, 25/12, 31/12 or 01/01. Pick-up from your hotel is 30 minutes before this departure time\**



## Snorkelling in Silfra

After being picked up from your hotel, you will travel for around one hour to reach the Silfra Fissure. The clear waters and incredible rock formations make this spot one of the most popular snorkelling spots in Iceland.

The fissure is a crack between the North American and Eurasian continents, offering a fascinating and unforgettable view as you drift peacefully in the ethereal blue waters. The underwater visibility here is an incredible 100 metres, providing a mesmerising view of this magical underwater paradise.

**Duration:** 4 hours

**Group:** min 2 max 8

**Availability:** daily (NOT available on 01/01)

Image copyright: Arctic Adventures

## LITTLE EXTRAS



## New Year's Eve gala dinner

There is a huge range of truly fantastic restaurants in Reykjavik, but we are thrilled to be able to offer this celebratory menu at the renowned Skólabrú Restaurant. It offers such a warm welcome and the chefs work extremely hard to create a wonderful menu which incorporates the freshest local ingredients. They always try to reflect Icelandic cultural heritage and local culinary traditions. Speak to our Travel Experts for the detailed gala menu being offered exclusively on New Year's Eve.

Credit: Skólabrú Restaurant

## Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

### Skuggi Hotel, Reykjavik (Nights: 1-4)



This hotel is located in Reykjavik's city centre, close to Laugavegur (which is the main shopping street), and an array of restaurants and bars. 'Skuggi' is the Icelandic word for 'shade', and the hotel has a fitting interior design of cool greys and calming white. The Skuggi Hotel has 100 rooms, designed with inspiration from the sublime black-and-white nature photography of Icelander Ragnar Axelsson.

## Hotel facilities

Speak to us on 01670 785 012  
bookings@theaurorazone.com



- Pick up a drink from the hotel's stylish on-site bar
- Free Wi-Fi means you can keep friends and family up to date
- Wake up to a spread of hot and cold options at the breakfast buffet

## Hotel rooms

The hotel offers both double (with king size bed) and twin rooms. All have an en-suite bathroom with a shower, toilet, hairdryer, and toiletries, free Wi-Fi, a satellite television, a telephone, a tea and coffee set, clothes rack, a desk and chair.

## Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

### Reykjavik Grand Hotel



The four-star Reykjavik Grand Hotel is conveniently located in quiet surroundings, close to the city centre. The hotel has 311 rooms and provides excellent service and a wide range of facilities.

The hotel is equipped with a modern and elegant restaurant with a focus on Icelandic and Nordic cuisine. You can enjoy dinner made with fresh produce or simply relax with a drink by the cosy fireplace.

The Reykjavik Grand Hotel has a fully equipped gym which guests can use free of charge and extensive spa facilities. Guests are given a 20% discount on the spa admission fee.

## Facilities

- Take advantage of the hotel's excellent location and enjoy a stroll through Laugerdalur's Botanical Garden before heading into downtown Reykjavik.
- Keep active and enjoy free use of the hotel gym.
- Sample local Icelandic cuisine or enjoy a drink in the cosy hotel restaurant.
- Enjoy the free Wi-fi service which is available throughout the hotel.

## Room type

**Standard double/twin room:** Standard double/twin rooms are both bright and spacious with hardwood flooring and have views out to the city, or of the internal atrium. The rooms are equipped with a comfortable double or queen size bed or two large single beds and a private bathroom with a shower and bathtub. A satellite TV, hairdryer, coffee and tea making facilities and free Wi-Fi access are all included.

**Triple Room:** Triple rooms are spacious and decorated with brand new furnishings. The rooms contain either three single beds or a double and a single bed. A private bathroom with a shower and bathtub is included and each triple room is equipped with a hairdryer, satellite TV, coffee and tea making facilities and free Wi-Fi access.

## Hotel Reykjavik Centrum



Located in the historic part of Reykjavik, the Centrum Hotel is ideally situated to give you easy access to some independent exploration of the vibrant city.

After spending some time in Reykjavik, you can unwind in the hotel's bar and onsite restaurant, Uppsalir, renowned for its first-class cuisine. Nearby, you will find plenty of eateries serving a range of traditional Scandinavian food and international dishes.

## HOTEL FACILITIES

- Stay in touch with loved ones with the use of the hotel's Wi-Fi
- Try the local cuisine in the hotel's restaurant

### ROOM FACILITIES:

**Double/twin room:** These comfortable and modern rooms are equipped with ensuite bathroom with a shower and hairdryer. All rooms also come with air conditioning, tea and coffee facilities, sitting area and safe.

Please note that the accommodation in Reykjavik is subject to availability and you may stay in another hotel of the same standard, within downtown Reykjavik.

## Fosshotel Reykjavik



Fosshotel Reykjavik enjoys a great location just a few hundred metres from the sculpture and shore walk which navigates Reykjavik's harbour. The hotel is just a 5-minute walk from Laugavegur, the city's main shopping street, which is home to many fascinating independent shops, cafes, bars and restaurants.

This stylish hotel has 16 floors and most rooms offer a wonderful view of the city and bay area.

## Hotel Facilities

- Wi-Fi is free in the public areas of the hotel
- The hotel has 320 rooms and boasts a restaurant named 'Haust' (which is where your breakfast will be served)
- Breakfasts are served as a buffet with a choice of bread, hot food such as sausages, bacon and eggs as well as yoghurts, fruits and cereals
- There is also a bar area called the 'Beer Garden' which offers a great selection of draft beers (it also offers wonderful hot dogs if you are feeling a little peckish!). This charming bar is really popular with the locals as well as guests to Reykjavik

## Room type

**Double/Twin:** these are located on the lower floors of the hotel and can either be made up as a twin or double beds. They have a satellite TV, hairdryer, iron and ironing board. They also have tea and

coffee making facilities and a small fridge. All rooms feature a safety deposit box (deposit may be payable locally).

## The Specifics

### Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 1 person; maximum 200 during activities. Please note that the Blue Lagoon is also open to the public during your visit.

### Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

### Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our [booking conditions](#).

### Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Aurora Zone holiday is typically 12 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company [www.activitiesabroad.com](http://www.activitiesabroad.com).

### Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

## Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.theaurorazone.com/booking-conditions>