

19.08 2023

Reykjavik Destination Marathon



Come for the race, stay for the adventure!

\*Please note all tours, schedules, accommodations and bookings are subject to change based on availability and pricing at booking. We will do our best to ensure tours, travel and accommodations are comparable to those listed.

## Thursday August 17, 2023 - Departure from CVG

Itinerary and schedules are based on flights departing Cincinnati's CVG Airport Thursday arriving in Reykjavik early Friday. If you wish to depart from another airport, we are happy to assist you in choosing a flight that matches the group ground transportation schedule.

#### Travel

Airline Travel is booked separately by traveler and is not included in your tour and accommodation pricing. Please plan to book air travel promptly following registration.

**Current Preferred Flight Schedules:** 

Delta Airlines -

Depart CVG 6:00pm/Arrive KEF 9:05am (Friday August 18<sup>th)</sup> Depart CVG 2:05pm/Arrive KEF 6:20am (Friday August 18<sup>th)</sup>

United Airlines -

Depart CVG 5:55pm/Arrive KEF 9:05am (Friday August 18<sup>th</sup>)

\*\*If booking flight options from an alternative origination airport, the times listed for CVG flights can be used as a guideline for planning.

## **Airport Transfer to Hotel**

Airport Bus Transfer Included in your travel price and will be coordinated based on your arrival time. Group private transportation will be available for those arriving before 10am.

## **Accommodations**

5 Nights In 3 Star Hotel - Storm Hotel or similar

- Breakfast Daily Included
- WiFi Included
- Lounge/Bar





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# Friday August 18, 2023 - Arrival/Reykjavik

\*Breakfast, lunch and dinner on your own

Upon arrival in Reykjavik, we'll clear customs and transfer from the airport to the hotel. It will be morning, but we can drop baggage with the concierge desk and take a quick moment to get oriented with our surroundings. Check in isn't until 2pm so we will meet shortly following bag check and hit the town for some exploring and brunch.



#### Fit & Run Race Expo 2pm - 7pm

For those running the race, packet pickup will be available at the expo at Laugardalshöll Sports Hall. We'll plan to head over on the city bus as a group around 3pm after you have the opportunity to check in and settle into your room.

#### Dinner 6:30pm

Tonight, we carb-load for the morning race. We'll be making reservations for a group dinner to fuel up for the run and celebrate our first night in Iceland.

# Saturday August 19, 20223 - Race Day/Reykjavik

\*Breakfast included at hotel. Lunch and dinner on your own.

It's race day! There are 10k, Half and Full race options as well as a 3k fun run. The event will be the 37TH REYKJAVIK MARATHON. You must register for your own race at <a href="https://www.rmi.is/en/">https://www.rmi.is/en/</a>

#### THE 2023 ISLANDSBANKI REYKJAVIK MARATHON: 8:40am

We'll meet in the hotel lobby to head out to the race together. Breakfast starts at 7am if you want to grab a bite before we run. We will plan to walk to the race. If you are not running but plan to come cheer, we'll be sure to coordinate where to be on the course to see and be seen!

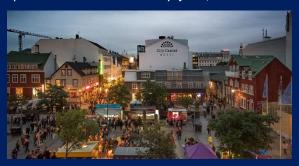


## **Post-Race Options:**

After cheering each other to the finish there will be plenty of time to rest, freshen up and check out all of Reykjavik as the rest of the day is free time. Options for the day include the Icelandic Cultural Festival (free), Northern Lights Tour (at your own expense), or choose to do your own thing.

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**Culture Night (citywide):** The event is both created and enjoyed by city residents and takes place all across central Reykjavik, with celebrations in the streets and squares, in museums, businesses



and residential gardens! The event's slogan 'come on in!' is a reference to good old-fashioned customs of Icelandic hospitality. Reykjavik Culture Night marks the start of the city's cultural year, when museums and theatres and other cultural institutions launch their annual program of events. The main objective of Reykjavik Culture Night is to deliver a diverse and rich offering of cultural events from 1-11pm, ending with a

magnificent firework show by the harbor. All events are free of charge for everyone to enjoy. Reykjavik Culture Night is organized and produced by the events team at Reykjavík Cultural Office, in collaboration with other city departments, organizations, artists, societies and countless others.

#### Northern Lights Tour (\$60 pre-booking required) 8:30pm - 11:30pm



You'll be picked up at the hotel and taken to the countryside outside of Reykjavik for the best possible viewing on a clear night, far from the lights of the city. Be sure to dress warmly and bring your camera. Though catching the Northern Lights on film can be tricky, your guides are happy to help you capture the moment. The Northern Lights are caused by particles from solar winds disturbing the Earth's magnetosphere. They are centered on the earth's magnetic poles, and so are generally visible only in

countries in the far north or south. Even some areas in Scandinavia, such as Denmark, do not often get to experience the wonderful glow of the Aurora.

# Sunday August 20, 2023 – Golden Circle/Blue Lagoon

\*Breakfast included at hotel. Lunch and dinner on your own.

After a couple of days exploring Reykjavik and with the race behind us, it is time to get out of the city and see what else Iceland has to offer. Today is a group travel day. We'll be leaving the hotel in the morning and will not return until evening.

**Tour Pick Up 8:30am** Breakfast starts at 7am. Our tour bus will pick us up at 8:30am to start the day. Today's tour takes us into Iceland's magnificent countryside for an 11-hour tour. On route, listen to intriguing facts about the country, learn about its history, geology, and culture from our guide.

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**Golden Circle Tour:** Head into UNESCO-listed Thingvellir National Park, one of Iceland's famous Golden Circle sights. Learn how it lies within a belt of volcanic activity, and is home to the mid-Atlantic ridge, where the tectonic plates of North America and Eurasia face each other over a valley. Walk between the plates as you hear how they are gradually moving further apart, and savor the experience of straddling the two continents. Stop at the Gulfoss Waterfall, taking in this beautiful 105-foot (32-meter) fall.





#### **Kerid Volcanic Crater and Strokkur Geyser:**

Take a detour from the Golden Circle to visit the Kerid (Kerið) crater, a 3,000-year-old crater filled with a lake. Peer into the 180-foot (55-meter) deep hollow before a visit the Geysir geothermal area, exploring the surreal-looking landscapes. View the bubbling ponds and steam vents, and see the Geysir and Strokkur geysers, the latter shooting water up to 98 feet.

#### **Traditional Dairy Farm and Ice Cream:**

We then make a stop Efstidalur farm owned by the same family since 1850. This Icelandic family-run business sticks to traditional Icelandic farming culture and focuses on cows and cattle breeding. We even get to enjoy their tasty farm-to-table dairy products and enjoy a post-race ice cream toast. Cheers!





**Blue Lagoon:** We end the day with an optional dip in the Blue Lagoon. Swim entry, which is at your own expense (approx. \$100), requires pre-booking. Details for booking will be provided at registration. Enjoy a long soak in the warm, therapeutic waters, lying back in the steam, enjoying a complimentary beverage and facial mask and admiring the lava fields as you bathe. Don't want to go in the water? Enjoy a bite in the café and wander around the lagoon to see the sights at no charge. Our day finishes with a hotel drop-off in Reykjavik.

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# Monday August 21, 2023 – Glacier Hike and South Coast Tour

\*Breakfast included at hotel. Lunch and dinner on your own.

Following a day of recovery from the race, sightseeing and relaxing in the Blue Lagoon, we'll make the most of our most popular and final day, getting up close and personal with the scenery and getting active in Iceland. Today is a group travel day. We'll be leaving the hotel in the morning and will not return until evening.

**Tour Pick Up 8:30am** Breakfast starts at 7am. The tour bus will be picking us up at 8:30am to start a 12 hour expedition to the South Coast with a hike on Sólheimajökull glacier and plenty of stops along the way. We will return to the hotel to pack approximately 9pm.

**Glacier Hike on Sólheimajökull glacier:** The day begins with an adventure at Sólheimajökull glacier which is part of the 4th biggest glacier in Iceland, Mýrdalsjökull. Helmets, harnesses, crampons and ice axes are provided before hiking on the ice for 1 to 1.5 hours with a Glacier Guide. A spectacular way learn more about this breathtaking and increasingly rare natural phenomenon.





## Seljalandsfoss

**Waterfall:** More exploration follows after our hike at Seljalandsfoss waterfall which you can walk behind and get a unique point of view while feeling the vibrations of the water hitting the ground. Right next to Seljalandsfoss is his little brother Gljúfrabúi, a smaller waterfall hidden in a narrow gorge which is accessible only by balancing on small stones in the river.

**Skógafoss waterfall:** From the 60 meter high cliffs of East Eyjafjöll mountains, the waterfall pours down making, arguably, the most photogenic waterfall in the country. Over the years, the water has carved itself into the mountain, tucking the beautiful waterfall into a small gorge. Along side the waterfall lies a staircase up to the cliff with views looking down into the gorge and onto the waterfall. The 527 steps up to the top provide a fantastic warm-up for the glacier hike!



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**Reynisfjara, the Black Sand Beach:** Finally, we visit the black sand beach of Reynisfjara where the Atlantic coastline presents massive waves hitting the unique basalt columns in the cliffs above the sand. Rock pillars in the water and the cliffs of Dýrhólaey are seen in the distance. This area of the south is also a paradise for bird lovers, as puffins and dozens of other unique species nest on top of these cliffs in the summertime from June to August.

# Tuesday August 22, 2023 – Leisure Day/Reykjavik

\*Breakfast included at hotel. Lunch on your own, group dinner provided.

It is nearly time to wrap up our time in Reykjavik, but before we do we'll take one more day to spend time in and around the city, do some last minute site seeing and enjoy the local fare one more time. This will generally be a free day with one available optional tour for those who wish to get on the water and see the local sea life.

Breakfast is at 7am so you can get an early start if you like. Enjoy a shake out run along the coast, or sleep in, but the day is yours to enjoy!

### Optional Whale Watching (\$95 pre-booking required) 1:30pm - 5pm

Watch for minke whales, dolphins and humpbacks on a 3-hour whale watching cruise from Reykjavik and take in views of the coast from an open viewing platform or an enclosed cabin. Get the ultimate whale watching experience during the peak season from April through October, when over 20 kinds of whale flock to the North Atlantic. Cruise the harbor in comfort and style, enjoy access to an indoor saloon stocked with snacks and drinks, and spot Iceland's diverse aquatic species with help from the experienced crew.



#### Dinner 6:30pm

Tonight, we come together one final time to toast the trip of a lifetime, share our favorite stories from the trip and say goodbye to our host city. Dinner is included in your travel package. Following dinner together you are free to continue to explore the city. There are plenty of nightlife spots to continue to celebrate the final night of our adventure but be sure to pack early and get some rest for an early morning departure tomorrow.

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## Wednesday August 23, 2023 - Departure from KEF

After a fun filled few days, it is time to return home. If you are joining the group transportation to the airport for an morning flight you will need to be ready for airport transfer by approximately 5:30am.

## **Transfer to Airport From Hotel**

Airport Bus Transfer Included in tour price. Private Group Transportation will be provided to those with morning flights. Alternative airport transportation can be arranged at booking.

#### Travel

Airline Travel is booked separately by traveler and is not included in your tour and accommodation pricing. Please plan to book air travel promptly following registration.

Current Preferred Flight Schedules:

Delta Airlines –
Depart KEF 9:30am/Arrive CVG 3:37pm
Depart KEF 11:15am/Arrive CVG 5:18pm

United Airlines -

Depart KEF 10:00am/Arrive CVG 3:47pm

\*\*If booking flight options from an alternative origination airport, the times listed for CVG flights can be used as a guideline for planning.

## **Pricing:**

\*All prices are subject to change due to availability and exchange rates until time of final booking

**5 Day/5 Night - Land/Tour Package for Double Occupancy** \$1,524

**5 Day/5 Night - Land/Tour Package Single Occupancy** \$2,174

Registration Opens March 1, 2023
Space is limited
Initial Deposit - \$750.00
Final Payments Due July 1, 2023
Cancelations are subject to booking fees
Deposits Non-Refundable after June 30, 2023



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