Abercrombie & Kent



ICELAND & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

This winter journey takes you to one of the most visually breathtaking countries in Europe to see the Northern Lights.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries

Europe, Iceland

7 days from AU$16,610 pp

Private

Journey Overview

This winter journey takes you to one of the most visually breathtaking countries in Europe in search of the Northern Lights. Best seen during the winter months, when the temperatures are low and the night sky is clear and black, the Aurora Borealis lights up the sky in varying shades of green, pink and blue. Seek out Iceland’s geothermal landscapes by day, discovering dramatic waterfalls, lava tubes, geysers, fjords and hot springs, and by night venture out to witness the sky’s mysterious, otherworldly glow.

Journey Highlights

- Seek out the Northern Lights in the Icelandic night sky
- Descend into a lava tube to discover the volcanic underworld
- Get up close to the thundering waterfalls and shooting geysers of the Golden Circle
- Walk along a black sand beach on the North Atlantic South Shore
- Bathe in the mineral-rich geothermal waters of the Blue Lagoon

When is the best time to see the Northern Lights

The Northern Lights season extends from the tail end of summer in September through to the end of winter in April. The best time to see them, however, is in the middle of winter when the weather is the coldest and the nights are pitch black. Crisp, cold evenings with clear starry skies are a prime indicator for auroral activity; however, sightings are never guaranteed.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Reykjavik

Arrive into the Icelandic capital where you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Hotel Borg

Day 2: Reykjavik – Borgarfjörður

From Reykjavik, travel north with your private driver and guide to the fertile valley of Borgarfjörður, where some of the greatest Icelandic sagas were set. Your guide will bring Viking history to life with insightful storytelling at various historical sites, before revealing Borgarfjörður's geothermal landscapes. Visit Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring, and see Barnafoss and Hraunfossar waterfalls where bright turquoise water cascades over ancient lava fields. Explore the stunning beauty of Vidgelmir lava cave with its unique geology, remarkable colours and underworld rock formations.

Hotel Borg | Meals: BL

Day 3: Reykjavik – Thingvellir National Park – Selfoss

Compact and stylish, Reykjavik is best seen on foot. Set out for a private walking tour with visits to the 19th century Parliament House, Reykjavik Cathedral, the impressive steel and glass framed Harpa concert hall, and the whimsical Hallgrímskirkja church which towers over the city. After a local lunch, venture into Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and an area of incredible scenery and geological formations. Home to the world's very first parliament, the park is also the only place on the planet where you can stand between two tectonic continental plates. Finish in Selfoss on the banks of the Ölfusá river.

Torfhus Retreat is an incredible location for observing the Northern Lights, due to its isolated location and zero light pollution. If you are fortunate this evening, venture out to see the celestial lights dance across the sky.

Torfhus Retreat | Meals: BL

Day 4: South Shore

Spend the day exploring the South Shore, with its waterfalls, glaciers, and famous black sand beaches. The coastal region is home to the biggest glacier in Europe and is a gateway to some of the most striking hiking areas in Iceland. Set your eyes on the 60-metre-high Seljalandsfoss waterfall, which flows down from the famous Eyjafjallajökull glacier. Continue to the extraordinary basalt sea stacks at Reynisdrangar and walk along the black sand beach on the North Atlantic. Finish the day at Skógafoss waterfall, considered one of Iceland's most majestic. Cross your fingers tonight for another inky black, starry night sky.

Torfhus Retreat | Meals: BL

Day 5: Gullfoss Waterfall & Geysir – Blue Lagoon

Explore Gullfoss waterfall and the Geysir area on the famous Golden Circle route. Start with the Geysir area, home to several hot spouting geysers. The most famous is Great Geysir, but the most energetic is Strokkur, which spouts every few minutes to a height of 40 metres. Continue to Gullfoss waterfall, Iceland's most famous, which plummets 32-metres down to a canyon below. The water in Gullfoss comes from the second biggest glacier in Iceland, Langjökull. End the day at the mineral-rich geothermal Blue Lagoon, whose waters are said to have unique healing qualities. Take a relaxing and rejuvenating dip in the warm milky-blue waters, enjoying the private lagoon and access to the spa.

If you're lucky enough to get a Northern Lights wakeup call, step out onto your private balcony to see the spectacle, or head up to the terrace for magnificent views across the lava fields.

The Retreat Hotel | Meals: BL

Day 6: Hella Blue Lagoon – Reykjanes Peninsula

Travel to Reykjanesskagi, a small headland in the country's far southwest. A region of intense geothermal activity, the dramatic, rugged landscape here features volcanic craters, caves, lava fields and hot springs. Highlights include Kleifarvatn Lake, the colourful sulphuric deposits of the Seltún geothermal area, the Krýsuvíkurbjarg cliffs and their abundant birdlife. At the end of an adventurous day, return to bathe in the restorative waters of the Blue Lagoon. With your evening at leisure, don't forget to cover up and venture out for one last opportunity to admire the Northern Lights.

The Retreat Hotel | Meals: BL

Day 7: Depart Reykjavik

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Meals: B

Map


ICELAND
Borgarfjörður
Thingvellir N.P.
Gullfoss Falls & Geysir
Reykjavik
Blue Lagoon
Selfoss
South Shore
ARRIVE/DEPART
ROAD
ATLANTIC OCEAN

Accommodation

Hotel Borg, Reykjavik



Hotel Borg is a 4* boutique hotel in the heart of Reykjavík. It overlooks the central square of Austurvollur, with a variety of cafes, restaurants and shops all on the doorstep. The Borg is a landmark in Reykjavik, built in 1930 and restored to its original Art Deco style, the hotel is a showcase of sophistication. Period black and white custom-made furniture and fittings are coupled with modern amenities including flat-screen satellite TV, complimentary wi-fi and Phillipe Starck bathrooms with heated marble floors.

The Borg Restaurant is a stunning mix of vintage and modern with hand-crafted cocktails and outstanding cuisine.

Why we like it

- Art Deco landmark in the heart of the city.
- 99 rooms and suites combine old-world elegance with modern design touches
- The Borg restaurant provides delicious Nordic cuisine and has established itself as one of the best in the city
- Superb service

Torfhús Retreat, Iceland



Inspired by an Icelandic Viking farm at Stöng, Torfhús Retreat represents the classic Icelandic torfhouse style, made of stones, turf and wood. A 'retreat' is the mot juste. Sequestered in the heart of Iceland's magnificent Golden Circle, Torfhús Retreat is a rugged, yet comfortable blend of Icelandic style and relaxed eco-luxury.

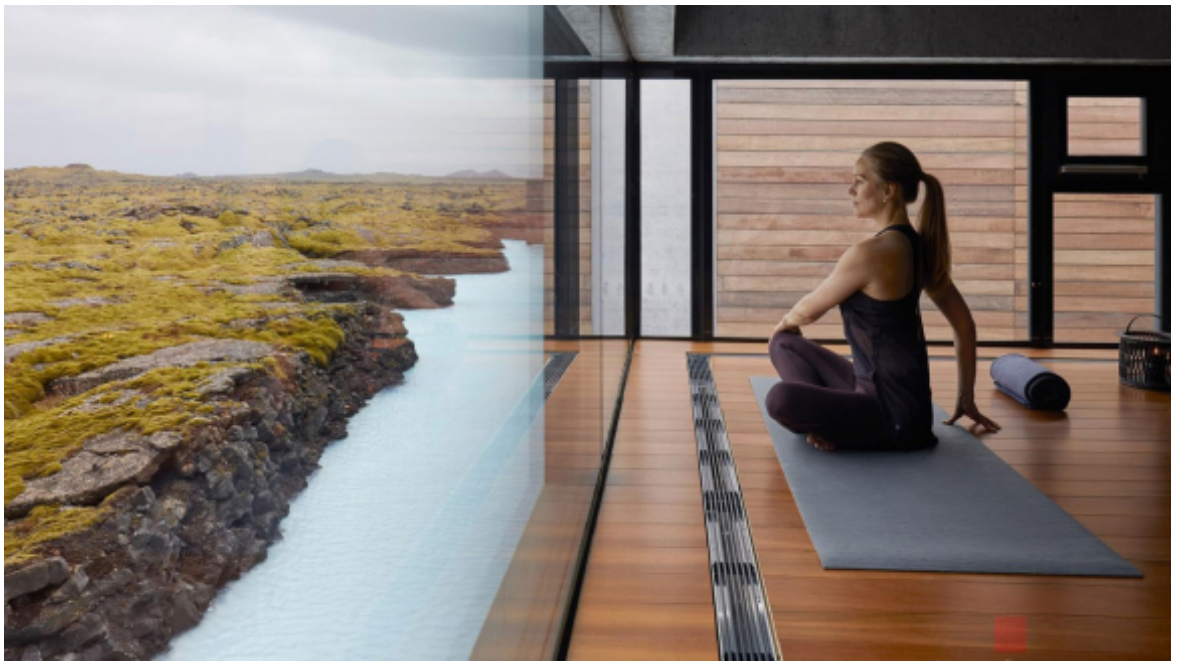
Arranged in a row of three suites, each Torfbær Suite offers a luxury bedroom, bathroom and comfortable living area. Reclaimed oak, rustic painted walls and hand-crafted furniture create a warm and cosy chalet-style interior. There’s even a geothermically heated basalt stone hot pool sunken into the ground, shared between the three suites, to truly warm the heart and bring back the traditional rejuvenating tradition.

Staying in such a historic hallmark as a Torfbær Suite is a unique experience, immersing yourself in history overlaid with all the modern comforts you could need. The retreat houses a snug restaurant where you can order a hearty soup of the day or tuck in to a typical Icelandic dinner. An on-site deli corner offers a range of light bites and drinks.

Why we like it

- A unique experience in a traditional Icelandic torfhouse, but with all the mod cons
- Rustic furniture with living turf roofs
- Based in the heart of the Golden Circle
- Innovative gastronomy – think Nobu-meets-Noma
- Completely sustainable energy system
- Our top tip: unwind after a long day with a relaxing soak in the basalt stone pool

The Retreat at the Blue Lagoon, Iceland



The Retreat at the Blue Lagoon has been built into an 800-year-old lava flow in the heart of an astonishing volcanic frontier. Surrounded by the mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon, this is a place to relax, rejuvenate and explore. There’s nowhere quite like it.

This is a chance to enjoy a dining concept based on the reinvention of Iceland’s culinary heritage, with emphasis on locally sourced ingredients. The elegant guest suites are set into the lava and surrounded by the revitalising waters of the Blue Lagoon. The spa has been carved into the volcanic earth, yielding harmony with nature as you drift through a realm of unique and inspiring design.

Complimentary silica and algae masks are also provided to leave you feeling fresh and pampered.

Located in the heart of the Reykjanes UNESCO Geopark, sitting astride the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, The Retreat provides unforgettable expeditions into a landscape that’s alive with extraordinary volcanic phenomena.

Why we like it

- An all-suite retreat with modern creature comforts
- Suites have all been stylishly designed
- Floor to ceiling windows display incredible views
- Geothermal treatments at a spa carved into 800-year-old volcanic rock

Abercrombie & Kent

Call Us Now on 1300 851 924 within Australia

Melbourne Office:

T: +61 (0)3 9536 1800
F: +61 (0) 3 9536 1805
E: contact@abercrombiekent.com.au

Address

Level 26 (North Tower)
80 Collins St
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

International:

New Zealand Call: 0800 441 638
Asia Call: 800 4747 7700