

# Laugavegur & Fimmvorduhals Trail Trek

Trip Code: ILF

Version:



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



MODERATE



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the wild beauty of the Icelandic highlands
- Trek through the rich green valleys to Thorsmork
- See the colourful mountains of Landmannalaugar
- See the new craters from the 2010 eruption at Fimmvorduhals
- Sleep in cosy mountain huts and enjoy delicious Icelandic food

## AT A GLANCE

- 6 days trekking
- Max altitude - 1060 metres
- Join at Reykjavik

## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

# Introduction

This legendary journey combines two of Iceland's most famous trails: Laugavegur and the Fimmvorduhals Pass. From the city of Reykjavik to the volcanoes, glaciers, and lava formations of the interior, Iceland is a country of great contrasts. This wild and wonderful walking holiday takes us across some of the most spectacular volcanic landscapes in Iceland. The Laugavegur Trail weaves its way through the dramatic Fjallabak region, one of the most remarkable places in the world for a walking holiday. Fimmvorduhals is a fantastic extra day trek where you experience a large diversity of landscapes over the course of the day, featuring dozens of waterfalls, two glaciers, and a volcano.

We pass by Hekla, Iceland's famously active volcano, and then reach the start of our trek at Landmannalaugar. From here, our first afternoon of walking takes us south into the mountains, through rocky gorges and past steaming hot springs to the ancient lava flows of Hrafninnusker, where we spend our first night in a cosy mountain hut. Our route continues via Lake Alftavatn (Swan Lake) and across the extraordinary black sands of Maelifellssandur, below the Myrdalsjokull icecap. We traverse the former summer grazing area at Emstrur and visit the magnificent Markarfljot canyon en route to the picturesque glaciated valley and birch woodland of Thorsmork, the Valley of Thor.

The second part of our trek to Fimmvorduhals begins here. We will get a view of the lava stream that flowed down from the Fimmvorduhals volcano in March and April 2010, and the two craters, Magni and Modi, that erupted prior to Eyjafjallajokull. After hiking across the fascinating terrain of Fimmvorduhals and back to Thorsmork, we enjoy a celebratory barbecue.

We also offer the 5 day [Classic Laugavegur Trail Trek](#)

## Is this holiday for you?

This adventure takes you into the Icelandic wilderness, where the landscape evolves dramatically each day. You'll experience a variety of terrains, from good paths to rocky scree, and encounter expanses of black volcanic sand, verdant valleys, and windswept ridges. Early season treks may involve substantial snow patches. This holiday includes river crossings on most days, and the weather can be unpredictable. On Days 1 and 2, we will hike for around 4 to 5 hours, while Days 3, 4, and 5 will involve walking for 6 to 7 hours. There will be an opportunity for further exploration on the morning of Day 6. The route is undulating rather than steep, with most days involving only small ascents and descents, except for Day 5, which has a 900-metre ascent. This trek is ideal for regular hillwalkers seeking a distinctive experience. Your baggage will be transported by a support vehicle, so you only need to carry a light daypack.

# Itinerary

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Version:

## Holiday Information

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### What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- Vehicle support throughout the trip

### What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Accommodation in Reykjavik
- Airport transfers between Keflavik Airport and Reykjavik
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

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### TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

The holiday starts at the BSI Bus Terminal at 06:30 on the morning of Day 1. After a quick briefing from the Tour Leader, you will catch the 07:00 public bus to Landmannalaugar.

You will need to book your own accommodation in Reykjavik. Transfers between Keflavik Airport and Reykjavik are also not included.

Contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

### Meal Plan

5 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners are included in the holiday price.

### Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as [Water-to-Go](#), which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

All food is purchased in Reykjavik, with the emphasis on fresh produce and easily-prepared meals. The tour leader will prepare the group's evening meals and they will appreciate the help of group members in the kitchen - preparing vegetables, serving the food and washing up, for example. Local specialities predominate; including excellent sea-fish and Icelandic lamb, as well as the chance of fresh Arctic char. Breakfasts will consist of porridge, muesli, bread, jam, cheese, ham, plus tea and coffee. At breakfast, snack items and sandwich materials will be made available so that group members can make up their own packed lunches.

It is not possible to cater for vegetarian/vegan diets as standard on this tour. A special diet can be ordered for a supplementary cost of £60 (2024). The supplement will ensure that you will be supplied with balanced meals that meet the requirements of your diet. If you require another specialised diet, for example gluten free/lactose intolerant please contact the office to discuss your requirements.

## Special Diets

It is not possible to cater for vegetarian/vegan diets as standard on this tour. A special diet can be ordered for a supplementary cost of £60 (2024). The supplement will ensure that you will be supplied with balanced meals that meet the requirements of your diet. If you require another specialised diet, for example gluten free/lactose intolerant please contact the office to discuss your requirements.

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

## Accommodation

We stay for 5 nights in cosy Icelandic mountain huts with dormitory-style accommodation and shared facilities. Sleeping bags are required in the huts. Showers are available at some of the huts, but there is a fee to use them. The huts generally do not have electricity and we recommend bringing a power bank to charge your electrical devices.

Some of the accommodation in the mountain huts features the traditional Alpine sleeping arrangement known as Matratzenlager. This involves multiple mattresses placed closely together in a communal setting. Commonly used in German and Austrian mountain huts, this arrangement optimises space while fostering a warm, cosy atmosphere. The close layout is particularly beneficial in cooler mountain environments, helping to retain heat. It's a tried and tested setup that adds to the authentic experience, encouraging camaraderie and a shared appreciation for the stunning surroundings. Many find it a unique and memorable aspect of staying in the mountains.

## Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader. There will also be a support vehicle and driver.

## Spending Money

Approximately £150 - £200 (in local currency) should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses, including meals in Reykjavik. You can withdraw cash from ATMs in most towns in Iceland using a credit or debit card. If you wish to bring your travel money in cash this can be changed into Icelandic Krona at the airport. Meals whilst on the trek are included, so you will only need to pay directly for meals other than breakfast while staying in Reykjavik. In Reykjavik, there is a wide range of dining options and you can expect to pay from around 2500ISK for lunch and 4000ISK for an evening meal in a restaurant in Reykjavik.

## **Guidance on Tipping**

Tipping is the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to your leader and local team. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We recommend that you decide levels of tipping and give any tips as a group rather than from individual group members.

## **Baggage Allowance**

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage, which should be a soft duffle bag, and a daypack. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

## **Group Size & Holiday Status**

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

# General Information

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## Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

## Visa Iceland

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays.

## Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

## Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

## GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

## Currency

The unit of currency in Iceland is the Icelandic Krona.

## Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

You should be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking 3 to 6 hours for consecutive days. Hill walking, with a good amount of ascent and descent, is the best training. Running, cycling and swimming are also good for developing cardiovascular fitness and stamina.

## Climate

Despite its location on the edge of the Arctic Circle, Iceland is not the cold country we sometimes imagine. The island benefits from the influence of the Gulf Stream, which bathes its south, west and north-west coasts, giving the country a temperate oceanic climate (relatively mild winters and relatively cool summers). In Reykjavík, average temperatures are between 0 ° C in January and 12 ° C in July. In winter, they are slightly lower in the northeast and in the east, due to the Greenland polar current. In fact, only the interior of the land experiences really low temperatures, which can drop below -15 ° C. The rains are more abundant in the south than in the north. As for the winds, they are very frequent and sometimes strong. The only thing certain about Icelandic weather is that it is extremely changeable, so you should be prepared for four seasons in one day, though generally it is warm and sunny in summer.

December, January and the first half of February have little daylight (from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. approximately), but, on the other hand, from May to mid-August it is permanent. June has beautiful light and long days.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travelaware.campaign.gov.uk](http://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Maps

### **Mal og Menning. Fjallabak. Hekla - Laki. 1:100,000 scale.**

The Icelandic maps published by Mal og Menning are good. The above map covers the area of the trek in detail. There are also general maps at a smaller scale, such as Island (covers the whole island) at a scale of 1:600,000.



## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

## Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through one of our international partners. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

# Equipment Information

## Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

### You **SHOULD** bring the following items:

- Sturdy and waterproof hiking boots
- Gaiters
- Sandals or similar (for river crossings)
- Socks and underwear
- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Baselayer shirts (1 short sleeve, 1 long sleeve)
- Midlayer fleece

- Fleece jacket or jumper
- Casual shirt or T-shirt (for Reykjavik evenings)
- Warm jacket (down or synthetic)
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm hat
- Light thermal gloves
- Waterproof overgloves or mittens
- Sunglasses
- Sleeping bag (comfort rated 0°C)\*
- Drybags (to keep items in your luggage dry)
- Daypack 30 litres
- Sun protection (including for lips)
- Water bottles x 2 (1 Litre) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Swimwear (for hot springs)
- Small trek towel
- Antibacterial handwash
- Basic First Aid Kit. Including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium),

painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, Insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

### The following items are optional:

- Sleeping bag liner
- Trainers
- Trekking poles
- Shorts
- Spare laces
- Headtorch
- Eye mask - to assist sleeping in the near 24-hour daylight
- Travel clothes
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Pen-knife (remember to put all sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

### Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

## Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method that best suits you. The holiday starts at the BSI Bus Stop in Reykjavik. Keflavik Airport is the most convenient airport. Transfers and accommodation in Reykjavik are not provided.

# Why Choose KE

## Why KE

Walk two of Iceland's best treks, the renowned Laugavegur route (named as one of the 20 best treks in the world by National Geographic), followed by the fabulous Fimmvorduhals Pass day trek. You'll be accompanied by an experienced guide, with vehicle support and mountain hut accommodation.

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 21/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change