

SPECIAL PROMOTION

WINTER FUN AND NORTHERN LIGHTS

OFF-SEASON ADVENTURES AND HUNTING THE AURORA BOREALIS

WINTER FUN AND NORTHERN LIGHTS

COMPILED BY ALÉX ELLIOTT AND JENNA GOTTLIEB.



ADVENTURE TOURS

Mountaineers of Iceland, which has been in business for 20 years, operates 365 days a year and is ready to make your Iceland adventure dreams come true.

Iceland isn't merely a summer destination. In winter, travelers are treated to breathtaking northern lights and spectacular adventure tours against the backdrop of towering mountains and vast glaciers.

Mountaineers of Iceland, a Reykjavík-based company, offers an array of day and half-day tours throughout the year that take advantage of Iceland's unique nature. The experienced and friendly staff pick you up at your Reykjavík hotel and head out on a super-truck for an unforgettable trip.

WINTER TOURS

One of the most popular winter tours is the Pearl Tour – Golden Circle Super Jeep Tour and Snowmobiling. Guests get to experience some of Iceland's most dramatic sites like the thundering Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir geothermal area, and Þingvellir National Park. The Pearl Tour continues with snowmobiling on Langjökull, Iceland's second-largest glacier, where you get up close and personal with the 'ice' in 'Iceland.'

NORTHERN LIGHTS

The company also offers a northern lights hunt where a super-jeep will drive you to a low-light area—and the search for the dancing aurora borealis begins! Another tour called On Top of the World takes you snowmobiling on Langjökull on a winter evening for a chance to see the northern lights, with just peaks and ice surrounding you. It's recommended you bring good outdoor clothing, waterproof shoes, a pair of gloves and a camera.

mountaineers.is



WINTER ADVENTURE TOURS

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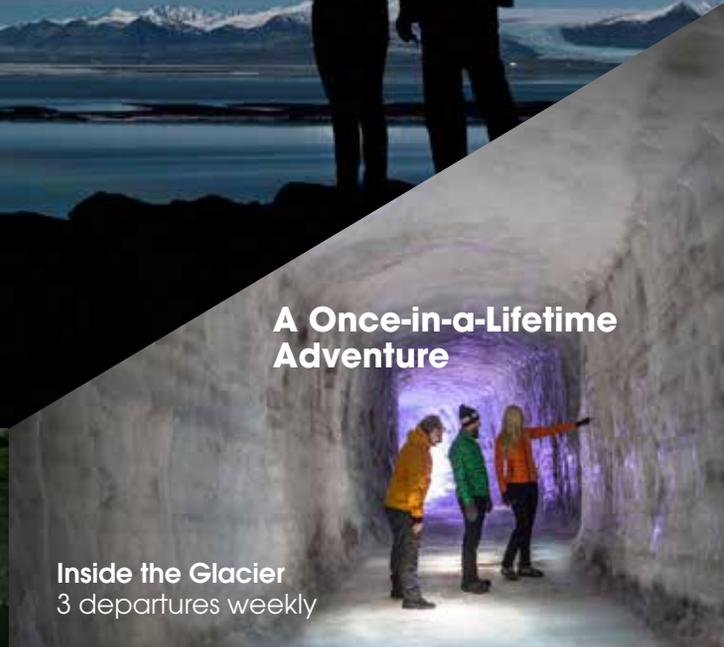
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The northern lights—otherwise known as the aurora borealis—are among the most popular winter tourist attractions in Iceland; even though spotting them is not always guaranteed. Nature's like that sometimes.

FICKLE FRIENDS

What people don't realize, however, is that the lights are nearly always up there, waiting to be seen by you. All you have to do is find somewhere dark enough, and without cloud cover. That's where Reykjavík Excursions' professional guides come in, because they know the best places to go. They study weather maps. They know where the microclimates are, and they know which mountains are likely to create a break in the clouds.

Reykjavík Excursions offers visitors several different tours to get out into the countryside and witness first-hand what happens when the Earth's upper atmosphere protects us from the deadly solar winds.

GETTING SERIOUS

The Northern Lights Tour is the best option for serious aurora spotters, as your guide will go to any lengths to get you and your camera in the right spot at the right time. This roughly-three-hour tour takes place nightly from September to April (weather permitting) and has no set destination: you just go where the lights are.

Visitors unlucky enough not to see any northern lights are even invited to take the tour again, free of charge.

CHILLAX

For those who want guaranteed stimulation, why not combine your aurora search with a memorable outdoor dip in the luxurious Fontana Wellness geothermal spa? This seven-hour evening tour runs daily from September to April and includes admission to the exquisite Fontana Wellness spa in Laugarvath village, a satisfying local-style buffet dinner, and an extensive search for the northern lights in dark, rural South Iceland on your meandering way back to Reykjavík. This one's a tour for all the senses!

HORSING AROUND

If you're looking for even more dazzling spectacle in your evening out, then you could do much worse than trying Reykjavík Excursions' Horse Theatre & Northern Lights Tour.

The five-hour tour departs nightly from mid-September to mid-April and takes you to the exciting Icelandic Horse Park Fákasel near Hveragerði, where you will experience the famous horse theater, in which horses and humans mix legend and folklore with modern technology, lights and music to create an unforgettable show.

After filling you up with delicious traditional Icelandic meat soup, your route back to the city will (with any luck) include at least one stop to witness the northern lights. The perfect end to a memorable and fun evening for the whole family!

re.is

SEE THE LIGHT

Reykjavík Excursions offers an exciting variety of different tours to glimpse Iceland's famous northern lights this autumn and winter.



WHAT A NIGHT

BY PÁLL STEFÁNSSON

Driving through the night with journalist Zoë Robert, east to Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon to witness the rare solar eclipse on March 20 for the April-May issue of this magazine, we received a great unexpected bonus.

On the 150-km (90-mile) part of the Ring Road from the Eyjafjöll mountains to Skeiðarársandur sand plains that night, I saw the greatest aurora borealis I have ever witnessed in Iceland.

There we were, in the shadow of the massive Lómagnúpur mountain, and the sky had turned completely green for a brief moment, at 2:51 in the morning. *



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