

# The Ring Road: 7 Days of Icelandic Wonders

*A Complete Journey Through the Land of Fire & Ice*

The Ring Road (Route 1) is the ultimate Icelandic adventure. In 7 days, you will witness the transition from the lush South Coast to the dramatic East Fjords, the volcanic North, and the historical West.

Local Rule #1: Start your drive by 08:00 AM every day. Some stretches (especially in the East and North) are long, and you want to arrive at your hotel before dark.

Local Rule #2: Book your accommodation 4-6 months in advance. The Ring Road is popular, and the best spots fill up fast.

## **Day 1: The South Coast Icons**

Route: Reykjavík – Seljalandsfoss – Skógafoss – Vík

Highlight: Walking behind Seljalandsfoss and seeing the black sands of Reynisfjara.

Stay: Vík í Mýrdal.

## **Day 2: Glaciers & Diamond Beaches**

Route: Vík – Fjaðrárgljúfur – Skaftafell – Jökulsárlón

Highlight: Floating icebergs at Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon and the crystal ice on Diamond Beach.

Stay: Near Höfn (The Lobster Capital).

## **Day 3: The Dramatic East Fjords**

Route: Höfn – Djúpivogur – Petra's Stone Collection – Egilsstaðir

Highlight: Winding coastal roads with towering mountains. Stop at Djúpivogur for a quiet harbor vibe and see the colorful stones at Petra's.

Stay: Egilsstaðir (The hub of the East).

#### **Day 4: Into the Volcanic North**

Route: Egilsstaðir – Stuðlagil Canyon – Dettifoss – Lake Mývatn

Highlight: The basalt columns of Stuðlagil and Europe's most powerful waterfall, Dettifoss. End the day at Mývatn Nature Baths.

Stay: Lake Mývatn area.

#### **Day 5: Whale Watching & The Fjord Capital**

Route: Mývatn – Goðafoss – Húsavík – Akureyri

Highlight: Whale watching in Húsavík followed by the "Waterfall of the Gods," Goðafoss.

Stay: Akureyri.

#### **Day 6: Northwest Canyons & Seals**

Route: Akureyri – Kolugljúfur – Hvítserkur – Borgarnes

Highlight: The hidden Kolugljúfur Canyon and the "Dragon Rock" Hvítserkur on the shore.

Stay: Borgarnes or West Iceland.

#### **Day 7: The Silver Springs & Return**

Route: Borgarnes – Hraunfossar – Deildartunguhver – Reykjavík

Highlight: The turquoise Hraunfossar lava waterfalls and a final soak at Krauma before returning to the capital.

Arrival: Back in Reykjavík.

#### **Local Secrets for the Ring Road**

*Tunnel Tolls: You will pass the Vaðlaheiðargöng tunnel near Akureyri. Pay at tunnel.is within 24 hours.*

*The East Fjord Shortcut: If the weather is good, take Route 95 (Öxi) to save time, but only if you have a 4x4 and aren't afraid of steep gravel roads.*

*Food Tip: Try the Langoustine (lobster) soup in Höfn and the soft-serve ice cream in Akureyri.*