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EF Ultimate Break - Iceland Winter Escape - Your Tour Director says Hi + Important preparation for tour information

1 message

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Halló everyone!

Congratulations on booking this unique tour!

ABOUT ME

My name is Joana, I am from Portuguese and I currently live in the beautiful city of Porto in the north of Portugal 🇵🇹

I have two big passions: 1st traveling; I have travelled to many places either for leisure, studies or work. I love travelling so so much, we already have that in common; 2nd DIYs, assemble furniture, flip it, painting, anything that require working with my hands 😊 Alright, one more passion: Food! I am definitely a foodie, always looking for the best bites 🍴

LONG EMAIL ALERT! So, make yourself a nice cup of tea/coffee/juice and take your time to read it carefully. I hope it will answer many of your questions 😊

1. To start with please check the below form and send your response so that we're good to go with some basic info.
[HERE](#)
2. ****PLEASE MAKE SURE TO READ THE GETTING READY SECTION FOR THE TOUR, YOU CAN FIND IT IN THE APP UNDER THE RELEVANT SECTION****, It's full of essential information for our trip.
3. **City Guide for Reykjavik**. This city guide has been carefully curated by me and my colleagues so that you have the best places to visit while in Reykjavik and plan your free time!!!!

Packing & weather tips:

Now one big question is what to bring on this tour and how to pack. I can't tell you what to bring but here are some important facts to know that may help you.

My suggestion for this tour is for you to bring one **carry-on piece of luggage** and a **small backpack** that you can use for our day excursions that you can store above our seats.

March is when spring starts in Iceland, but don't let that fool you, is still quite cold. You can expect **temperatures between 32°F –to 27°F (0°C to -4°C)**. **Snow and ice are to be expected, rain is pretty common**, especially near the coast. Don't be surprised by **strong winds** either—they can make it feel even colder.

Some additional things to bear in mind:

Essential Packing List for Iceland in March. The following are always suggestions/recommendations and of course you're not obliged to follow them:

Clothing

- Base Layers: Merino wool or synthetic thermal underwear
- Mid Layers: Fleece jacket or insulated sweater
- Outer Layers: Waterproof and windproof parka/jacket
- Windproof Pants: Water-resistant outdoor pants
- Insulated Winter Boots: Waterproof with good traction
- Thermal Socks: Woolen thermal socks

Accessories

- Gloves: Waterproof and insulated gloves
- Hats: Woolen or synthetic hats
- Balaclava/Face Mask: Thermal protection for the face
- Neck Gaiter or Scarf: For extra warmth
- Crampons

Gear

- Rain Pants: Waterproof overpants
- Swimwear: For geothermal pools. We will be going to the Blue Lagoon, so please make sure you pack your swimsuits for this day!
- Camera Gear: Waterproof covers, extra batteries
- Travel Bag: Waterproof backpack with rain cover
- Portable Charger & Power Banks: To keep your devices powered
- Hand Warmers: For added comfort during outdoor activities
- Moisturizers and Lip Balm: To protect your skin from dryness

Additional Tips

- Battery Management: Cold weather can drain batteries faster, so carry portable chargers and power banks.
- Protect Your Gear: Use waterproof covers for backpacks and camera equipment.
- Stay Energized: Pack energy-dense snacks to keep your energy up during outdoor adventures.
- Skin Care: The cold, dry air can affect your skin, so regularly apply moisturizing products to stay hydrated.

LUGGAGE (SOS):

If you are travel with a checked in bag an extra tip, is that you put your essential items in a carry-on or backpack (change of clothes, medication etc) in case that happens.

ROOMING/HOTELS:

If you have already told EF with whom you wish to be in the room, I already know about it (if you are traveling with a friend) and I will do my best to allocate the rooms so that you can be with your friends! Make sure you answer the form with your travel buddy's name.

TRANSPORTATION ON TOUR:

It would be an excellent idea to **download Google maps** so that you can easily explore the city on your own when you have free time. We will always have a private coach taking us to all the things we will be doing as a group and back to the hotel, however you will also have free time to walk around and explore on your own 😊

*****Uber in Iceland doesn't exist!!! Taxis are quite expensive but if you want to use them, I would recommend downloading the following app: HREYFILL TAXI APP**

PRIVATE COACH TRANSPORTATION:

On this Tour we will have a lot of transfers with a private coach, so make sure you bring books, music and activities to do during the bus rides. You can also choose to sleep and regain strength 😊

Make sure you pack a set of clothes to have on the bus at all times, just in case you get wet during the day.

WhatsApp :

Please download this application (if you do not use it already).

WhatsApp is a free to download messenger app for smartphones. WhatsApp uses the internet to send messages, images, audio or video. **I will create a WHATSAPP group, so we can all communicate for free (when on WIFI).** More information on the group later 😊

CURRENCY/MONEY:

Iceland: Icelandic króna (ISK) - (kr)

In Iceland you can pay everything with your debit/credit card. Make sure you **inform your bank you will be travelling abroad** so they don't cancel it while on tour. You can **also withdrawal Icelandic krónas at any ATM once in Iceland.** I do not recommend bringing dollars to exchange for krónas, you will lose a lot of money doing that.

INTERNATIONAL DATA PLAN:

Please make sure before you leave the USA, to have an international data plan so that you can communicate with me and the group throughout the whole trip! This is super important, especially because you will be in locations you don't know! Also, to use google maps and to be able to navigate. **There are also plenty of e-sims my favourite is saily, it's cheap and efficient.**

TIPPING:

You are welcome to tip for good service when visiting Iceland. Restaurants typically include service charges in the bill. Tipping is much appreciated. 10% in restaurant is a good tip.

Please note that it's custom to tip the Tour Director at the end of the tour at the farewell dinner or during departures. The suggested amount is 10-12\$ per day in dollars.

BRING A LUGGAGE LOCK:

We might need to leave the luggage for some time in the reception area, plus is always safer to keep your luggage locked when you aren't in the room. The hotels we will stay are safe but please always lock your luggage when you aren't around.

PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT

It is always helpful to have a photocopy of our passport (along with the original) when we travel. Passports are the most important documents throughout all our trips so please be very cautious and always keep them at a safe spot!! It would be useful to leave a copy of your passport for your family to have also.

ADAPTERS & POWER BANKS

It is useful to know that in Europe you will need adapters to charge your devices, European style two pin sockets are used. I use a universal adapter that I bought from the airport. Also, the voltage in Europe is 220-230 V and not 110 V as in USA. Please check your devices if they have a converter or if you need to bring one (iPhones for example and most cameras and tablets don't need one). Devices like Hair Dryers may need converters. Please check your devices and bring along a converter if necessary.

A Power Bank is the most important thing to bring with you!! Explore and take photos carefree and never lose your way!!

MEDICATION and FOOD RESTRICTIONS

Please bring adequate supply of any daily medication which you may need as usual in your daily life. Prescriptions are not always available in other countries without visiting a doctor. This is very important in preventing a potential medical emergency. In case you need to buy a medicine while in Europe you should know the ingredient and not just the name. In addition, please note that there isn't normally a fridge in the rooms we are staying.

HOTELS: FACILITIES / POLICIES

Our hotel has free Wi-Fi access. The hotel will provide us 1 towel per person, It would be advised to bring a towel with you from home just in case, a fibre towel is the best. They may not change the towel every day. Also, in **Europe it is not common for the hotels to provide a washcloth.** If you use one you should bring your own.

You may want to also bring your own toiletries, shampoo, and shower gel (most hostels provide but still is good to bring your own).

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

I know you all can't wait to experience the Northern lights, this extraordinary phenomenon that's absolutely magical! However, **seeing the Northern lights is pure luck**, due to it **being a natural occurrence**, always subject to the weather.

Neither EF nor myself can guarantee that we will manage to see it, but we will do our best to check daily the weather forecasts to make sure we get the best shot at seeing it!

If we end up not seeing it, I want so stress that Iceland is a beautiful, unique and spectacular country and I am positive you will fall in love with it regardless! ❤️

Please try to be understanding and patient with this. Thank you all so much in advance!

THE BLUE LAGOON

The Blue Lagoon is the day we will enjoy the thermal springs of Iceland and it's an amazing experience! For this day:

- No jewellery
- Careful with the hair as the water will get them crusty
- They will give you towels there
- Bring swimwear

If you have any questions regarding your flights please contact EF directly via email or on your app!

support@efultimatebreak.com

And of course, there is always the 24/7 Emergency Line for our travelers which please save and keep it always somewhere handy:

+1 (617) 6191411

That's it!

Cannot wait for our amazing trip and to meet you!!!!!!!

Have a lovely day!

Joana Reis

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