



In honor of Icelandair's 70th anniversary, we asked our employees for their favorite insider tips on Iceland. The result? These 70 ideas on what to see and do during your trip to paradise. Check them off as you go along - we dare you to try all 70!

- 1) ____ On New Year's Eve, hang out at one of the huge bonfires (Brenna) and mingle with the locals. Don't forget your hipflask to toast the New Year!
- 2) ____ For good luck, place a rock on one of the countless cairns along Iceland's trails.
- 3) ____ Go swimming, even in January, all over the country - there are outside swimming pools heated by geothermal water everywhere.
- 4) ____ Learn how to say Kirkjubæjarklaustur. You never know when you'll need it.
- 5) ____ Hide from you mother-in-law among the lava rocks of Grindavik!
- 6) ____ Get salty! Enjoy a salt scrub massage at the Nordica Hotel - it's incredible!
- 7) ____ See how Hverabrauð is made - this is the famous brown bread that is baked in natural geothermal steam vents in the earth. There are several underground "ovens" in the Lake Mývatn area.
- 8) ____ Write the world's first traveler's guide to ALL the geothermal swimming pools in Iceland. (Someone has to research and try out all those cozy swimming pools, so it might as well be you!)
- 9) ____ Try the "Journey into the Unknown" at Tapas Restaurant in Reykjavík. This is the "chef's choice" of various tapas, and there are a lot of them! The more people at the table together, the more things you can try!
- 10) ____ Book a window seat and see the Northern Lights on your flight to Iceland. The colors are astonishing from that height!
- 11) ____ Find out where the best bananas in Iceland are harvested!
- 12) ____ Sample amazing seafood dinners or have the soup special at the aptly named Thrir Frakkar, or Three Trench Coats, owned by three Icelandic brothers.



- 13) ____ Join an elf and troll-watching expedition in South Iceland. Find out how many of those big lava stones you see around are really trolls. (Note: Icelandair accepts no responsibility for damages caused by waking up trolls.)
- 14) ____ Walk behind the Seljalandsfoss waterfall and share a kiss.
- 15) ____ Wish upon a krona.
- 16) ____ Take pictures of Reykjavik from Hallgrimskirkja, the large cathedral in the city's center. The panoramic views of the city and its rainbow of rooftops are magnificent!
- 17) ____ Enjoy pylsur, traditional Icelandic hot dogs... they taste best after a night on the town!
- 18) ____ Enjoy ice cream and the view from the observation deck at the Perlan, a 360° panoramic revolving restaurant that sits atop steel tanks once used to store Iceland's geothermal waters.
- 19) ____ Share a winter candlelight breakfast at the Country Hotel Anna.
- 20) ____ In the springtime, indulge on famous Icelandic Easter eggs... hollow but filled with candies and chocolates, as well as your very own "fortune."
- 21) ____ Visit Vigur Island in the Westfjords - the only way to get there is by boat. Enjoy the old-style architecture and see how eider farmers collect eider down for use in quilts.
- 22) ____ Release your inner Viking - ride an Icelandic horse bareback on the beach. Icelandic horses are known for their manageable size, mane of shaggy hair and five different gaits.
- 23) ____ Scout out folklore at Dimmuborgir, a large area of unusually shaped lava fields east of Mývatn, which is the purported dwelling place of petrified elves and trolls that come alive at night!
- 24) ____ Escape the IRS on Vatnajökull Glacier or Mt. Hekla Volcano!
- 25) ____ Take your children to the Reykjavik petting zoo and family park, then head next door to watch a soccer match at the National Stadium.
- 26) ____ Hike up Mt. Esja - just across the bay from Reykjavik - an easy and popular hike with fabulous views.



- 27) ____ Spend some extra time loudly admiring and taking photos of the Little Geysir (Geysir Litli). When questioned, explain that cute little geysirs have rights, too, and you want them to get some attention. (Otherwise they will never grow into big geysirs.) Start a petition declaring one day of the year for Icelanders to honor Geysir Litli.
- 28) ____ Take a boat ride around the Westmann Islands and see the house that withstood a volcano's eruption. The lava stopped right at its door.
- 29) ____ Join a guided group and hike the "Laugavegur," Iceland's version of the Appalachian Trail, located between Landmannalaugar and Thorsmork. It takes a few days but the scenery is remarkable!
- 30) ____ Go snowmobiling on a glacier... your friends will say, "You did what this summer?!?!"
- 31) ____ Rent a bike and ride the biking/walking path along the shore in Reykjavik or go for a swim at the Nautholsvik geothermal beach on the path.
- 32) ____ Ask a local where a secret hot pot is and go relax in the mountains. It can be your very own hot tub!
- 33) ____ Holy mackerel! Get the new Icelandic fishing card which gives you access to 23 trout fishing lakes around the country. You will love being out in nature, relaxing and listening to serene silence.
- 34) ____ Stay in a holiday farm on Midsummer's Night Eve in Iceland. Legend has it that you can hear the cows speak after midnight! You may get a whole new perspective on life. (Added benefit: Some farms are on the coast... if there are seals nearby, they may take off their skins and reveal they are selkies: beautiful fairy creatures who transform into seals. See above note about new perspective on life.)
- 35) ____ Join the Mývatn Marathon - the original race around Lake Mývatn!
- 36) ____ Drive a jeep through the surf on South Beach, Iceland. Afterwards, enjoy a stroll on the black sand beaches.
- 37) ____ Get married at Thingvellir, Iceland's most famous national park... there's no better backdrop!
- 38) ____ Have a 4th of July picnic at 3 a.m. under the Midnight Sun.



- 39) ____ Take a boat to Grimsey and see how far the Arctic Circle is from where you live.
- 40) ____ Join a whitewater rafting day trip on the Glacier River in North Iceland - refreshments include hot chocolate made from hot spring water bubbling near the river!
- 41) ____ Read Independent People by Halldór Laxnes. Then visit East Iceland's Sænautasel, a reconstructed traditional Icelandic farm, and setting for his award-winning novel.
- 42) ____ Feeling blue? Don crampons and count the different colors of blue found on a glacier during an ice walk.
- 43) ____ Pick orchids in Hveragerdi, a village of greenhouses that produces many of Iceland's fresh vegetables, fruits and flowers.
- 44) ____ Rent a bike from Hotel Loftleidir and ride the trails around Reykjavík. See for yourself just how close the wilderness is to the city! Afterwards, go swimming in one of the geothermal pools.
- 45) ____ In August, in the Westmann Islands help the locals with "puffin rescue duty" - finding the pufflings who wander into the main town, catching and releasing them back into the wild so they can join the adult puffins.
- 46) ____ Pick blueberries and crowberries in the mountains in the summer. If you stay at a holiday farm they can often help you with this. Maybe you can even learn how to make berry jam!
- 47) ____ Drive a jeep up a mountain and parasail off the top... wonder which is more adventurous!
- 48) ____ Dare your friends to eat putrefied shark, sheep head and ram's... well, you know!
- 49) ____ Visit the unique art museums around Iceland at the various National Power stations. Some even sponsor concerts and events.
- 50) ____ Find a rune stone with your "sign."
- 51) ____ Take a shot of cod liver oil - au natural (really au natural)! Many hotels provide small carafes during breakfast.



- 52) ____ Try to count how many different colors of Icelandic cows you see. (Hint: it is a lot!)
- 53) ____ Head to Egilsstaðir and try to spot the Lagarfljótsormurinn (the legendary local sea monster in the nearby river). Try not to have him/her/it spot you. (If it does spot you and you speak to it nicely, you might get an autograph.)
- 54) ____ Snowmobile on Jules Verne's volcano in Journey to the Center of the Earth.
- 55) ____ Sail with the dolphins in a quiet fjord and wonder what the rest of the world is doing.
- 56) ____ Go hiking on the easy walking trails in Thingvellir National Park. Have your picture taken standing on the mid-Atlantic ridge to prove you can indeed be in two places at one time (Europe and America).
- 57) ____ Walk barefoot across carpets of centuries-old moss.
- 58) ____ Eat breakfast at dawn with the fishermen at Hafnarfjordur, a fishing village close to Reykjavík.
- 59) ____ Try Moo Shu Lamb at Indokína.
- 60) ____ During November, restaurants serve game dishes... this is your chance to try specialties like reindeer, goose and maybe even ptarmigan.
- 61) ____ Try the winter garden at Lake Mývatn - where you can attempt go-carting, golf and more... on the ice!
- 62) ____ Enjoy a ghost night for two at the Ghost Museum in Stokkseyri! Two people can arrange to spend the night in the haunted fisherman's hut in the museum. You might make some interesting friends... note: they are NOT the housekeepers!
- 63) ____ Stand up in an Icelandic forest... and be the tallest thing around.
- 64) ____ Try the vöflur (Icelandic waffles)... they're legendary at Hresso!
- 65) ____ Sip scotch over thousand-year-old glacial ice.
- 66) ____ In December, restaurants have Christmas buffets with lots of hot and cold dish items with Danish, Icelandic and English traditions.



67) _____ Spend a week driving the Ring Road around Iceland. Watch out for where the road suddenly curves... it's where the little people's houses are found!

68) _____ Get a fabulous haircut and color at Hotel Loftleidir (no tipping needed), where they're trained for four years before even starting work.

69) _____ Drink Brennivin, Icelandic schnapps (affectionately known as "Black Death"), and survive. Recover at the Blue Lagoon.

70) _____ Search for Rudolph in the Eastfjords of Iceland, where reindeer herds freely roam and feed.

Have some of your own insider tips? Send your ideas to america@icelandair.is

Ready to go? Book your flight or packages to Iceland now!