



Southwest Iceland & the Golden Circle

Includes »

Reykjanes Peninsula.....	86
Keflavík & Njarðvík (Reykjanesbær)	89
The Golden Circle.....	95
Western Þjórsárdalur	101
The South Coast	102
Hveragerði.....	102
Eyrarbakki	105
Selfoss	106
Hella & Around	109
Hvolsvöllur & Around	111
Landmannalaugar & Þórsmörk.....	121
Vestmannaeyjar	128
Heimaey	128

Why Go?

Geysers spout, waterfalls topple, black beaches stretch into the distance, and brooding volcanoes and glittering ice caps line the horizon. The beautiful southwest contains many of Iceland's most famous natural wonders – and is consequently a relatively crowded corner of the country. But get away from the Golden Circle and you'll find vast stretches of seemingly undiscovered territory.

In fact, as a general rule in the southwest, the further you go the better it gets. Tourist faves like the silica-filled waters of the Blue Lagoon and the earth-rending landscapes of Þingvellir are within spitting distance of the capital. The churning seas of the south coast lie further beyond, leading to the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago offshore. At the far reaches of the region are the remnants of the Eyjafjallajökull eruption, and the hidden valleys of Þórsmörk and Landmannalaugar, accessible only by 4WD or a life-altering hike.

Best Places to Eat

- » Gamla Fjósið (p114)
- » Lindin (p98)
- » Slippurinn (p132)
- » LAVA Restaurant (p89)
- » Við Fjöruborðið (p106)

Best Places to Stay

- » Frost og Funi (p104)
- » Efstidalur (p98)
- » Laugarvatn HI Hostel (p98)
- » Álftavatn (p126)
- » Hótel Rangá (p111)

Road Distances (km)

Selfoss	100				
Gullfoss	156	71			
Landmannalaugar	230	130	147		
Vík	226	130	177	218	
Reykjavík	51	57	113	185	186
	Keflavík	Selfoss	Gullfoss	Landmannalaugar	Vík



Southwest Iceland & the Golden Circle Highlights

- 1 Set sail for **Vestmannaeyjar** (p128), with its dazzling stone towers, millions of surly puffins and a small town of citizens nestled between the lava flows
- 2 Camp in **Þórsmörk** (p126), a green kingdom protected from the harsh northern elements by turrets of brooding glaciers
- 3 March along the caramel-coloured peaks at **Landmannalaugar** (p121), then set off on Iceland's most famous rite of passage, the Laugavegurinn hike