

# JEEP DAY TOURS WITH LOCAL GUIDES

## THE GOLDEN CIRCLE AND SWIM IN THE SECRET LAGOON

*Season:* All year round

*Days of week:* Every day up on request

*Departure:* 9:00am

*Duration:* 9 to 10 hours

*What to bring:* Clothes and shoes according to weather. Swimming suit and towel.

Golden Circle and swim in the Secret Lagoon jeep tour is a unique day tour where you will observe the beauty of Iceland's nature and learn about the country's history, dating back to the settlement era. In addition we will relax in the Secret Lagoon, a geothermal pool that was made 1891 and is the oldest pool in Iceland made for swimming.



We begin the day by driving to the National Park Thingvellir, where we will review the nation's history. At Thingvellir, Althingi – the national parliament – was founded around 930, and continued to convene there until 1798. Many major historical events in the Icelandic history have taken place at Thingvellir. Today, Thingvellir is a national park, which is meant to remain in public ownership and be protected by Althingi forever. Now we move on to one of the world's most active geothermal fields, the Geothermal field at Haukadalur, where plenty of boiling springs and hot mud pots are to be found. The Great Geyser is what this geological phenomenon is named by. Strokkur, another famous geyser nearby, erupts every few minutes, shooting a tower of water and steam 30 meters into the air. Following, we will visit The Golden Falls, one of the most impressive cascades in Europe. There we can view the history of Sigríður Tomasdóttir from Brattholt. It is suspected that Sigríður managed to prevent the harnessing of the waterfall, which had been planned for electricity generating purposes. Our next destination is the waterfall Faxi and then we will be ready for bathing in a geothermal hot pool called The Secret Lagoon. This pool was made 1891 and is the oldest pool in Iceland made for swimming. The pool's natural surroundings and steam rising into the air gives the place a magical feeling. The warm water holds 38-40 Celsius all year. In the whole area there are several geothermal spots and a little Geysir which erupts every 5 minutes, showing off for the guests relaxing in the hot spring. After the bath we will visit the church Skálholt, where the first bishop Ísleifur Gissurarson was ordained in 1056. Skálholt was the bishopric of South Iceland and a cultural and educational centre for 700 years. At last we go to the eruption crater Kerid. The crater Kerid was formed about 6,500 years ago and lies at the northern end of a row of craters known as Tjarnarhólar. It is oval, about 270 m long, 170 m wide and 55 m deep: the depth of the water at the bottom varies between 7 and 14 m. Now we return back to where we picked you up in the beginning. Golden Circle and swim in the Secret Lagoon jeep tour is a tour for all ages, for families, groups and individuals.

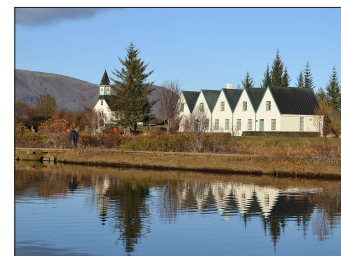
The vehicles are comfortable and well equipped where the driver is also the guide (driver-guide). We recommend group sizes of 2 - 6 persons per tour.



The Secret Lagoon.



The Secret Lagoon.



Thingvellir National Park.



Strokkur at Haukadalur.



Kerid eruption crater.



Faxi waterfall.



The Golden Falls. Photo: Almar Sigurdsson.

## The highlights of the tour:

- Thingvellir National Park.
  - The fissure between continents.
  - The viking parliament.
- The Geothermal area at Haukadalur.
  - The Great Geysir.
  - Strokkur, erupting every 5 - 10 min.
- Gullfoss waterfall.
- Faxi waterfall.
- **The Secret Lagoon geothermal swimming pool**
- Kerid eruption crater.
- Skálholt church.