

Iceland: Edmonton's New European Gateway

Edmonton's longstanding role as 'Gateway to the North' now has a European twist. Starting in March 2014, Iceland's national airline, Icelandair will fly four days a week between Edmonton International Airport (EIA) and Reykjavik's Keflavik International Airport (KEF), giving central Alberta access to the Icelandic airline's superb European flight network.

The six-and-a-half-hour flight between Edmonton and Reykjavik will depart from EIA in the evening and arrive in Iceland the following morning, making it perfectly timed with Icelandair's more than 20 non-stops flights to Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Stockholm and other exciting European destinations. Westbound flights will depart from Reykjavik in the late afternoon for an early evening arrival in Edmonton.

- Edmonton-Reykjavik: 18:30 – 06:50 (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat)
- Reykjavik-Edmonton: 16:45 – 17:30 (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat)

Why choose Icelandair for your next European trip?

Reykja-Quick

Icelandair serves over 20 European destinations from its Reykjavik hub. These include daily (or more) flights to Paris, Frankfurt, London, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo and Helsinki, as well as weekly flights to other cities.

Icelandair's Edmonton-Reykjavik route means faster-than-ever travel to Europe. By choosing Icelandair, passengers will enjoy the following minimum time savings on return trips to major European cities, as compared with current scheduling:

- Amsterdam: 1 hour, 25 minutes
- Copenhagen: 4 hours, 55 minutes
- Frankfurt: 2 hours, 30 minutes
- Munich: 3 hours, 50 minutes
- Paris: 2 hours, 25 minutes
- Stockholm: 6 hours, 40 minutes
- Zurich: 3 hours, 20 minutes

These are minimum time savings. Total time saved increases even more with schedule variations.

Icelandair's interline agreement with WestJet means passengers transferring to Icelandair flights at EIA can book a single combined e-ticket for both airlines, which includes the conveniences of single check-in for all flights and baggage sent through to the final destination. Convenient arrival and departure times at EIA also mean easy transfers to WestJet regional flights.



Flight schedules are subject to change. Check airline websites for current information.

Easy Does It

When you choose Iceland as your gateway to Europe, you get all the routes you'd expect from a major airport with the ease and relaxation of a smaller hub.

Reykjavik's award-winning Keflavik International Airport (KEF) is a destination in itself. Named 'Best Small Airport in Europe' by the Airports Council International (ACI) in both 2009 and 2011, and the 'Best Airport in Europe' by Frommer's Travel Guide in 2009, KEF is a small, compact air hub with bright decor, a relaxed atmosphere and excellent dining and retail options, with an emphasis on unique Icelandic brands. Highlights include:

- 66° Norður (outdoor outfitter)
- Bistro Atlantic
- Blue Lagoon (Icelandic cosmetics, skin care)
- Café Europe
- Elko (electronics)
- Kaffitár (coffee shop)
- Nord (Icelandic and European cuisine)
- Icelandic Giftstore Rammagerðin (clothing, arts and crafts)
- Inspired by Iceland (luxury food and drink boutique)
- Panorama Bar



In addition, KEF is one of the few airports in Europe to offer tax and duty-free retail to both arriving and departing passengers, making it an ideal choice for a trans-Atlantic stopover. And with boutiques specializing in traditional Icelandic products and cutting-edge Scandinavian design, there's no shortage of unique shopping options.

Between EIA's new Domestic-International Departures Lounge and Reykjavik's acclaimed Leifur Eiríksson Air Terminal, you can be assured of an uplifting and relaxing airport experience on both ends of this new route.

Cool Iceland

In addition to great European air links, there's also Iceland itself. Tourism in Iceland is booming at a rate of over ten per cent a year thanks to the country's spectacular scenery, fascinating history, lively modern art and culture scene and warm hospitality. The fact that the words 'fjord', 'geyser' and 'saga' all come from Icelandic attests to the beauty and drama of the place.

Don't let the country's name fool you! Iceland is famous for its surprisingly mild climate, as well as for its dramatic hills and waterfalls and its 170-plus volcanic hot springs. With beautiful weather all year round, and the mercury barely dipping into the minuses even in winter, it's truly an all-season destination.

Icelandic culture seamlessly combines the ancient and the modern. It's the home of the world's oldest parliament and a language that's barely changed since Viking times. It's also home to cutting-edge IT companies, chic urban designers and a hip music scene that gave the world Björk, Sigur Rós and others.

Whether you're hiking or whale-watching along the rugged coast, golfing under the midnight sun or taking in the Reykjavik nightlife, a trip to Iceland is an unforgettable experience. And with Icelandair, you can spend time in this amazing country on your way to Europe – at no additional cost.

For more information visit icelandair.ca or visiticeland.com