



Escape the Winter Blues with a Trip to Iceland's Blue Lagoon



By Stephanie Wilkins



Visitors have long been enraptured by **Iceland's** other-worldly landscapes and soothing hot springs. With temperatures that are much milder than most would expect, winter is the perfect time to plan a visit and escape the brutal temperatures that have been gripping much of the country. There's no better place to melt away your winter chill than at Iceland's **Blue Lagoon**.

Set amidst a barren landscape of black lava flows, this geothermal spa has become Iceland's most famous tourist attraction. Like something out of a science fiction movie, the milky blue waters are heated by a nearby geothermal power plant that looms in the distance. Open year-round regardless of weather, you can enjoy silica mud treatments and massaging waterfalls as you watch clouds of steam rise from the soothing waters. A soak in the relaxing waters quickly erases the stress of flight delays and security checkpoints, and the spa is visited by hundreds of thousands of weary travelers each year.

Towels and robes are available for rent and the spa provides beautiful and changing facilities along with lockers for storing your valuables during your visit. Food, beverages and spa treatments are available at additional cost. There is also a shop where you



airport. Located not far from Reykjavik's Keflavik airport, many visitors opt to stop for a soak either right after landing or right before boarding their departing flights. Day trips from Reykjavik can also be arranged by most hotels.

If you're lucky, you might even catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights as you soak your cares away. A visit to the Blue Lagoon is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

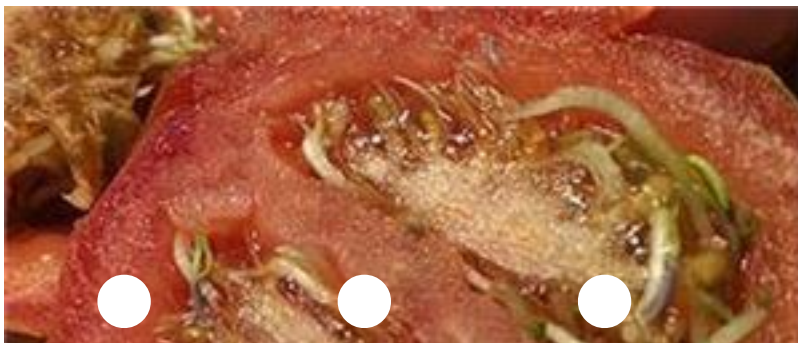
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