



Iceland

BEST OF ICELAND

Prepared for The Sarett Nature Center



Date	Oct 1-7, 2019
Duration	7 days
Comfort Level	●●●○○
Activity Level	●●○○○
Group Size	10-15
Best Time To Visit	J F M A M J J A S O N D

meet the locals and see glaciers, volcanoes, and northern lights

This is no ordinary trip to Iceland! We've taken the best Iceland has to offer and added a cultural layer to it, providing you with an intimate small-group experience that takes you away from crowds and into the homes, farms and lives of its residents.

You'll know you've arrived when you fly into Iceland's Keflavik airport, and your first glimpse is of a strange and rather other-worldly land, with a seemingly endless, green-grey moss-topped lava field blanketing the peninsula as far as the eye can see.

Throughout your journey, you'll see all of the glaciers, waterfalls, hot springs, lagoons, volcanoes, and lava caves you'd expect from this truly exotic land. Sprinkled throughout your days, you'll also get insider opportunities to learn about the history of the island, visit homes of locals, and enjoy meals at farms.

*Activities in Iceland are very weather-dependent, so itinerary may change based on weather conditions.

day 1 - tue oct 1 - arrive reykjavik / southern coast

You'll know you've arrived when you fly into Iceland's Keflavik airport, and your first glimpse is of a strange and rather other-worldly land, with a seemingly endless, green-grey moss-topped lava field blanketing the peninsula as far as the eye can see. Meet your guide at the airport who will transfer you to your hotel in the southern region. On the way, stop to visit the Raufarholshellir Lava Tube Cave, one of the longest lava tubes in Iceland.

Arrive at your hotel for check-in followed by a welcome dinner at Base Camp.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Hotel Laekur



Soak in the Icelandic countryside

day 2 - wed oct 2 - Þórsmörk, valley of the god thor

Now that you've gotten an overview of Iceland, it's time to see some glaciers up close, which you'll do on a super-jeep tour in Þórsmörk, a mountain ridge named after the Norse god Thor. The valley of this region sits at the meeting of three glaciers: Eyjafjallajökull, which erupted in 2010; Myrdalsjökull; and Tindfjallajökull. The landscape of Þórsmörk formed from eruptions underneath the glaciers and gives the terrain a surreal effect.

Spend the day crossing unbridged glacial rivers, stopping at spectacular sites like Gýgjökull, where the eruption in 2010 first emerged. Today also presents several options for short hikes, but even if you choose not to hike, you'll find this a breathtaking and worthwhile day including a BBQ lunch.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging: Hotel Laekur



Explore the Valley of the God Thor in your super-jeep

day 3 - thu oct 3 - southern coast

This morning your guide will pick you up around 10:00 AM and you will begin this day driving along the South Coast, exploring beautiful waterfalls – Seljalandsfoss and famous Skogarfoss Waterfall. After lunch at one of the favourite local restaurants, you'll visit the surrounding area of Solheimajokull - the outlet glacier of Myrdalsjökull, ice cap of Katla Volcano and then head further East through the ancient lava fields to your accommodation in the beautiful area of Kirkjubæjarklaustur village.

Optionally, and time permitting, visit the Skogar Museum, a cultural heritage museum containing regional folk craft artifacts

In the evening, you'll be taken on a tour of the village. Learn about the Icelandic history and culture by observing their way of life on a local farm. This will be followed by an Icelandic dinner at a local restaurant.



Search for the Northern Lights

Since you will be staying in the countryside without any artificial light pollution, you might be able to end your night on a high note: a Northern Lights sighting!

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Hotel Geirland

day 4 - fri oct 4 - vatnajökull park / jökulsárlón lagoon / home visit

The next two days you will delve into the culture and beauty of Iceland, while enjoying the region of Vatnajökull, the biggest glacier in Europe.

Drive along the ice cap and its outlet glaciers, and visit the Skaftafell area to enjoy short hikes. Walk along the coast of Glacier Lagoon, a large and incredibly deep lake that formed when Breiðamerkurjökull Glacier receded from the Atlantic ocean. The lake has expanded four-fold since 1970, and is expected to become a fjord (a clear example of global warming in action). You may see dramatic icebergs floating on the lagoon, or even calving from the glacier.



Enjoy hikes in the Skaftafell area

Get to know the history of this region a visit to the Þórbergssetur Museum of Literature and time at Skaftárstofa (the information center in Kirkjubæjarklaustur), where you can learn about the biggest eruption in Iceland's recorded history, the Laki lava flow of 1783. Cultural exchanges abound with a local food tour and visits to the homes of local residents and farmers.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging: Hotel Geirland

day 5 - sat oct 5 - south coast

Head back along the southern coast today allowing for stops that you may have missed on the previous days.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging: Hotel Laekur



The landscape is varied along the southern region

day 6 - sun oct 6 - the golden circle / farm visit

Today you'll experience one of the most iconic areas of Iceland: The Golden Circle. This popular driving route includes three key sites: Þingvellir National Park, Gullfoss golden waterfall, and Geysir, the geothermal area including active geyser Strokkur. (Fun fact: this is the site from which the word "geyser" originated.)

Also enjoy more cultural exchanges today when you eat lunch (tomato soup and fresh bread) at a local tomato farm.

Farewell dinner at one of the best restaurants in Reykjavik.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Hotel Midgardur or similar



See dramatic landscapes on your Golden Circle driving tour

day 7 - mon oct 7 - departure

Sadly, your trip comes to an end today. This morning you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Say good-bye Iceland

Anticipated itinerary; actual route may vary.

Below is a summary of our complete **Trip Terms & Conditions**, which explains each of the items below in more detail.

Expenses covered

Normally, our stated land costs include the cost of all guides, leaders, permits obtained after arrival, lodging accommodations, food and entry fees as specified, and all surface transportation associated with the planned itinerary. We do our best to avoid increasing prices after receipt of your deposit, but, rarely, factors beyond our control might require us to change our prices without prior notice, even after you have signed up.

Expenses not covered

Costs not included in the price may include: meals not indicated as included in itineraries; meals prior to arrival in starting cities; transfers, if not arriving or departing on the scheduled group flights; soft drinks, bottled water, and alcoholic beverages; medical expenses, costs of hospitalization, or evacuation from remote areas; laundry; airport departure taxes not included on your airline ticket; accommodations en route to starting cities; visas; airfares; gratuities; and insurance.

Pricing and Payment

For this group departure, the booking deposit is \$1277 per person.

For both group departures and custom trips, a second deposit of \$1,000 per person is due 120 days prior to departure or at the time of booking for reservations made fewer than 120 days before departure. The balance as shown on your invoice is due 60 days prior to departure regardless of whether extensions or other arrangements are pending. Late payments may jeopardize confirmation of your itinerary and in some cases may result in additional fees. If we have not received final payment 30 days prior to departure your reservation may be canceled and subject to our Cancellation & Refund Policy stated in the complete **Trip Terms & Conditions**.

We accept payments by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check drawn on a U.S. bank account. Payment for airfare is required at the time of ticketing. Discounts that may be available for some trips are not available toward bookings made through travel agencies.?

Airfare

We can help you secure air travel arrangements to correspond with land travel booked through Journeys International. We work with an airfare consolidator to assist in booking the flights that suit your needs. If you decide to make your own flight arrangements, you must provide Journeys International with a complete copy of your itinerary showing departure and arrival flights and times. You should plan to arrange your own air travel if you are using mileage credit or originating outside North America, but please be in touch with our office before you finalize ticketing so that we can help you to coordinate the correct arrival and departure dates and times.

Insurance

When you make your application, we strongly recommend the purchase of comprehensive **travel insurance** in case of emergency situations. Please contact us for a recommended policy.

Itinerary Change Fee

There will be a \$40 fee for changes once an itinerary has been confirmed and approved. Additional cancellation penalties or change fees may apply as per our terms and conditions. The passenger is responsible for such fees.

WHY JOURNEYS?

We are quite simply the best. No other company matches our experience, breadth, flexibility and personal service. Our reputation is impeccable.

We have been an acknowledged innovator in global adventure travel and ecotourism since 1978. Our itineraries are original, and our trip content is thoughtful, intellectually ambitious, and as adventurous as you like. We are committed to the communities and environments we visit. Our Ecological Code of Ethics serves as a model for others.

We have won the most prestigious awards in the industry. Condé Nast selected us for their list of the world's Top Travel Specialists every year since 2003. This year, National Geographic Adventure named us one of the top ten global adventure tour operators.

Our staff is professional and devoted. The specialists in Ann Arbor and the guides in the field take pride in 100% client satisfaction. Many remain with us for decades. Journeys founders, Drs. Joan and Will Weber, are active in daily operations.

We make your travel planning easy. We offer you the ability to completely customize your trip, according to your interests and abilities. Our knowledgeable specialists are happy to help you select special inclusions and extensions. We'll make your air arrangements or you're free to do your own. We pay attention to detail, and we prepare you well for your trip. We respond promptly to your emails and, if you call us during our business hours, you will be greeted by a person and not a machine.

We know our destinations well. We will give you as honest and complete a picture of what you can expect as possible. We don't want to make an easy sale; we want to make an honest one. You will likely find that we under promise and over deliver.

Our travelers come back again and again. We have a sophisticated clientele with wide reaching travel goals. Many return to us for five, 10, or more trips.

We love what we do, and we love sharing our passion with you.

