



GEOTHERMAL AREA BY HELGI GUDMUNDSSON

ICELAND

Geological Wonders

7 DAYS | Choose your dates

About this trip

Iceland's rich geologic history and northern latitude is an earth scientist's dream – a land of arctic desert, towering mountains, hot springs, erupting volcanoes, and midnight sun. Embark on Iceland's famous "Golden Circle" and see its most renowned landmarks: Geysir, Pingvellir National Park, and Gullfoss Waterfall. Along the way, this customizable itinerary includes opportunities to study a number of topics, including plate tectonics, volcanic systems, rock formation, geological history, glaciation, deposition, geothermal power, hydrology, natural history, Viking history, human geography, environmental science, and conservation.

Your students will...

- Study Iceland's dramatic and varied geology including towering waterfalls, bursting geysers, massive glaciers, and volcanoes.
- Examine the social and environmental impact of volcanic eruptions and other environmental events.
- Stand at the rift between the European and North American tectonic plates at Pingvellir.
- Go on a glacier walk at Sólheimajökull and discuss the effects of climate change on the glaciers in Iceland.
- Visit the Saga Museum for a closer look at the people and events that shaped the country's history.

Educational Connections



Interdisciplinary
Studies



Natural History



Earth
Science



Adventure
Learning

What's included?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



SKOGAFOSS BY ANITA RITENOUR

Itinerary

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - DEPART UNITED STATES

DAY 2 - VATNSHOLT

Upon arrival at Keflavík International Airport, you will be met by your guide. After breakfast, drive around the peninsula, with stops at the Blue Lagoon and Orkuverid Jörðin, Power Plant Earth. Span continents as you step onto the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the boundary of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plate margins. Also take a detour to look at some pillow lavas that were extruded when this part of the Reykjanes Peninsula was submerged in the late Pleistocene. Visit the cliffs by Reykjanes Lighthouse, which offer breathtaking views across the North Atlantic and to Eldey Island, the “island of fire” that emerged from the ocean in the most recent sub-oceanic eruption in the area. Then continue further to the Krísuvík geothermal field before arriving at your accommodations. *Overnight at Vatnsholt Farm. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - VATNSHOLT

Today visit the famous natural sights of Iceland’s “Golden Circle”: Þingvellir, Geysir, and Gullfoss. Þingvellir is one of the most interesting historical and geological places in Iceland; here you can witness the rift of the European and North American tectonic plates. Then visit Friðheimar farm to learn how geothermal energy is used for greenhouse heating and to observe a horse show with the unique Icelandic horse. After lunch at the greenhouse, continue on to Geysir, located in Haukadalur. It is the most famous spouting hot spring in the world and the origin of the international word geyser. Geysir’s bowl stretches 59 feet across and when it erupted regularly would spout to heights of up to 196 feet. Today it does not erupt without human intervention, but a nearby hot spring, Strokkur, spouts about every 10 minutes. Gullfoss, in the Hvítá River, is Iceland’s most famous waterfall, and has long been regarded as one of the most beautiful in the world. *Overnight at Vatnsholt Farm. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - ÞÓRSMÖRK

Spend the morning horseback riding (at additional cost) or hiking to the geothermal river in Reykjadalur. Next visit the Saga Museum in Hvalsöllum, where you will learn about interesting historical figures and events that took place in the area. On the way to Þórsmörk Glacier Valley, drive through the Saga areas. Þórsmörk is a unique wooded valley that lies sheltered between two glaciers, Mýrdalsjökull and Eyjafjallajökull. It is a place of extraordinary natural beauty and stunning contrasts of gentle woodlands and rugged glaciers. Great care must be taken when entering Þórsmörk, especially when crossing the fast-flowing glacial rivers. In the valley you can enjoy moderate hikes and arrive in the afternoon at a remote and cozy mountain hut where you will spend the night. *Overnight at Volcano Huts. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - ÞÓRSMÖRK

Spend the day in the beautiful surroundings of Þórsmörk Valley, hiking to explore the area’s caves, mountains with stunning views from the top, and a beautiful gorge. *Overnight at Volcano Huts. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - REYKJAVÍK

After breakfast at the hut, drive back out of the valley. Then drive along the south shore, where your first stop will be at Skógafoss waterfall. At 200 feet high, it is counted among the most breathtaking sights in the country. Stop next at Reynisfjara black sand beach. Later pass Sólheimajökull, a glacier tongue about 5 miles long and 7.5 miles wide, coming from the southwest of the glacier Mýrdalsjökull. There you get to try out a glacier walk with all glacier gear provided. Your last stop will be at the new Lava Centre in Hvalsöllum to learn about the volcanic activity and lava systems in the area. Continue to Reykjavík, where you will spend your last night in Iceland. *Overnight at Cabin Hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - DEPARTURE

Enjoy free time in the city this morning before transferring to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Program pricing

\$2,985 (21 participants + 3 leaders)

\$3,315 (14 participants + 2 leaders)

\$4,210 (7 participants + 1 leader)

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included. Valid for travel in 2020.

Travel protection

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

The fine print

Rates are based on triple and quadruple occupancy for participants; complimentary leader accommodations may be single or double occupancy based on availability. International airfare is included for complimentary leaders. Holiday surcharges may apply. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are non-refundable.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe