



PINGVELLIR NATIONAL PARK

# ICELAND

## Discovering Iceland in Hella & Reykjavík

7 DAYS | Choose your dates

### About this trip

Iceland's dramatic and captivating landscape beckons budding geologists to explore, with sprawling glaciers, towering mountains, bubbling hot springs, and thundering waterfalls marking a land mass roughly the size of Kentucky. This 7-day expedition is perfect for discovering the fundamentals of Iceland's geology within a concentrated area. Explore key sites on "The Golden Circle" and the Reykjanes Peninsula, and gain deeper insight at museums, educational centers, and even an operational geothermal power plant. Iceland's unique cultural heritage adds an extra dimension to the program, with opportunities to meet locals, discover Viking history, hear a traditional Icelandic saga, and explore the capital of Reykjavík.

### Your students will...

- Explore Iceland's iconic geologic features, including waterfalls, mud pools, fumaroles, and geysers, complete with a hike on the Sólheimajökull Glacier.
- Visit the Viking World Museum, a spectacular modern building with an exact replica of a Viking ship, and get a glimpse into Reykjavík's past at the Árbær Open Air Museum.
- Walk along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in Þingvellir, also the original meeting site of the Alþingi, the world's oldest parliament.
- Learn about traditional folklore during a reading of an Icelandic saga, a genre considered to be among the world's greatest literature.

### Educational Connections



Interdisciplinary Studies



Natural History



Earth Science



Social Sciences & Culture

### What's included?

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



VIEW OF REYKJAVÍK, INCLUDING HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA CHURCH

# Itinerary

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## DAY 1 - IN FLIGHT

Depart the U.S. for your overnight flight to Iceland.

## DAY 2 - HELLA

Upon arrival into Reykjavík, you will be met at the airport by your guide. After breakfast and a program orientation at Viking World, learn about Iceland's early settlers as you explore the museum with your guide. Next, drive to the southernmost tip of the Reykjanes Peninsula to visit Iceland's oldest lighthouse and the Gunnhver geothermal mud pools before continuing to the Bridge Between Continents. The Reykjanes Peninsula is an area of volcanic rock and lava with numerous clefts and gorges. It lies on the margin of the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates and is directly connected to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Along the shore, low cliffs alternate with sandy beaches where ocean waves sweep unhindered onto the coast. Stop at the Krýsuvík Geothermal Area to witness raw natural power in a moonscape of bubbling sulfuric mud pools and steam vents, then drive along the shores of Lake Kleifarvatn, which is reputedly home to a monster recorded in folk tales throughout the centuries. This evening, enjoy a reading of traditional Icelandic folklore and a short talk on Iceland's unique geology and environments. *Overnight at Árhus Cottages. (BLD)*

## DAY 3 - HELLA

Today explore what is known as the Golden Circle, starting with a visit to Gullfoss. Translated as Golden Falls, it is one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe, with thousands of tons of icy water thundering majestically into a deep canyon. Complete your Golden Circle exploration with visits to the Geysir area, with its numerous hot springs, fumaroles and geysers, and Þingvellir, site of the world's oldest democratic parliament and the dividing fault line between two of the earth's tectonic plates. Here is one of the few places on earth where you may physically witness a plate tectonic boundary showcasing the separation of plates. During your explorations, visit Friðheimar farm, where you will learn how geothermal energy is used for greenhouse heating, while enjoying an amazing lunch. Throughout the day, enjoy field talks on the unique phenomena of this region of Iceland. *Overnight at Árhus Cottages. (BLD)*

## DAY 4 - HELLA

Head east and start the day with an adventurous glacier walk on the Sólheimajökull Glacier with professional guides to discuss the glacial ice and peer into a world not often seen. (All gear is provided.) During this easy-to-moderate glacier walk, you will explore the wonderland of ice sculptures, water cauldrons, ridges, and deep crevasses. Next visit the Dyrhólaey Reserve for a hike with views of the black sand beaches, basalt needles, and hexagonal basalt columns. If weather permits, continue down to Reynisfjara Beach for a closer look. Your next stop is at Skógafoss Waterfall, one of the country's largest waterfalls. Your last stop for the day will be at the new Lava Centre in Hvolsvöllur to explore the largest interactive and high-tech educational exhibition of volcanic activity in Europe. This is an impressive center offering ample opportunities to delve into a variety of volcanic topics and interpretation. *Overnight at Árhus Cottages. (BLD)*

## DAY 5 - REYKJAVÍK

Depart Hella to Hveragerði and visit the Hveragarðurinn Geothermal Park. If weather permits, enjoy a morning hike from the outskirts of Hveragerði to the Reykjadalur Valley, taking in the ethereal surroundings dotted with hot springs and bubbling mud pools. The hike continues down through Reykjadalur, whose name means Steam Valley, where you can enjoy a natural bath in a warm river. In the afternoon, stop at the Hellisheidi Power Plant (as a capstone to the importance of renewable energy), where you will get information on

how Icelanders use their geothermal energy by producing hot water for central heating, swimming pools, and electricity. Continue to Reykjavík. *Overnight at Arctic Comfort Hotel. (BLD)*

## DAY 6 - REYKJAVÍK

After breakfast, discuss the global importance of Iceland with a lecture on climate change by a local scientist from the Icelandic Meteorological Office. Have lunch, then visit the Blue Lagoon for an afternoon of relaxation. The lagoon is man-made and uses heated water that is fed in by the Svartsengi Power Plant. After spending time enjoying the thermal waters, return to Reykjavík. Visit the Árbær Open Air Museum for a glimpse into Reykjavík's past, and stop to see Hallgrímskirkja, Reykjavík's famous church, whose architecture was inspired by the fascinating shapes and forms created when lava cools into basalt rock. This evening, celebrate your last night with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Arctic Comfort Hotel. (BLD)*

## DAY 7 - DEPART

Early morning transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

## Program pricing

**\$2,155** (21 participants + 3 leaders)

**\$2,395** (14 participants + 2 leaders)

**\$2,995** (7 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, full-time guide for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

## 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](https://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)*