



ICELAND

Energy, Climate Change, and Geological Wonders of Iceland

10 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **MAY - SEP**

Born of fire and ice, Iceland is unlike any place you've ever seen. Explore its rugged landscape, rich cultural history, and dynamic earth forces, where both climate change and successes in renewable energy are evident and fast-moving throughout the country. You'll behold spectacular geological formations in national parks on this comprehensive, well-paced island circuit. Gaze upon blue-white glaciers and undulating lava fields, witness glittering icebergs, and experience sustainable farming. Seek out diverse avian and marine life along black sand beaches, glacial lakes and towering cliffs. Discover the trendy capital, Reykjavík, and fishing villages whose charming people will inspire you with their creativity. With talks by local scientists and other experts, get an inside look at a small country having a large impact on how the rest of the world will see its future.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the natural wonders of Iceland on an in-depth discovery of its geology, culture and scientific exploration.
- Sample traditional Icelandic cuisine, including a farm-to-table experience at an organic greenhouse.
- Witness Goðafoss waterfall, the spouting hot springs and bubbling mudpools of Geysir, Vík's black sand beaches, and the jagged coastline of the East Fjords.
- Meet one of Iceland's foremost climate scientists studying glacier melt and walk the glacial landscapes in Höfn.
- Experience the true paradise of Mývatn, encompassing volcanic lakes, geothermal activity, and varied birds and flora.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

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



PHOTO BY LAURIE MCLAUGHLIN



PINGVELLIR BY JOHAN WIELAND

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - DEPART US

DAY 2 - REYKJAVÍK

Upon arrival, after clearing customs and immigration, you will be met by your guide and driver. Head to a local restaurant for breakfast and a program orientation, and then continue to the Blue Lagoon. Situated amid the dramatic lava fields of the Reykjanes Peninsula, the Blue Lagoon offers a relaxing wellness experience in mineral-rich waters. Enjoy a drink and a mud mask at the in-water bar. Afterward, take a city sightseeing tour of Reykjavík before arriving at your hotel for check-in. You'll have time to freshen up before meeting in the hotel conference room for a lecture by a local conservation expert. Dinner is on own tonight to experience local Icelandic cuisine. *Overnight at Centerhotel Midgardur. (B)*

DAY 3 - VÍK

After breakfast at your hotel, depart for Þingvellir National Park to explore the grounds of Alþingi, the ancient parliament site on the shores of Iceland's largest lake. Þingvellir also showcases the dramatic continental drift between the American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Next, visit Iceland's famous Gullfoss, or "Golden Falls," and the nearby Geysir hot spring area to see numerous spouting hot springs and boiling mud pools. Lunch will be at Friðheimar Greenhouses for an out-of-the-ordinary "stem-to-table" experience in the Icelandic countryside. After

an introduction to the greenhouse, enjoy a special lunch served among the plants. Sample classic tomato dishes like Friðheimar's famous tomato soup, as well as new creations made with a twist, like green tomato and apple pie or refreshing, homemade tomato ice cream. Afterward, watch a horse show and learn about the history of the Icelandic horse. Continue along the South Shore region, making a stop to admire Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls before arriving at Dyrhólaey nature reserve. Here you have a good chance of spotting puffin colonies and other types of seabirds. (Puffins are usually in Iceland from mid-May to early August. Please note that Dyrhólaey is closed from mid-May to June 25 for nesting season.) Conclude your journey in the charming village of Vík, where you can take a walk on the beautiful black sand beach with powerful waves thundering in the distance. *Overnight at Vík Icelandair Hotel. (BLD)*



REYKJAVÍK BY LISA PALMESE-GRAUBARD

DAY 4 - HÖFN

This morning, traverse Eldhraun, a lava field that was created by an eruption in 1783-1784 AD. The resulting lava flow was among the largest in recorded history. Make a stop for lunch in the town of Kirkjubæjarklaustur, where the greenery contrasts beautifully with the surrounding lava fields and black sand deserts. Your tour continues over Skeiðarársandur volcanic sands to Skaftafell, a beautiful glacial area, part of the vast Vatnajökull National Park system. Hike around the mighty Vatnajökull, the biggest glacier in Europe. *Overnight at Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon. (BD)*

DAY 5 - HÖFN

After breakfast at your hotel, meet with a local scientist who has been monitoring melting glaciers over time. Hike at Fjallsárlón Glacier Lagoon while listening to a lecture on climate change, putting your experience in perspective. Continue to the stunning Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon. Enjoy a boat tour, sailing among the lagoon's many floating icebergs, and possibly glimpse sunbathing seals on the ice. *Overnight at Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon. (BD)*

DAY 6 - EGILSSTAÐIR

Today, drive from Höfn through Almannaskarð Pass, stopping to admire the majestic coastline. Continue for magnificent views of the East Fjords: towering mountains plunging vertically into the sea. Along the way, visit Petra's Stone and Mineral Collection. What started as the private collection of local resident Ljósbjörg Petra María in her home and garden is now a museum that tells the story of the East Fjords, one of Iceland's most geologically ancient areas. *Overnight at Lake Hotel. (B)*

DAY 7 - LAKE MÝVATN

Depart for the Lake Mývatn area, stopping en route at Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall. One you arrive in Mývatn, stop to explore the empty vastness of the highland desert plateau Möðrudalsöræfi and to visit Námaskarð Pass, with its boiling mud pools and vibrant colors. Explore the natural beauty of the Lake Mývatn area, including the peculiar lava formations of Dimmuborgir, the pseudo craters at Skútustaðir, and the swiftly flowing Laxá

Salmon River. The Mývatn area is also known for its bird life, including more than a dozen species of duck, which nest in the thousands during the summer months. *Overnight at Fosshotel Mývatn. (BD)*

DAY 8 - LAKE MÝVATN

Today starts with a visit and to Húsavík, a charming fishing town close to the Arctic Circle, for a whale watching tour. Húsavík is the best spot to see the enormous humpback whale, with its giant flippers and incredible acrobatics. The boat tour offers a chance to observe fantastic bird life and natural scenery. There are two islands in the bay, Lundey (Puffin Island) and Flatey (Flat Island), where many birds nest; puffins, terns, guillemots, gannets, and more are frequently seen during the tours. *Overnight at Fosshotel Mývatn. (BD)*



DAY 9 - REYKJAVÍK

Travel toward the bustling northern port and town of Akureyri, the unofficial "capital" of North Iceland, making a stop at the magnificent Goðafoss waterfall en route. Akureyri is home to some of the finest timber buildings in the country, beautifully restored to their original glory. Set in a scenic fjord, the town boasts a vibrant art and culture scene. This morning, attend two lectures at the

University of Akureyri and learn about the Icelandic fishing quota system, considered one of the most sustainable professional fisheries of the world. Next, learn about rural development in Iceland and how the introduction of the quota system in the 1980s has impacted rural development. Then transfer to the airport for your flight to Reykjavík. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel for the afternoon at leisure. Join your group this evening for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Centerhotel Midgardur or similar. (BD)*

DAY 10 - DEPART

Check out of your hotel in Reykjavík and transfer to Keflavík International Airport for your flight back to the U.S. *(B)*

LAND PRICING

\$5,595* (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$6,895* (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, 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 May 1-Sept. 30, 2020. For travel Jan. 1-Apr. 30 or Oct. 1-Dec. 31, price will be \$800 less per person.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. 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.

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

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. 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. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.

MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Iceland will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

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