GEEO ITINERARY

Iceland 6/27/2027

Day 1: Reykjavík Arrive in Reykjavík at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The program begins and ends in Reykjavík, and the country's only international airport is **Keflavik International Airport (KEF)**. Reykjavík Airport (RVK) is used for domestic flights.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Reykjavík before and/or after the trip. Worthwhile visits in and around Reykjavík include the Perlan natural history museum, snorkeling in Silfra, and a geothermal lagoon, such as Sky Lagoon or Blue Lagoon.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting
Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6–7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

> **Joining Instructions**
> Airport Shuttle (recommended): Flybus and Airport Direct operate from the arrivals hall, departing 35-45 minutes after each flight. Tickets cost around 4,000 ISK ($30 USD) one-way—or 5,299 ISK ($42) for hotel drop-off—and can be bought at the ticket counter. The hotel drop-off option provides direct delivery to your accommodation; the large shuttle bus takes you to BSÍ Bus Terminal (45 minutes), where you then transfer to a smaller bus for drop-off at your hotel (adds ~10–30 minutes).
> Taxi: Expect to pay $150-250 USD to get to travel between KEF and central Reykjavík. Taxis wait outside the terminal exit and are metered based on distance and time.

**If staying at Hotel Cabin (Reykjavík), Standard rooms will be booked for single-occupancy travelers (including My Own Room), and Superior rooms will be booked for twin/double-occupancy participants. This includes any pre-/post-trip accommodation.*

Day 2: Reykjavík/Akureyri Drive to Akureyri. Stop for lunch at a local cantina. Explore the town. Opt to go for a whale-watching tour.

After breakfast, drive from Reykjavík to Akureyri, enjoying the beautiful landscape along the way and stopping for lunch at a local cantina.

Akureyri, with a population of around 18,000, is Iceland's second-largest settlement and an important port and fishing center. The area has a relatively warm climate due to various geographical factors, and the town's ice-free harbor has played a significant role in its history. Akureyri sits at the end of Eyjafjörður, Iceland's longest fjord. The town taps into several low-temperature geothermal fields throughout the Eyjafjörður region, including the Laugaland system, to keep the city warm year-round.

You have the option of heading out to sea to go whale watching off the coast (~2 hrs). Among the species that can be spotted near Akureyri in Eyjafjörður are bottlenose, minke, and humpback whales.

Approximate travel time: 4.5 hrs in private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Akureyri/Bakagerdi Stop at Goðafoss Waterfall en route to Mývatn Lake. Explore lava formations of Dimmuborgir and the geothermal area of Námaskarð. Visit Dettifoss Waterfall. Arrive in Bakagerdi for a night in a local guesthouse.

Start the day with an excursion to one of the most impressive waterfalls in Iceland, Goðafoss—the famous “Waterfall of the Gods.” The waterfall is 40 feet tall and spans 100 feet wide. While Iceland is famous for its many spectacular waterfalls, Goðafoss is a favorite for visitors because there are walking paths around the falls, making it easy to take fantastic photographs from different angles.

Next, will explore the beautiful scenery around Lake Mývatn. Formed during a volcanic eruption 2,300 years ago, the geothermal area is a haven for a massive number of birds. The nutrient rich water also attracts over 10 species of migrating ducks to the area. Atlantic salmon and brown trout thrive in the river, feeding on the healthy midge fly population that swarm over the waters in the summer.

Interesting lava formations can be found near the lake at Dimmuborgir. Walk the marked pathways for roughly half an hour to spot arches and pillars. Meaning “dark forts” in Icelandic, Dimmuborgir features black lava formations that are celebrated in Icelandic folklore as the mythical home of the fearsome ogress Grýla, her lazy husband, and their 13 mischievous sons, the Yule Lads.

Also stop at Námaskarð to see the bubbling mud pools and steaming fumaroles. There are some wooden pathways around the area, but most visitors prefer to get up close to look at the pools. Please be careful – the mud in this area is thick and sticky, and the residue from the steam can stain clothing.

The next stop is the Dettifoss Waterfall in northeast Iceland, reputed to be the most powerful waterfall in Europe, with an average water flow of 193 m^3/s. Take in the view of massive falls (144 x 328 feet) during the roughly one-mile round-trip hike. You will have the option to do additional walking to different viewpoints. Travelers with limited mobility will fine hiking poles helpful at this location.

Visit a large puffin colony at Borgarfjörður Eystri. Puffins make their nests in burrows that they dig themselves—tunnels that can be up to 7 feet long.

The day ends in the Eastfjords region for a night in a local guesthouse.

Approximate travel time: 5 hrs by private vehicle
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4: Borgarfjörður/Höfn Travel down the coast driving through the Eastern Fjords. Catch a glimpse of Vatnajokull glacier, the largest ice cap in Europe.

This morning, travel down the coast through the beautiful and majestic eastern fjords. The group may have the option to hike at Hengifoss or visit Vök Baths.

During the drive south, stop for a view of the Vatnajökull Glacier, the largest ice cap in Europe, which covers over 8% of Iceland. There are multiple volcanoes underneath the glacier as well as over 30 outlet glaciers that stem from Vatnajökull.

End the day at another family-run hotel near the fishing town of Höfn, which specializes in langoustine, a species of small lobster.

Approximate travel time: 4 hrs by private vehicle
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5: Höfn/Vík í Mýrdal Visit the Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon and nearby Diamond Beach. Opt to check out the lagoon by boat. Continue to Skaftafell National Park and opt to take a glacier hike. Continue to Vík.

The highlight of the day is a visit the Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon with views of the ice cap. The lake is the lowest point in the country and filled with icebergs drifting toward the sea, often with seals sunbathing on the bright blue ice. The blocks of ice coming off the glacier are typically around 100 feet high, in dramatic shades of white and bright blue. You will have the option (roughly 5,700-9,800 ISK per person) to check out the lagoon by boat to get closer to the floating icebergs, which sometimes have seal passengers.

Also stop by Diamond Beach, which gets its name from chunks of the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier that float out to sea and get washed back up on shore. As these blocks of glacier ice melt, they develop a crystal clear sheen, set against the black sand of the beach.

A memorable experience for many participants on this program is the optional Skaftafell National Park glacier hike, which you can pre-book with us. Suitable for most fitness levels, the hikers are equipped with crampons, ice axes, and helmets that will allow you to safely walk across the glacier. Hiking boots can be rented for approximately $12 if you do not bring any—or if your shoes are deemed unsuited to the glacier hike by your certified guide. If you are intimidated by the hiking gear, don't be! The group moves at a "glacial pace" and receives clear instructions from the guide throughout the activity. It is a beginner's introduction to glacier hiking, covering everything from putting on a harness and crampons to walking up and down the glacier. The experience is accessible to everyone from children to the elderly, and you are taught how to use the provided gear.

After exploring the lagoon and glacier, continue to the small town of Vík. Despite its small population—just a few hundred people—it is the largest settlement for nearly 50 miles around. Vík serves as the primary setting of Netflix's Icelandic original series *Katla*, which follows a group of the village's inhabitants as they struggle in the aftermath of the volcano's first eruption since 1918.

Approximate travel time: 3.5 hrs by private vehicle
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6: Vík í Mýrdal/Reykjavík Visit Reynisfjara Beach. Continue along the Golden Circle to Drumbo. Stop at the Seljalandsfoss waterfall. Explore the Gullfoss Waterfall, Geysir Hot Springs, and Þingvellir National Park. Arrive to Reykjavík in the early evening.

After breakfast, visit Reynisfjara Beach just outside of Vík. The stretch of black basalt sand and the ominous rock formations offshore make for stunning photos. The cliffs west of the beach are home to many seabirds, most notably puffins that burrow into the shallow soils during the nesting season. Take some time to watch the foaming white waves crash over the black sand—but don't get too close, as the waves here can be extremely powerful. Explore the shallow cave if weather and time permits, and get a photo of the basalt sea stacks.

Also visit Seljalandsfoss, a 196-ft tall waterfall. A walking path behind the waterfall allows visitors to "peek behind the curtain" of water cascading over the rocks above. You can also walk to another remarkable nearby "hidden" waterfall, Gljúfrabúi, or stay near Seljalandsfoss if you wish.

The rest of the day is focused on Iceland's famous Golden Circle. The Golden Circle takes in three popular attractions all within 100 km of the capital city: Gullfoss, Geysir, and Þingvellir.

The first stop in the circle is Gullfoss, another amazing waterfall. The massive waterfall cascades over three "steps" before spilling into a large crevice. Fed by a glacier lake, the water passing through the

falls can be dark gray, depending on how much sediment gets pushed through the river. Expect 10 to 20 minutes of walking, depending on which view points you want to reach.

The next stop features a variety of geothermal pools and the erupting hot spring Strokkur. Geysir, one of the oldest geysers recorded in the world, is most often dormant. Strokkur, on the other hand, erupts a spray of boiling hot water straight into the air about every six to 10 minutes. Expect 10 to 30 minutes of walking, depending on how far into the park you wish to walk.

The final stop on the Golden Circle is Þingvellir (or “Thingvellir”) National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to see the faults created by North American and Eurasian tectonic plates shifting apart. The Oxara River cuts through the largest rift in the valley, Almannagja, and leads to the Oxarafoss waterfall. Iceland’s Parliament was also established in the area in 930, and the park was later created to protect the remains of the open-air assembly grounds. One of the most-visited sights in Iceland, the park is an excellent spot for camping, hiking, and SCUBA diving between the tectonic plates. You should expect 20-30 minutes of walking, or a bit more if you choose to walk to Öxarárfoss.

Return to Reykjavík in the early evening for a final night in the city.

Approximate travel time: 5-6 hrs by private vehicle
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7: Reykjavík Depart Reykjavík at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Reykjavík at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Reykjavík, consider booking post-trip accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the hotel if you speak to the reception desk.

Meals included: Breakfast

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Where you’ll stay

The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:

Day 1 Reykjavik (Jun 27): Hotel Cabin

Day 2 Akureyri (Jun 28): Sveinbjarnargerdi Country Hotel

Day 3 Bakkagerdi (Jun 29): Alfheimar Guesthouse

Day 4 Hofn (Jun 30): Hotel Smyrlabjorg

Day 5 Vik (Jul 1): Hotel Dyrholaey

Day 6 Reykjavik (Jul 2): Hotel Cabin

__Itinerary Disclaimer__: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*