
GEEO ITINERARY

Iceland 12/26/2024

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. The tour begins and ends in Reykjavík, and the nearest airport is **Keflavik International Airport (KEF)**. We recommend arriving a day or two early to fully explore the city. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference, overcome any jet lag, and avoid any disruption to your trip due to flight delays or cancellations. 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 Museum, Snorkeling in Silfra, and a lagoon, such as Sky Lagoon or Blue Lagoon. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. 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** Upon arrival at Keflavik Airport, you will see bus counters in the exit hall for Airport Direct and FlyBus shuttles. These transfer services cost approximately 4,000–7,000 ISK (\$30–50 USD), depending on the type of ticket. Cheaper transfers will take you first to a bus terminal outside Reykjavik in a larger shuttle bus, and then you will board smaller vans that will deliver you the rest of the way to your hotel. Alternatively, you can get a taxi from the taxi stand located just outside the airport exit. A taxi from the airport to the city center generally costs between \$100-200 USD. **Accommodation:** Hotel Cabin (or similar) * *For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.* **Please Note:** If the start or finish accommodation for your trip is Hotel Cabin in Reykjavík, the room type for single-occupancy rooms (including participants who pay for the My Own Room option) will be Standard rooms, whereas twin- or double-occupancy rooms will be the Superior room type. This will also be the case for any pre- or post-trip nights booked at Hotel Cabin.

Day 2: Reykjavik/Álftröð Explore a lava cave in the Bláfjöll Mountains followed by a visit to an Icelandic horse farm before returning to Álftröð. In the evening, head out to search for Northern Lights.

This morning, we leave Reykjavík and travel to a lava cave in the Bláfjöll Mountains. We will go beneath the earth's surface to discover how Iceland was created. Walk and crawl through the Leiðarendi cave that was carved out by flowing volcanic lava, and marvel at the multi-colored rock formations left in its path. Then we visit a horse farm. The Icelandic horse is a very unique breed. Although small and at times pony-sized, Icelandic horses are long-lived and hardy. Tour this working farm and learn all you need to know about the Icelandic horse, with a focus on its gait and unique character. We will then drive to Álftröð where we will spend the next 2 nights. This evening we head out near the guesthouse in search of Northern Lights. Please note: The Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon, and sightings will be dependent on weather conditions. We cannot guarantee that travelers booked on this tour will experience the Northern Lights. **Approximate travel time:** 2.5 hrs in private vehicle **Accommodation:** Alftrod Guesthouse (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

Day 3: Álftröð Head to Þingvellir National Park. Visit sights like the Geysir Hot Spring and Gullfoss waterfall. In the evening prepare dinner together at the guesthouse. Afterward, head out for another Northern Lights hunt.

This morning we visit 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 AD, 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. Afterward, we discover one of the most impressive waterfalls in Iceland, Gullfoss, and complete the tourist circuit known as the Golden Circle. This 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 a dark grey depending on how much sediment gets pushed through the river. Next we will see a variety of geothermal pools and the erupting hot spring Strokkur. Geysir is one of the oldest geysers recorded in the world but is most often dormant. Strokkur erupts a spray of boiling hot water straight into the air about every ten minutes. In the evening, embrace your inner chef and prepare dinner together at the guesthouse. Afterward, head out for another Northern Lights hunt around the guesthouse. **Approximate travel time:** 3 hrs in private vehicle **Accommodation:** Alftrod Guesthouse (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

Day 4: Álfröð/Reykjavik Travel to Sólheimajökull Glacier and take some time to explore the area. Option for a stunning glacier hike. Drive the scenic southern coast and visit the Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls on the way back to Reykjavík. Enjoy a final night in the city.

This morning, we travel to Sólheimajökull Glacier and learn about the effects of climate change in Iceland. You will have time to take an easy hike in the area or you can pay extra (\$105) to go on a guided glacier hike. Equipped with crampons and an ice axe, hike through the dramatic glacier valley and along the black sand flood plains to the edge of the ice. Enjoy stunning, panoramic views of the surrounding mountains, glaciers and the Eyjafjallajökull volcano. The guide will explain the volcanic history of the area and the effects of global warming. We then drive the scenic southern coast and visit the Seljalandsfoss waterfall. Seljalandsfoss is a 60 m (196 ft) high waterfall located along the popular ring road. Behind the flow of water is a path, allowing visitors to peek behind the curtain of water cascading over the rocks above. Then we visit Skógafoss, one of the largest and most recognizable waterfalls in Iceland. The 60 m (200 ft) high falls forms a constant mist that floats in the air, which, if viewed in the sunlight, can create rainbows. The sound and view of the thundering water cutting through the green hills make the falls a must-see on any trip to Iceland. We then head back to Reykjavík to enjoy a final night in the city. **Approximate travel time:** 5 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Cabin (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 5: 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-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book. **Meals included:** Breakfast

**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.*