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## GEEO ITINERARY

Icelandic Adventure with Amy

### **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 tour begins and ends in Reykjavík, and the nearest airport is **Keflavik International Airport (KEF)**.

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 Museum, Snorkeling in Silfra, and a 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 3,500-4,500 ISK (\$27-35 USD) one-way and can be bought at the ticket counter. Book the hotel drop-off option for direct delivery to your accommodation—the shuttle takes you to BSÍ Bus Terminal (45 minutes), then transfers you to a minibus for drop-off at your hotel (adds ~30 minutes).

Taxi: Expect to pay \$150-250 USD to get to central Reykjavik. 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 (including My Own Room) and Superior rooms will be booked for Twin/Double occupancy, including pre/post nights.

### **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 step outside near the guesthouse in hopes of catching site of the Northern Lights.

Please note: The Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon, and sightings will be dependent on weather

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conditions. We cannot guarantee that travelers booked on this tour will experience the Northern Lights.

**Approximate travel time:** 2.5 hrs in private vehicle

**Meals included:** Breakfast | Dinner

**Day 3: Álfröð Travel to Sólheimajökull Glacier and take some time to explore the area. Opt for a stunning glacier hike or visit the Skogar Museum. Drive the scenic southern coast and visit the Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls on the way back the guest house, before enjoying a homemade dinner.**

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 (see price below under Activities to Pre-Book) 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. If you plan to participate in the glacier hike, we recommend packing above-ankle hiking boots.

Non-hikers can visit Skogar Museum and take a tour of one of Iceland's most iconic sights, a traditional turf house. Named for the turf used to create the walls and the roof, these simple but effective houses helped the early Icelandic people to survive the region's harsh seasons. Learn about the construction of these homes, the families who lived in them, and how a unique culture evolved out of these humble communities.

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 the guest house, where we will enjoy a homemade dinner and go out for another night of observing the Northern Lights, conditions permitting.

**Approximate travel time:** 3.5 hrs by private vehicle

**Meals included:** Breakfast| Dinner

**Day 4: Álfröð/Reykjavik Head to Þingvellir National Park. Visit sights like the Geysir Hot Spring and Gullfoss waterfall.**

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.

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We then head back to Reykjavík to enjoy a final night in the city.

**Approximate travel time:** 3 hrs in private vehicle

**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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

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**Interested in extending your time abroad?** We can help you find a trip from our tour partner G Adventures' larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but by booking through GEEO we can offer you a discounted educator price, and you will be helping our non-profit.

### **Accommodations List**

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 (Apr 4): Hotel Cabin

Day 2 Álfröð (Apr 5): Alftrod Guesthouse

Day 3 Álfröð (Apr 6): Alftrod Guesthouse

Day 4 Reykjavik (Apr 7): 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.*