

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

# Iceland

## Spectacular South & Glacial Lagoon

**CLASSIC JOURNEYS**  
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS





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*Classic Journeys  
provides unbeatable  
access to experiences  
around the globe.”*

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

## Land of Fire and Ice

Iceland is rich with more cinematic landscapes and incredible experiences per square inch than anywhere. Jaw-dropping footpaths lead to waterfalls, glaciers, black sand beaches, and lava fields covered with insanely green spongy moss. For every ice cave, there's a geothermal pool. The Northern Lights curtain the night sky. Spectacular coastal and countryside walks each day are complemented by activities ranging from tectonic snorkeling to horseback riding, glacier hiking to puffin watching. And true to the Classic Journeys style of travel, your guides are native Icelanders, descended from shark fishermen and 9th-century Vikings. Enjoy true connections to local culture, as their expertise gets you away from the crowds to experience Iceland at its very best. And at the end of every day, you'll nestle into some of the country's finest hotels, and refuel with world-class Atlantic-and-farm-to-table cuisine. If you love adventure travel, welcome to paradise!

## The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

## What's Included

- All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

### → INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

### → PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

## Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

## Reykjavik / Þingvellir National Park

Right after you meet in Reykjavik, your Iceland adventure gets off to a fantastic start, as you choose your adventure – hiking boots or flippers. Each offers an unforgettable way to experience Þingvellir National Park. If you choose flippers, get ready for a snorkeling experience like no other. Slip into an insulated wetsuit (also called a 'dry suit') and flippers, then slide into the waters between the Eurasian and American tectonic plates. In this calm ribbon of water, the glacial melt is so clear that you can see down 100 feet and you have the distinct sensation of floating in midair! You can count on us to provide all of the equipment you need, along with the guidance and help of experienced outfitters. You don't need to be an experienced diver or snorkeler to take the plunge. Awesome doesn't begin to describe it.

Choose boots and a technicolor hike is waiting for you. A deep tectonic rift valley bisects the national park (also a UNESCO World Heritage Site), which also contains the country's largest natural lake and lava trails covered in springy bright green moss. The vistas are vast, and as you explore the park's trails with your guide you're fully immersed in the tumbled wilderness that's so unique to Iceland. Hard to believe, but this region was also the site of the world's oldest parliament, founded by Vikings in the year 930.

At day's end, settle into your luxury manor house hotel on a farm that's been owned by the same family for seven generations. After dinner, you may want to start a nightly ritual of enjoying the midnight sun in the summer months and checking the pitch-black skies for signs of the Northern Lights the rest of the year.

MEALS: D                      OVERNIGHT: SUÐURLAND

DAY 2 »

## Farm Visit

Our friends are proud of their family farm, and you'll see why this morning. Join them for a walk on some beautiful trails out to the sheep barn where you'll often find lambs. There's a waterfall nearby too. It's far off the beaten track, quiet but for the rush and roar of the waters and your hike takes you to it.

The afternoon offers a pair of terrific multisport activities and an opportunity to choose your adventure. One of the family's passions is the breeding of short, sturdy, shaggy Icelandic horses. So you can saddle up for a ride that gives you a feel for how Icelanders have traveled their land for centuries. You'll actually wade across a lake, then ride on a beach with the North Atlantic on one side and a majestic mountain range on the other.

Prefer your own feet to horses' hooves? There's also incredible coastal walking to be done nearby as well if you prefer. Or, if you don't mind a drive, we can make for a trail that starts at a cape and climbs the slopes of Horleifshofdi to the top of the headland. The views are remarkable of course, but you'll also have a chance to explore some spectacularly-sited Viking ruins. In the summer breeding season, it's also home to a colony of Atlantic Puffins that make their nests by burrowing into the grassy hillsides.

Back at the hotel, you may want to join in the Icelandic tradition of a hot tub soak or hang out by the fireplace.

MEALS: B, D                      OVERNIGHT: SUÐURLAND

DAY 3 »

## Glacier Hiking

Fuel up at breakfast this morning. You're off on a big, invigorating and utterly unforgettable day of hiking on Solheimajokull Glacier. You'll start with a walk on some cinematic trails to reach the terminal face of the glacier. Then, with the assistance of our friends who are local glacier experts, you'll buckle on crampons and grab an ice axe before stepping onto the glacier itself. (Of course, we'll provide all of the top-notch equipment you need at no extra cost.)

Your guides know everything about the glacier. With them, you have chances to explore the caves and crevices all carved into the ancient aquamarine ice. Unlike tourists who venture a few steps onto the ice just to say they've done it, you'll go beyond the fringe and away from the crowds to experience the mind-bending scale and solitude most people never come close to. You'll even stop for a glacier picnic!

Later, enjoy a rest as we take an afternoon drive through spectacular coastal and mountain scenery. Your destination: an iconic modern Iceland hotel located – where else? – between two glaciers!

MEALS: B, L, D      OVERNIGHT: GLACIER LAGOON

DAY 4 »

## Diamond Beach / Glacial Lagoon

On summertime departures, you'll board a Zodiac to get more up-close and personal with the bergs. With their shallow drafts, the boats can venture close to the floating sculptures and you can even get up to the face of the glacier to learn how the icebergs are calved. In the months of November to March, you'll go ice caving on Vatnajökull Glacier. You'll drive to the "snout" of the glacier, gear up, and enter to explore one of the large caves that form at the base.

By now, you'll be well accustomed to the peculiar fact that many of Iceland's beaches are inky black sand, the product of volcanic basalt crushed to fine sand over the millennia. This afternoon, strike out for a walk on Diamond Beach along Glacier Lagoon, punctuated occasionally by small marooned icebergs. The ones on the beach look like diamonds. And the icebergs floating just offshore are blue, not white! Melting and wind erosion carve them into fantastical shapes.

Be sure this evening to give yourself a final chance to soak in the deep quiet and showy skies of Iceland, before or after dinner.

MEALS: B, L, D      OVERNIGHT: GLACIER LAGOON

DAY 5 »

## The Reynisdrangar / Blue Lagoon

All week, you've seen and heard what a big part that mythology and legend play in Iceland culture. There's no better example than the Reynisdrangar, three sharp black pillars that burst from the waves offshore. Legend has it that they're really three trolls who stayed out too late and got turned to stone by the morning sun. It's one of those places where the geology is at least as interesting as the mythology. A coastal walk puts you in a perfect position to enjoy the anecdotes from your guide and the Instagram-worthy photos.

Returning to Reykjavik, you'll end an immersive Icelandic week in the famed Blue Lagoon, a steaming lake filled with almost 2.5 million gallons of neon blue geothermal water. Like the Icelanders who love to relax here, you'll go in for a soak in water that fills the air with swirling clouds of steam. There's a spa. (Plan ahead and you can even get a massage floating in the water) Most of the lagoon is no more than three feet deep, so you can move around at will. And the people-watching is fantastic.

If daylight allows in the summer months, there's an option to instead choose a hike with your guide up the tongue of a magnificent lava flow to the top of a volcano. Arriving at the summit, you'll not only see into the crater, you'll see more than 20 other volcanos in the landscape around you!

Energized, full of experiences and stories, you'll savor dinner at one of Reykjavik's award-winning Atlantic and farm-to-table restaurants.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK

DAY 6 »

## Reykjavik

You've had a full week of adventure. So, it's your choice to sleep in this morning, explore Iceland's capital at your leisure, enjoy some shopping or make your way on your own schedule to Keflavik airport for flights home.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: NONE

## Tour Hotels



### [Skalakot Manor Hotel](#)

With gables that echo the nearby mountains, this family-owned manor hotel is a cozy and luxurious retreat. Rooms are decorated in true Icelandic style. The exceptional restaurant features local specialties from Arctic char to homemade bread.

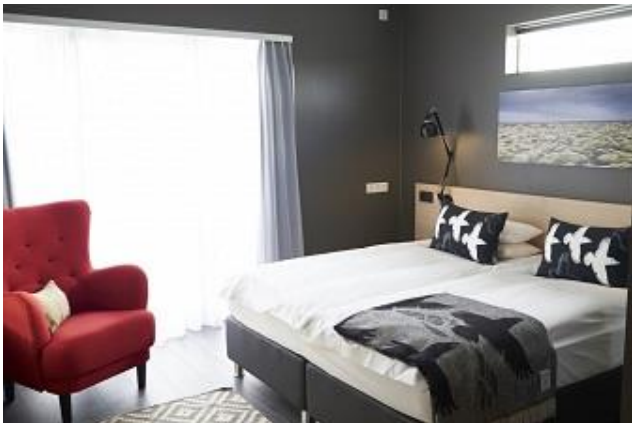
NIGHTS: 2 nights



### [Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon](#)

Remote beauty and contemporary comfort are what this hotel is all about. Situated between two massive glaciers, the property's rooms have big windows that keep you close to the stark beauty. The fine dining restaurant reflects the modern aesthetic.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



### [Alda Hotel](#)

Situated right on Laugavegur, the city's main shopping street, this cool hotel is in the heart of the action. Rooms are decorated in clean Scandinavian style. There's a fitness center, views of mountains and sea, and even a chocolate shop.

NIGHTS: 1 nights

# Arrival & Departure

## → ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of the Alda Hotel**  
START CITY: **Reykjavik**  
START TIME: **9:00 AM**

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## → DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Lobby of Alda Hotel**  
END CITY: **Reykjavik**  
END TIME: **9:00 AM**