



# CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

## Iceland

Spectacular South & Glacial Lagoon



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

TRAVEL + LEISURE

## Land of Fire and Ice

Iceland is rich with more cinematic landscapes and incredible experiences per square inch than anywhere. Game of Thrones doesn't even do it justice! Think 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. Activities range from tectonic snorkeling to horseback riding, spectacular coastal and countryside walks to puffin watching. And true to Classic Journeys style of travel, your guides are dyed-in-the-wool native Icelanders, descended from shark fishermen and 9th century Vikings! So, you get true connections to local culture...not to mention the expertise that assures you'll get away from the crowds to experience Iceland at its very best. On several days we offer you a choice of activities — think of it as “choose your adventure” — all at no extra cost. And at the end of every day in this amazing land, you'll nestle into some of the country's finest luxury hotels, and refuel with world-class Atlantic-and-farm-to-table cuisine. If you love adventure travel, welcome to paradise!

DAY 1 »

## Reykjavik / Þingvellir National Park

- Snorkel between tectonic plates in crystal-clear glacial melt at Þingvellir National Park
- Hike through a tectonic rift valley with lava trails and bright green moss

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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

## South Coast

- Explore family farm trails, visit a sheep barn with lambs, and hike to a secluded waterfall
- Choose between horseback riding across a lake and beach or coastal hiking to Viking ruins

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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

## Solheimajokull Glacier

- Hike to Solheimajokull Glacier, then explore ice caves and crevices with expert guides
- Enjoy a unique glacier picnic before driving to a hotel nestled between two glaciers

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      DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

#### DAY 4 »

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## Diamond Beach / Glacial Lagoon

- Explore icebergs up close via Zodiac or venture into ice caves on Vatnajökull Glacier
- Walk Diamond Beach, admiring blue icebergs and diamond-like ice formations on black sand

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      DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

#### DAY 5 »

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## The Reynisdrangar / Blue Lagoon

- Walk the coastal path to view Reynisdrangar, legendary troll pillars rising from the sea
- Soak in Blue Lagoon's geothermal waters or hike to volcano summit with crater views

All week, you've seen and heard what a big part that mythology and legend play in Icelandic 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      DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

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## Reykjavik

- Explore Reykjavik's vibrant culture, from the iconic Hallgrímskirkja church to the charming Old Harbor at your leisure
- Discover Iceland's history at the National Museum or enjoy leisurely shopping on Laugavegur Street at your own pace

On your final day, you have the opportunity to explore Reykjavik at your own pace, immersing yourself in the world's northernmost capital city. Founded by Viking settler Ingólfr Arnarson in 874 AD, Reykjavik has grown from a small farming settlement into a vibrant, modern city that still retains its charming Nordic character. The city's name, meaning "Smoky Bay," refers to the steam rising from its geothermal areas, a reminder of the powerful natural forces that shape Iceland.

As you wander through Reykjavik's colorful streets, you'll discover a blend of history and contemporary culture. You might choose to visit the striking Hallgrímskirkja church, whose unique architecture was inspired by Iceland's basalt lava formations, or explore the Old Harbor area with its maritime history and trendy restaurants. For a deeper dive into Icelandic culture, consider the National Museum of Iceland or the Reykjavik Art Museum. If you're in the mood for some relaxation, you could take a stroll through the charming Laugavegur shopping street or enjoy a coffee in one of the city's cozy cafes, watching local life unfold around you. Whatever you choose, Reykjavik offers a perfect, leisurely conclusion to your Icelandic adventure before you depart for home.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: NONE

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

## 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

## Curated Walks

### CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

### CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	1.5	3.5	3.5
Day 2	2.5	4	6.5
Day 3	3.5	5.5	7
Day 4	2.5	4.5	6.5
Day 5	1.5	2	3.5
Day 6	*	*	*

\*No scheduled walks

#### ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved streets in Reykjavik, black sand beach paths, trails on lava flows and spongy moss, compressed dirt, elevated boardwalks, and even on a glacial tongue. Generally, the paths are mostly level, although in limited instances such as on the glacier, there will be some elevation gain and loss.

### THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

#### CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

## Arrival & Departure

### → ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of the Alda Hotel  
CITY: Reykjavik, Iceland  
TIME: 9:00 AM

### → DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of the Alda Hotel  
CITY: Reykjavik, Iceland  
TIME: 9:00 AM  
Guests depart from hotel at their leisure.

## The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
  - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
  - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
  - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
  - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
  - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
  - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

## What's Included

- Accommodations for 5 nights
- 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
- 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.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**  
One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

## Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.