

A scenic landscape featuring a waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff on the right. In the foreground, a green valley with a winding river and a small bridge is visible. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds at sunset.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

Iceland

Spectacular South & Glacial Lagoon



“
*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. 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.

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.

By now, you've likely worked up an appetite. For lunch, you're having smoked salmon — but not like any smoked salmon lunch you've ever experienced. Join us for a truly unique Icelandic tradition. Walk to a lakeside setting where we'll dig up a pot of fresh rye bread that has been baking underground in the hot black sand for 24 hours. Witness firsthand how Icelanders ingeniously harness the earth's heat for cooking. The best part? You enjoy this delicious, warm bread straight from the ground, served as part of a one-of-a-kind picnic lunch with creamy Icelandic butter and locally caught smoked trout.

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: SUÐURLAND

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

South Coast

- Walk family farm trails to a secluded waterfall, traditional church, and lamb-filled sheep barn
- Choose a panoramic adventure: horseback ride or guided walk with mountain, glacier, and sea views

Our friends are proud of their family farm, and you'll see why this morning. Their family has been working this land for nine generations, and it shows in the deep connection they share with it. Join them for a walk on some beautiful trails out to the family's small church and 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.

This afternoon brings a choice of two equally memorable adventures. One of the family's lifelong passions is the breeding of Icelandic horses—short, sturdy, and shaggy—and their award-winning animals are sought after all over the world. You can saddle up for a ride along gently sloping trails with sweeping views of mountains, glaciers, and open plains that stretch to the sea, with the Westman Islands etched on the horizon.

If you'd prefer to explore on foot, join your guide on a curated walk on a panoramic trail. Every step brings a new perspective, from the towering peaks and brilliant icefields to the coastal vistas and offshore islands. Whether on horseback or on foot, the landscape opens itself to you in a way you'll never forget. Back at the hotel, you may want to join in the Icelandic tradition of a hot tub soak or unwind by the fireplace.

MEALS: B, L

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. If the weather permits, 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 »

Diamond Beach / Glacial Lagoon / Turf Houses

- Stroll Diamond Beach's shimmering black sands, scattered with "ice diamonds" and glacier-blue bergs
- Get up close to icebergs by Zodiac (summer) or descend into spectacular glacier caves (winter)

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 morning, 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.

On summertime departures, you'll board a Zodiac to get more up-close and personal with the icebergs. 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. On winter departures, you'll go ice caving on Vatnajökull Glacier. Outfitted with helmets and headlamps, you'll step through a shimmering, frozen entrance into one of the vast ice caves that form at the glacier's edge, where blue walls of ice arch overhead like a natural cathedral.

In the afternoon, set out from Skaftafell beneath the watchful gaze of icy peaks, where a scenic trail winds around braided rivers and through birch scrub. The path ascends gently toward the Sel turf houses, nestled on a quiet hillside above a river. Built with thick earthen walls and grass-covered roofs, these traditional dwellings are a hallmark of Icelandic architecture—designed to withstand harsh weather and conserve heat using local, sustainable materials. Their preserved interiors offer a glimpse into rural Icelandic life from centuries past, reflecting the practical ingenuity of early settlers. From there, continue upward to Sjónarsker, where a sweeping panorama opens to reveal three glacial tongues, lava plains, and distant ridgelines.

MEALS: B, L OVERNIGHT: GLACIER LAGOON

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Icelandic Coast, Horleifshofdi & Sky Lagoon

- Hike Horleifshöfði's headland trails, with vistas of black sand plains and 1200-year-old Viking ruins
- Unwind in Sky Lagoon's seven-step ritual—a legendary Icelandic spa experience with ocean views

Awake surrounded by dramatic glacial scenery before setting out on a journey through some of Iceland's most compelling landscapes. The day begins on a trail that traces the cape and climbs the slopes of Horleifshofdi to the top of the headland. As the path rises, remarkable views emerge of black sand plains and distant mountains. Along the way, explore 1200-year-old Viking ruins set proudly on the hillside—echoes from stories that have shaped Iceland for centuries. In summer, the headland becomes a nesting ground for Atlantic Puffins, whose burrows and bright beaks bring wild energy to the grassy slopes.

Continuing westward, the scenery unfolds into coastal panoramas, preparing you for a truly one of a kind and unforgettable thermal spa visit. The destination: Sky Lagoon—widely regarded as the thermal waters of choice for those seeking an authentic Icelandic bathing experience rooted in local tradition, rather than the social media crowds. Here, enjoy a deeply restorative soak and embark on the signature seven-step ritual, inspired by ages-old Icelandic wellness practices (we're not sure exactly what Valhalla—the heavenly realm of Icelandic lore—is like, but we have a feeling the Valkyries must have dreamed up this spa treatment).

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 »

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 Ingólfur 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



[Hotel Reykjavik Saga](#)

Hotel Reykjavik Saga is an elegant boutique hotel located on a historic street in downtown Reykjavík. With a modern design that honors Icelandic tradition, this retreat offers upscale dining, a spa & fitness studio, and views from the rooftop terrace.

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 Hotel Reykjavik
Saga
CITY: Reykjavik, Iceland
TIME: 9:00 AM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Hotel Reykjavik
Saga
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, 4 lunches and 3 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.