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## ICELAND'S WILD WONDERS

### Trip Summary

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Exploring Iceland's stunning landscape, including volcanoes, waterfalls, black sand beaches, and deep fjords
- Experiencing almost constant daylight as we are right below the arctic circle at midsummer
- Visiting two unique hot springs lagoons - Blue Lagoon and Sky Lagoon
- Staying in small towns whose fishing heritage goes back hundreds of years
- Sailing through the unique landscape of a Glacial Lagoon

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## TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Iceland
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Our first meeting is at 5 p.m. in the lobby of our hotel in Reykjavik on Day 1
Depart:	You are free to leave Reykjavik anytime on the last day

### Trip Overview

Iceland's Wild Wonders is a visit to the land of fire and ice and so much more! As one of the most geologically active areas on earth, this small country is packing a punch. With super friendly locals, jaw-dropping scenery, and hot springs galore, a trip to Iceland is always a delight. Our eight days will be packed: we'll tour Reykjavik, walk amongst glaciers, ride an Icelandic pony, feast on Icelandic specialties, and see evidence of Iceland's geothermal activity in all its many forms, from geysers to volcanoes. We will spend time in both the wonderful capital of Reykjavik as well as many days in the countryside, so we get the best of both worlds with this trip!

### Rating

This trip is designed for active women in good physical condition who want to combine hiking and sightseeing off the beaten track in Iceland; learning about its history and local culture, visiting glaciers and natural areas, all while savoring the local cuisine. A rating of 2 is suitable for any woman who regularly walks at a **brisk** pace 3 to 4 days a week for 35 - 45 minutes. These trips typically involve 3 to 5 hours of daily activity on hilly terrain. **Rating:** 1 **[2]** 3 4 5

### What's Included

- A local, English speaking guide and an AGC guide (depending on group size)
- 7 nights double occupancy lodging
- All meals from dinner the first day to breakfast on the last, except for one dinner in Reykjavik on Day 6
- Blue Lagoon and Sky Lagoon entrance fees
- All transportation (private bus, ferry, private boat) within Iceland
- Lava Show in Vik
- All entrance fees and activities as described in the itinerary

**Not included:** Transportation to/from Reykjavik (KEF), meals excluded from the itinerary, alcoholic beverages, guide gratuities and travel insurance.

## OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

### DAY 1

Welcome to Iceland! Arrive in Reykjavik anytime today. Flights from North America typically arrive early in the morning, so you may have some free time before we meet. Our trip officially begins at 5:00 PM at our hotel in Reykjavik. After a welcome orientation and introductions, we will head to our first dinner together. We will use this time to get to know one another, and try some Icelandic delicacies.

Overnight: Skuggi Hotel, or similar, Reykjavik (D)

### DAY 2

After a full night's sleep, we will work off the rest of our jet lag with a trip to the famous Blue Lagoon. The Blue Lagoon is a modern wonder, tucked away in a black lava field just outside of Reykjavik. Iceland is known for their geothermic activity, and the Blue Lagoon is an effect of this natural marvel. The milky blue and mineral rich waters are known for their skin healing properties. After a long soaking session, we will return to Reykjavik for a sightseeing tour, including the landmark Hallgr mskirkja church. Enjoy the view from the vantage point known as the Pearl (Perlan), a science and cultural center built on hot water storage tanks, and take a look at Reykjavik's new city hall among other highlights.

Overnight: Skuggi Hotel, or similar, Reykjavik (B L D)

### DAY 3

Today, we leave Reykjavik for 3 nights in the countryside. We start with a visit to Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the location of Iceland's Parliament between the years of 930 and 1798. Thingvellir is also one of the few places in the world where you can see the effects of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates pulling apart, clearly visible in Almannagja or Everyman's Gorge. At lunch time, visit a family-run geothermal greenhouse farm. Enjoy lunch made from the produce grown at the farm. After lunch explore the erupting hot springs area Geysir, the place giving its name to the phenomenon worldwide. From here, a 10-minute drive takes us to Gullfoss, or Golden Falls, Iceland's most famous waterfall. In the afternoon, visit a ranch for an introduction to the Icelandic Viking horse. Learn about this unique breed brought to Iceland by the original settlers in the 9th century. Then enjoy an easy riding tour in the beautiful surroundings with views towards Hekla, one of Iceland's most famous volcanoes.

Overnight: Hotel Stracta (B L D)

### DAY 4

This morning, we pack a picnic lunch and head into the highland nature reserve of Landmannalaugar, one of Iceland's most dramatic areas. Landmannalaugar features the largest geothermal field in Iceland and the area derives its magnificence and diverse nature from Iceland's active volcanic zone. Landmannalaugar's spectacular landscape features stupendous ravines, steep rhyolite screes, rocky slopes, mountains with boiling hot springs, cold and clear springs, lush valleys with delicate wildflowers, light colored alluvial plains and sculptural peaks sporting all the colors of the rainbow. Your guide will pick a hike that fits your interests and abilities. In the afternoon continue across the vast Eldhraun lava fields from one of the world's largest volcanic eruptions dating back to the 18th century. In the late afternoon, check into your hotel located in the remote south east. We will be staying here for the next two nights.

Overnight: Hotel Laki (B L)

### DAY 5

Today we'll explore the area beneath Vatnajökull glacier, Europe's largest ice-cap. We'll begin by heading to Skaftafell National Park, where we hike and enjoy the amazing alpine surroundings of waterfalls, glacier tongues, mountain peaks and the black desert sands stretching out to sea. After one or two other stops, we'll head to the spectacular Jokulsarlon glacier lagoon, where icebergs drift out to sea. Two James Bond movies were filmed in this fantastic location and floating among the ice you may spot seals, eider ducks, and even witness the glacier calving into the crystal turquoise waters. Go on a boat tour in the lagoon. Explore the nearby black sand beach, nicknamed the Diamond beach, where large chunks of ice cover the sands for a dramatic contrast.

Overnight: Hotel Laki (B L D)

## DAY 6

Today we will explore the south coast of Iceland, taking in some of its most dramatic scenery, visiting waterfalls and black-sand beaches along the way. Stops include the dramatic cliffs of the south populated by puffins and other seabirds, Skogafoss waterfall and Seljalandsfoss waterfall, a waterfall that you can walk behind the cascading water. We'll stop for lunch in the small village of Vik. Nestled amid the Katla UNESCO Global Geopark, Vik is magnificently surrounded by volcanoes, glaciers, and black sand beaches. Learn about Iceland's unique geology and the lava that created much of it at the Lava Exhibit and enjoy a unique Lava Show. Arrive back in Reykjavik for you to enjoy a night on your own. You may choose to walk around town and eat dinner on your own, or call it an early night.

Overnight: Hotel Skuggi (B L)

## DAY 7

Hot Springs are part of Icelandic heritage, so today we will start the day with a visit to our second bathing experience at the Sky Lagoon. The oceanside hot spring offers amazing views of the ocean, and will be very refreshing for you, as you soak away the activities from our week together. After you have had your fill of soaking, lunch will be in a small fishing village. In the afternoon, sail out from the old harbor in Reykjavik through Faxaflói Bay to look for puffins as well as Minke, Humpback, and other types of North Atlantic whales. We will return to Reykjavik for our Final Dinner, reminiscing about a fantastic trip to the Land of Fire and Ice!

Accommodation: Hotel Skuggi (B L D)

## DAY 8

You are free to leave anytime this morning. We'll arrange shuttles to the airport based on departure times. (B)

## ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

### Getting There

The trip starts in Reykjavik at our hotel. Many flights arrive from the US in the morning, and you are responsible for getting from the airport to our first night's hotel. The Flybus from Keflavik Airport is a convenient and easy way to get from the Keflavik airport (KEF) to downtown Reykjavik.

Note that the trip starts and ends in Reykjavik (KEF).

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Exito charges a one-time, non-refundable processing fee of \$50 per passenger.

### Accommodations

While in Reykjavik, we will be staying in a centrally located hotel, with ensuite bathrooms. While traveling the countryside, we will be staying in smaller, locally run hotels with ensuite bathrooms.

### Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com) or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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