Discovering Our Planet Together



Iceland: Circling the Land of Fire & Ice

A Full Loop Around a Nordic Realm of Waterfalls, Glaciers, Geysers & Volcanoes

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Trip Details:

Days
11 Days / Jun–Sep

Price
From $16995 (+Air)

Iceland: Circling the Land of Fire & Ice

A Full Loop Around a Nordic Realm of Waterfalls, Glaciers, Geysers & Volcanoes

Iceland is a small island nation on the edge of the Arctic Circle, but few countries are bigger on natural wonders. Glaciers and geysers, hot springs and waterfalls, basalt pillars and black sand beaches, frigid fjords and fields of lava...Iceland has all these and more, and our expedition showcases the full array of its striking contrasts. Uninhabited until the island was settled by Norse Vikings in the 9th century, Iceland today is one of the most sparsely populated countries in Europe. Along its shores, we're outnumbered by whales, seals and puffins, which we scout out on private boat excursions. Inland, walk atop raw terrain born of fiery volcanoes and carved by glaciers. Here the North American and Eurasian plates meet, and geothermal forces create a dynamic and dramatic landscape—an experience of pure nature at its most powerful.

Trip Highlights

An All-Encompassing, Full Loop Itinerary

Make a complete circle around Iceland by private mini bus, chartered plane, boat and 4x4—you won't find a more thorough immersion in Icelandic nature

A Rare Visit to the Remote Westfjords

Explore less-visited areas including the far-flung Westfjords, with a private boat cruise to see whales and a seasonal summer puffin colony

Super Jeep Tour into the Little-Visited Highlands

From a custom 4x4 built for rugged terrain, explore a raw, otherworldly landscape of volcanic deserts and mountains shaped by fire and ice

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



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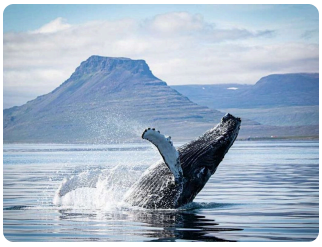
Iceland: Circling the Land of Fire & Ice Itineraries

A Full Loop Around a Nordic Realm of Waterfalls, Glaciers, Geysers & Volcanoes



Classic Itinerary

An immersive journey into the rugged grandeur of a land sculpted by intense geological forces. Make a full loop around Iceland on the most comprehensive adventure this compact country has to offer.



Autumn Itinerary

After summer's crowds are gone, a palette of fall color accents Iceland's dramatic landscapes, and the return of dark night skies may offer a chance to see the northern lights.

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Classic Itinerary

Iceland: Circling the Land of Fire & Ice

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Keflavik / Reykjavik
Day 2	South Shore / Dyrholaey Peninsula
Day 3	Skaftafell
Day 4	East Fjords / Djupivogur / Vallanes Farm / Modrudalur
Day 5	Eastern Highlands / Modrudalur
Day 6	Dettifoss / Hverarond / Lake Myvatn
Day 7	Dimmuborgir / Godafoss / Akureyri
Day 8	Aedey Island
Day 9	Hornstrandir Nature Reserve / Kviar
Day 10	Westfjords / Isafjordur / Reykjavik
Day 11	Reykjavik / Keflavik



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Day 1

Keflavik / Reykjavik

Arrive in Reykjavik before circling Iceland's wild coast

- Explore Iceland's compact, walkable capital
- Join your Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner and preview of the journey ahead

Arrive at Keflavik International Airport where you are met on arrival and transferred to our hotel in Reykjavik, about a 45-minute drive. If you arrive early, you may store your bags at our conveniently located hotel while you explore this compact, walkable city on your own. This evening, join our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, with an orientation to all the adventures that lie ahead in this geological wonderland.

Day 2

South Shore / Dyrholaey Peninsula

Walk among waterfalls, black-sand beaches and nesting puffins

- Explore Iceland's volcanic forces at the interactive Lava Center
- Stand beneath Skogafoss and Kvernufoss waterfalls
- Watch puffins above Reynisfjara Beach and the Reynisdrangar sea stacks

Explore Iceland's south coast en route to Vik, an area known for its volcanic black sand beaches and countless waterfalls. We are in the region affected by the powerful 2010 eruption of Eyjafjallajokull volcano, an event brought to life at the Lava Center, which features interactive exhibits depicting the colossal natural forces that have created Iceland over tens of millions of years. Our knowledge of Iceland's dynamic geology is enhanced as we learn about the eruptions and lava flows, rift systems, faults and glacial floods that make the island a showcase of volcanism. The center introduces us to the UNESCO Katla Global Geopark plus Iceland's elaborate monitoring system for surveying volcanos and earthquake zones.

Continuing along the south coast, we stop at several thundering waterfalls, including powerful Skogafoss and Kvernufoss, where the force of nature is utterly palpable. The Dyrholaey Peninsula, famous for its massive rock arch eroded from the cape, holds some of Iceland's best Atlantic puffin viewing, with a large migratory colony found here. Other seabirds abound, including eider ducks. After a walk on the famous black sand beach, we're off next to Reynisdrangar Rocks, a trio of columnar basalt sea stacks. Legend holds that they were formed after two trolls were out fishing in a three-masted ship. When the trolls did not return to their cave before sunrise, they and their vessel turned into needles of stone, since trolls cannot tolerate daylight.

Day 3

Skaftafell

Cruise among icebergs beneath the glaciers of Vatnajokull

- Explore the mountains, valleys and glacial landscapes of Skaftafell
- Choose a guided glacier walk or a scenic hike overlooking the ice
- Travel by private Zodiac among the icebergs of Fjallsarlon Lagoon

Our focus today is Skaftafell, a national park now absorbed inside the larger Vatnajokull National Park established in 2008. Known for its rugged landscapes, mountains and glaciers, Skaftafell contains about half of the Vatnajokull Glacier, Europe's largest ice cap. No roads penetrate the park's wild recesses, but two options offer a chance to explore a slice of it: Choose between a walk atop a glacier or an easy hike with glacial views. We then board a private Zodiac to explore Fjallsarlon Glacier Lagoon, a less-touristed opportunity to get close to floating icebergs. The lake is the meltwater from Fjallsarlon Glacier, a tongue of the massive Vatnajokull Glacier, which has calved the huge chunks of blue ice that drift on the surface.

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Day 4

East Fjords / Djupivogur / Vallanes Farm / Modrudalur

A fishing village, East Fjords traditions and Iceland's highest farm

- Stroll historic Djupivogur with a local resident
- Stop for hot drinks at the organic Vallanes Farm café
- Stay at Modrudalur, Iceland's highest inhabited farm

Enjoy a day of cultural connections as we enter the East Fjords, a little-visited region of forests, farms and picturesque fishing villages. In Djupivogur, take a scenic walk along the coast near Alftafjordur, then join a local resident for a stroll around the historic fishing town, learning about daily life where traditions and livelihoods center on the sea. Then admire the Eggs of Merry Bay, one of Iceland's most unusual sculptures. Created in 2009 by Icelandic artist Sigurdur Gudmundsson, the 34 large-scale egg replicas represent 34 bird species found in the area, each one mounted on a platform along the harbor.

Heading inland, follow a remote road to Vallanes Farm where we stop for hot drinks and snacks at this organic farm and cafe crafted of sustainably harvested wood. Continue to Modrudalur, one of the oldest farms in Iceland, with evidence of its presence since the original settlement by the Vikings. The site was an important crossroads where two historic cross-country trails intersected, and its location is referenced in the famous Sagas that date to the 10th and 11th centuries. Modrudalur is also the highest inhabited place in Iceland, at 1,539 feet above sea level. We spend the next two nights here at Fjalladyrd, a hospitable family-run farm and guesthouse that offers easy access to our 4x4 adventure tomorrow.

Day 5

Eastern Highlands / Modrudalur

Venture by Super Jeep into Iceland's remote eastern highlands

- Travel deep into one of Europe's largest wilderness regions
- Overlook the sheer walls of Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon, conditions permitting
- Soak beneath the natural hot-spring waterfall at Laugarvalladalur

Set out this morning in Super Jeeps—kitted-out high-clearance 4x4s—to explore the hidden wonders of eastern Iceland's highlands. These large SUVs have been modified with big tires and extra shock absorption to provide a more comfortable ride over off-road terrain, allowing deeper access into this remote region. Iceland's vast highlands are the largest wilderness in Europe, where many of the country's myths and legends have originated. A place where human history and wilderness mesh, it has inspired generations of poets, artists and conservationists.

Weather and local conditions will dictate exactly where we go, but the options are myriad for exploring this lunar-like landscape, replete with volcanoes, waterfalls and stark canyons. We'll stop at Troll Rocks, a mysterious stack of massive boulders with no known origin, and take a break for tea at a traditional turf house. Unless strong winds prohibit, we'll marvel at Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon, a 650-foot-deep gorge, from high grassy slopes overlooking the chasm. Ultimately, we make our way to Laugarvalladalur, a verdant valley warmed by a geothermal creek and known for its hot springs waterfall that doubles as a natural shower. Return to Modrudalur for a second night at Fjalladyrd.

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Day 6

Dettifoss / Hverarond / Lake Myvatn

Feel the force of Dettifoss before riding beside Lake Myvatn

- Stand before Dettifoss, one of Europe's most powerful waterfalls
- Soak in the geothermal waters of Earth Lagoon Myvatn
- Ride Icelandic horses past lava pillars and false craters

Witness the power of Dettifoss, Europe's largest waterfall by volume and the mightiest cataract in Iceland. This thundering curtain of water, 330 feet wide and 150 high, is fed by the giant Vatnajokull Glacier. If we're lucky, we might see a rainbow over the falls. Next, explore the Hverarond geothermal area, an otherworldly setting of hissing steam vents, bubbling mud pots, cracked earth and pungent sulphur. Then continue to Lake Myvatn, formed during a massive eruption 2,300 years ago. The Myvatn region is still a site of geothermal activity, with lava flows coming most recently from the 1984 eruption of Krafla volcano. Numerous lava formations are found in and around the shallow lake. These phenomena are formed when lava flows over wet ground, pushing it down and trapping steam. As pressure mounts, steam explosions create fascinating "false craters." One of the premier birdwatching areas in the world for northern ducks and Arctic waterbirds, Lake Myvatn's marshes provide habitat for huge numbers of migratory birds in summer. More than 115 species have been seen at the lake, including 13 species of nesting ducks.

This afternoon, explore the fascinating lava formations around Lake Myvatn on horseback. This optional 1-hour private ride offers a striking vantage point on the region's wondrous geological features, including whimsically shaped pillars and a close-up look at a false crater. For those who may not wish to ride, a scenic walk is an alternative. Later today, enjoy a quintessentially Icelandic experience with a soak in a nearby thermal bath. At Earth Lagoon Myvatn, amid clouds of steam rising from a fissure deep in the Earth, immerse yourself in soothing, milky-turquoise water that's naturally heated by geothermal forces. Drawn from depths of up to a mile and a half below the surface, temperatures in the lagoon pools range from 98°F to 103°F.

Day 7

Dimmuborgir / Godafoss / Akureyri

Cross lava fields and fly above Iceland's glacier-carved coast

- Wander among the dark lava formations of Dimmuborgir
- Stand before the crescent-shaped cascade of Godafoss
- Fly by private charter to Isafjordur above Iceland's remote coastline

The day begins with a stop at Dimmuborgir, a dramatic lava field formed by a volcanic eruption some 2,300 years ago and distinguished by towering rock pillars, caves and unusual lava formations. Continuing westward, we stop at Godafoss, one of Iceland's most beautiful waterfalls originating deep in the highlands. Shaped like a crescent, it drops 40 feet over a sheer volcanic cliff. Reaching Akureyri, connect with our late-afternoon chartered flight to Isafjordur, with scenic views of Iceland's indented coastline and glacier-carved interior en route. Originally settled in the 9th century, Isafjordur became a trading post for foreign merchants in the 16th century and today is the main town in the remote Westfjords in far-northwest Iceland.

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Day 8

Aedey Island

Meet an island family sustaining Iceland’s eiderdown tradition

- Cruise by private boat to remote Aedey Island
- Learn how the family gathers prized eiderdown without disturbing nesting birds
- Search the Westfjords for humpback whales, minke whales and seabirds

Set out to explore the far-flung Westfjords today, a region on very few Iceland itineraries. We begin with a journey to Aedey Island by private boat, looking for whales and birdlife along the way. This rugged outpost marked by coastal cliffs, towering sea stacks and secluded coves, is best known for its eider duck population. These protected birds produce eiderdown, a rare and luxurious natural insulation filling renowned for its warmth and light weight. Iceland produces 75% of the world’s eiderdown through sustainable harvesting. After the ducks’ eggs hatch and the chicks have fledged, the birds abandon their eiderdown-lined nests, and the farmers who have protected them against natural predators collect the precious material. Just one family lives and farms on the island, and they guide us through Aedey’s history and the down collection process. A short scenic walk reveals more of the island, and we’re likely to see puffins, guillemots and terns. Our Westfjords adventure continues as our boat navigates the intricate fjord system, searching for humpback and minke whales.

Day 9

Hornstrandir Nature Reserve / Kviar

Search for Arctic foxes in Iceland’s roadless northern wilderness

- Sail to Hornstrandir Nature Reserve, accessible only by boat
- Watch for Arctic foxes roaming the protected tundra
- Walk from Kviar Lodge beneath towering seabird cliffs

From Isafjordur, we head to a part of the vast Hornstrandir Nature Reserve that can only be reached by boat. A wild, untouched realm of sea cliffs, tundra and glacier-carved fjords, this 220-square-mile landscape in the most remote corner of Iceland has been protected since 1974. Humans inhabited scattered settlements along Hornstrandir's bays and coves in recent centuries, although they were abandoned in the 1950s as residents sought growing job opportunities and an escape from harsh living conditions, leaving for surrounding towns. No roads, power lines or other manmade structures remain except for a few summerhouses that dot parts of the area.

Millions of seabirds nest on Hornstrandir’s high vertical cliffs, and the reserve is also home to Arctic foxes that roam freely on the land. We often see whales and puffins on our way to Kviar, our base for discovering the Hornstrandir region. Kviar was a large farm until 1948, when the family that lived here joined their neighbors in search of an easier life elsewhere. The old farmhouse, now called Kviar Lodge, has been renovated as a cozy base for exploration, and we may see foxes playing outside. We take a short walk up the valley to experience the remote beauty of our tundra environs, maybe catching a glimpse of rare species such as the white-tailed eagle. If we see foxes, we respect their summer breeding season, keeping our distance.

Returning to Isafjordur, enjoy dinner at the Tar House restaurant, renowned for its fish stew and fresh Icelandic seafood. From our hotel, it's an easy walk back into town later this evening in the lingering light of Iceland's long summer days.

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Day 10

Westfjords / Isafjordur / Reykjavik

Trace Viking history across the remote Westfjords

- Cross isolated fjords by Super Jeep to historic Thingeyri
- Visit archaeological excavations revealing early Icelandic iron-smelting
- Share a farewell dinner before flying to Reykjavik

Step into Iceland's deep geological past and rich cultural tapestry on a Super Jeep journey in the Westfjords. On this immersive tour, explore how the dramatic forces of geology have not only shaped the towering mountains but also defined the lives, legends and livelihoods of the people who have called this region home from the Viking Age to the present day. Our adventure begins in Isafjordur, the heart of the Westfjords, before crossing into the neighboring fjord of Dyrarfjordur where we stop in the charming village of Thingeyri—a historic site that was once a Viking assembly point.

Along the route to Arnafjordur, we pass through an area rich in cultural and geological significance, including active archaeological sites where researchers are excavating early iron-smelting operations. These digs give unique insight into how early Icelanders harnessed the volcanic geology of the region to create tools, forge connections and survive in a raw and rugged environment. Each layer of basalt, each scree slope and glacial valley tells a story not just of millennia of volcanic and glacial activity, but of human resilience and adaptation to the forces of nature. Returning to Isafjordur, we have an early farewell dinner and then head to the airport for our evening flight to Reykjavik.

Day 11

Reykjavik / Keflavik

Depart Reykjavik after circling the land of fire and ice

- Transfer to the airport for homeward flights

Our Iceland expedition comes to a close today. After breakfast, a transfer to Keflavik International Airport is included to meet departing flights.

Please note: *Starting mid-August, puffins and other seabirds that nest here in summer will likely have migrated away from the area. Additionally, activities in the Westfjords may take place on days or times that are different from what is shown on this itinerary, depending on local schedules, weather conditions, etc.*

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Autumn Itinerary

Iceland: Circling the Land of Fire & Ice

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Keflavik / Reykjavik
Day 2	South Shore / Vik
Day 3	Skaftafell
Day 4	Djupivogur / Vallanes Farm / Modrudalur
Day 5	Modrudalur
Day 6	Dettifoss / Hverarond / Lake Myvatn
Day 7	Husavik / Asbyrgi Canyon
Day 8	Dimmuborgir / Godafoss / Akureyri / Isafjordur
Day 9	Hornstrandir / Kviar / Isafjordur
Day 10	Thingeyri / Dynjandi
Day 11	Reykjavik / Keflavik



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Day 1

Keflavik / Reykjavik

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- Explore Iceland's compact, walkable capital
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Arrive at Keflavik International Airport where you are met on arrival and transferred to our hotel in Reykjavik, about a 45-minute drive. If you arrive early, you may store your bags at our conveniently located hotel while you explore this compact, walkable city on your own. This evening, join our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, with an orientation to all the adventures that lie ahead in this geological wonderland.

Day 2

South Shore / Vik

Walk among waterfalls and black-sand beaches on Iceland's south coast

- Explore Iceland's volcanic forces at the interactive Lava Center
- Stand beneath Skogafoss and Kvernufoss waterfalls
- Walk Reynisfjara Beach beneath the Reynisdrangar sea stacks

Explore Iceland's south coast en route to Vik, an area known for its volcanic black sand beaches and countless waterfalls. We are in the region affected by the powerful 2010 eruption of Eyjafjallajokull volcano, an event brought to life at the Lava Center, which features interactive exhibits depicting the colossal natural forces that have created Iceland over tens of millions of years. Here we learn about Iceland's dynamic geology: the volcanic eruptions and lava flows, rift systems, faults and glacial floods that have forged the island. The center introduces us to the UNESCO Katla Global Geopark plus Iceland's elaborate monitoring system for surveying volcanoes and earthquake zones.

Continuing along the south coast, we stop at several thundering waterfalls, including Skogafoss and Kvernufoss. Another highlight is Reynisdrangar Rocks, a trio of columnar basalt sea stacks. Legend holds that they were formed after two trolls were out fishing in a three-masted ship. When the trolls did not return to their cave before sunrise, they and their vessel turned into needles of stone, since trolls cannot tolerate daylight. Here, we'll have a chance to walk on the famous black sand beach and admire the columnar basalt formations before continuing to our hotel for the evening, where we'll have dinner.

Day 3

Skaftafell

Cruise among icebergs beneath the glaciers of Vatnajokull

- Explore the mountains, valleys and glacial landscapes of Skaftafell
- Choose a guided glacier walk or a scenic hike overlooking the ice
- Travel by private Zodiac among the icebergs of Fjallsarlon Lagoon

Our focus today is Skaftafell, a national park now absorbed inside the larger Vatnajokull National Park established in 2008. Known for its rugged landscapes, mountains and glaciers, Skaftafell contains about half of the Vatnajokull Glacier, Europe's largest ice cap. No roads penetrate the park's wild recesses, but two options offer a chance to explore a slice of it: Choose between a walk atop a glacier or an easy hike. We then board a private Zodiac to explore Fjallsarlon Glacier Lagoon, a less-touristed opportunity to get close to giant floating icebergs. The lake is the meltwater from Fjallsarlon Glacier, a tongue of the massive Vatnajokull Glacier, which has calved the huge chunks of blue ice that drift on the surface.

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Day 4

Djupivogur / Vallanes Farm / Modrudalur

A fishing village, East Fjords traditions and Iceland's highest farm

- Stroll historic Djupivogur with a local resident
- Stop for hot drinks at the organic Vallanes Farm café
- Stay at Modrudalur, Iceland's highest inhabited farm

Enjoy a day of cultural connections as we enter the East Fjords, a little-visited region of forests, farms and picturesque fishing villages. In the town of Djupivogur, admire the Eggs of Merry Bay, one of Iceland's most unusual sculptures. Created in 2009 by Icelandic artist Sigurdur Gudmundsson, the 34 large-scale egg replicas represent 34 bird species found in the area, each one mounted on a platform along the harbor. Take a scenic walk along the coast near Alftafjordur, then join a local resident for a stroll around a historic fishing town, learning about daily life where traditions and livelihoods center on the sea.

Heading inland, follow a remote road to Vallanes Farm where we stop for hot drinks and snacks at this organic farm and cafe crafted of sustainably harvested wood. Continue to Modrudalur, one of the oldest farms in Iceland, with evidence of its presence since the original settlement by the Vikings. The site was an important crossroads where two historic cross-country trails intersected, and its location is referenced in the famous Sagas that date to the 10th and 11th centuries. Modrudalur is also the highest inhabited place in Iceland, at 1,539 feet above sea level. We spend the next two nights here at Fjalladyrd, a hospitable family-run farm and guesthouse.

Day 5

Modrudalur

Venture by Super Jeep into Iceland's remote eastern highlands

- Travel deep into one of Europe's largest wilderness regions
- Overlook the sheer walls of Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon, conditions permitting
- Soak beneath the natural hot-spring waterfall at Laugarvalladalur

Set out this morning in Super Jeeps—kitted-out high-clearance 4x4s—to explore the hidden wonders of eastern Iceland's highlands. These large SUVs have been modified with big tires and extra shock absorption to provide a more comfortable ride over off-road terrain, allowing deeper access into this remote region. On our adventurous journey through the lunar-like landscape, stops include Troll Rocks, a mysterious stack of massive boulders with no known origin, and tea at a traditional turf house. Marvel at Hafrahvammagljufur Canyon, a 650-foot-deep gorge, from high grassy slopes overlooking the chasm. Ultimately, we make our way to Laugarvalladalur, a verdant valley warmed by a geothermal creek and known for its hot springs waterfall that doubles as a natural shower. Return to Modrudalur for a second night at Fjalladyrd.

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Day 6

Dettifoss / Hverarond / Lake Myvatn

Feel the force of Dettifoss before soaking beside Lake Myvatn

- Stand before Dettifoss, one of Europe's most powerful waterfalls
- Explore the geothermal landscapes surrounding Lake Myvatn
- Soak in the milky-turquoise waters of Earth Lagoon Myvatn

Witness the power of Dettifoss, Europe's largest waterfall by volume and the most powerful cataract in Iceland. This thundering curtain of water, 330 feet wide and 150 high, is fed by the giant Vatnajokull Glacier. If we're lucky, we might see a rainbow over the falls, which makes for dramatic photos. Next, we explore the Hverarond geothermal area, an otherworldly setting of hissing steam vents, bubbling mud pots, cracked earth and pungent sulphur, then continue to Lake Myvatn. Formed during a massive eruption 2,300 years ago, the Myvatn region is still a site of geothermal activity, with lava flows coming most recently from the 1984 eruption of Krafla volcano. Numerous lava formations are found in and around the shallow lake. These phenomena are formed when lava flows over wet ground, pushing it down and trapping steam. As pressure mounts, steam explosions create these fascinating "false craters."

This afternoon, explore the fascinating lava formations around Lake Myvatn on horseback. This optional 1-hour private ride offers a striking vantage point on the region's wondrous geological features, including whimsically shaped pillars and a close-up look at a false crater. For those who may not wish to ride, a birdwatching walk is an alternative. One of the premier birdwatching areas in the world for northern ducks and Arctic waterbirds, Lake Myvatn's marshes provide habitat for huge numbers of migratory birds in summer. More than 115 species have been seen at the lake, including 13 species of nesting ducks.

Later today, enjoy a quintessentially Icelandic experience with a soak in a nearby thermal bath. At Earth Lagoon Myvatn, amid clouds of steam rising from a fissure deep in the Earth, immerse yourself in soothing, milky-turquoise water that's naturally heated by geothermal forces. Drawn from depths of up to a mile and a half below the surface, temperatures in the lagoon pools range from 98°F to 103°F.

Day 7

Husavik / Asbyrgi Canyon

Watch for whales before entering autumn-bright Asbyrgi Canyon

- Cruise Skjalfandi Bay from Iceland's whale-watching capital
- Search for minke and humpback whales feeding offshore
- Explore horseshoe-shaped Asbyrgi Canyon amid autumn foliage

Husavik is famous as the whale-watching capital of Iceland and is globally recognized as one of the best places on Earth to see whales. We go in search of them on a private boat cruise this morning. The ecosystem of Skjalfandi Bay is dense with nutrients for whales, fed by melting snow and rivers that combine with three different ocean currents and near-perpetual summer sunlight to create a food-rich environment. With teeming masses of plankton and fish to filter-feed on, baleen whales enjoy a seasonal feast off Husavik that attracts them in greater numbers here than anywhere else in Europe. Sightings of minke and humpback whales are common, while occasionally we may see blue whales, fin whales and orcas. Playful pods of dolphins sometimes make an appearance, too, along with scores of seabirds.

This afternoon, explore Asbyrgi Canyon, a dramatic horseshoe-shaped depression steeped in local folklore. Just over 2 miles long, the curving canyon formed as a remnant of the last Ice Age, following catastrophic glacial flooding of the Jokulsa a Fjollum River, which likely occurred due to a volcanic eruption beneath the ice cap of the Vatnajokull Glacier. Just 3,000 years ago, this process repeated itself, further sculpting the gorge contained by sheer walls that rise more than 300 feet from its depths. The bottom of the canyon is filled with birch and willow woodlands that put on a brilliant show of golden foliage in autumn. A more romantic story of the canyon's origins is found in Icelandic mythology: Legend holds that Odin's eight-legged steed, Sleipnir, stomped his immortal foot at Asbyrgi, leaving a colossal hoofprint in the earth that remains to this day.

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Day 8

Dimmuborgir / Godafoss / Akureyri / Isafjordur

Cross lava fields and fly above Iceland's glacier-carved coast

- Walk among the dark lava formations of Dimmuborgir
- Stand before the crescent-shaped cascade of Godafoss
- Explore Akureyri before flying by private charter to Isafjordur

Our day begins at Dimmuborgir, a dramatic lava field formed by a volcanic eruption some 2,300 years ago. Distinguished by towering rock pillars, caves and unusual lava formations, Dimmuborgir is spectacular in the fall when the vibrant foliage is at its peak. Continue to Godafoss, one of Iceland's most striking waterfalls, originating deep in the highlands. Shaped like a crescent, it drops 40 feet over a sheer volcanic cliff. Then it's on to Akureyri, Iceland's second-biggest city. Nestled at the base of a fjord and surrounded by mountains, Iceland's "Capital of the North" is a cultural outpost, and we have time to check out downtown galleries and the scenic waterfront, as well as the renowned Akureyri Botanical Gardens, before connecting with our late-afternoon chartered flight to Isafjordur. Originally settled in the 9th century, Isafjordur became a trading post for foreign merchants in the 16th century and today is the main town in the remote Westfjords in far-northwest Iceland, with an economy long focused on fishing.

Day 9

Hornstrandir / Kviar / Isafjordur

Search for Arctic foxes in Iceland's roadless northern wilderness

- Sail to Hornstrandir Nature Reserve, accessible only by boat
- Watch for Arctic foxes, whales, dolphins and seabirds
- Dine on the day's seafood at Tjoruhusid, an 18th-century waterfront landmark

Set out by boat to explore part of the vast Hornstrandir Nature Reserve, which can only be reached by sea. A wild, unspoiled realm of tundra, sea cliffs, flowering fields and glacier-carved fjords, this 220-square-mile landscape sits in Iceland's most remote corner and has been protected since 1974. Humans inhabited scattered settlements along Hornstrandir's bays and coves in recent centuries, although they were abandoned in the 1950s as residents sought growing job opportunities and an escape from harsh living conditions, leaving for surrounding towns. No roads, power lines or other manmade structures remain except for a few summerhouses that dot parts of the area.

Keep an eye out for marine life as we cross the bay of Isafjardardjup—we could see humpback or minke whales, white-beaked dolphins, harbor porpoises or seals. Skirting the sheer cliffs on Bjarnarnupur, we pass a dramatic rock arch (a seasonal home to cormorants and other seabirds) as Kviar comes into view. A large farm until 1948, when the family that lived here joined their neighbors in search of an easier life elsewhere, the property is now a welcoming lodge, and we stop for lunch in the cozy guesthouse. Look for protected Arctic foxes that roam freely on the land, and admire the red and orange fall foliage on a short walk.

Return to Isafjordur for a dinner of freshly caught seafood at Tjoruhusid (Tar House). This famous restaurant occupies one of Isafjordur's oldest buildings, dating to 1781. Rather than a set menu, the focus is on the day's catch prepared in uniquely Icelandic recipes, like monkfish in creamy blue cheese sauce and a renowned hearty fish chowder.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 10

Thingeyri / Dynjandi

Trace Viking history beneath the cascades of Dynjandi

- Cross the remote Westfjords by Super Jeep
- Stand before Dynjandi's broad tiers of falling water
- Visit Thingeyri and archaeological excavations revealing early Icelandic iron-smelting

Step into Iceland's deep geological past and rich cultural tapestry on a Super Jeep journey in the Westfjords. On this immersive tour, explore how the dramatic forces of geology have not only shaped the towering mountains but also defined the lives, legends and livelihoods of the people who have called this region home from the Viking Age to the present day. Our adventure begins in Isafjordur, the heart of the Westfjords, before crossing into the neighboring fjord of Dyrarfjordur where we stop in the charming village of Thingeyri—a historic site that was once a Viking assembly point. Along the route to Arnafjordur, we pass through an area rich in cultural and geological significance, including active archaeological sites where researchers are excavating early iron-smelting operations. These digs give unique insight into how early Icelanders harnessed the volcanic geology of the region to create tools, forge connections and survive in a raw and rugged environment. Each layer of basalt, each scree slope and glacial valley tells a story not just of millennia of volcanic and glacial activity, but of human resilience and adaptation to the forces of nature. Returning to Isafjordur, we have an early farewell dinner and then head to the airport for our evening flight to Reykjavik.

Please note: *Activities in the Westfjords may take place on days or times that are different from what this itinerary indicates, depending on local schedules, weather conditions, etc.*

Day 11

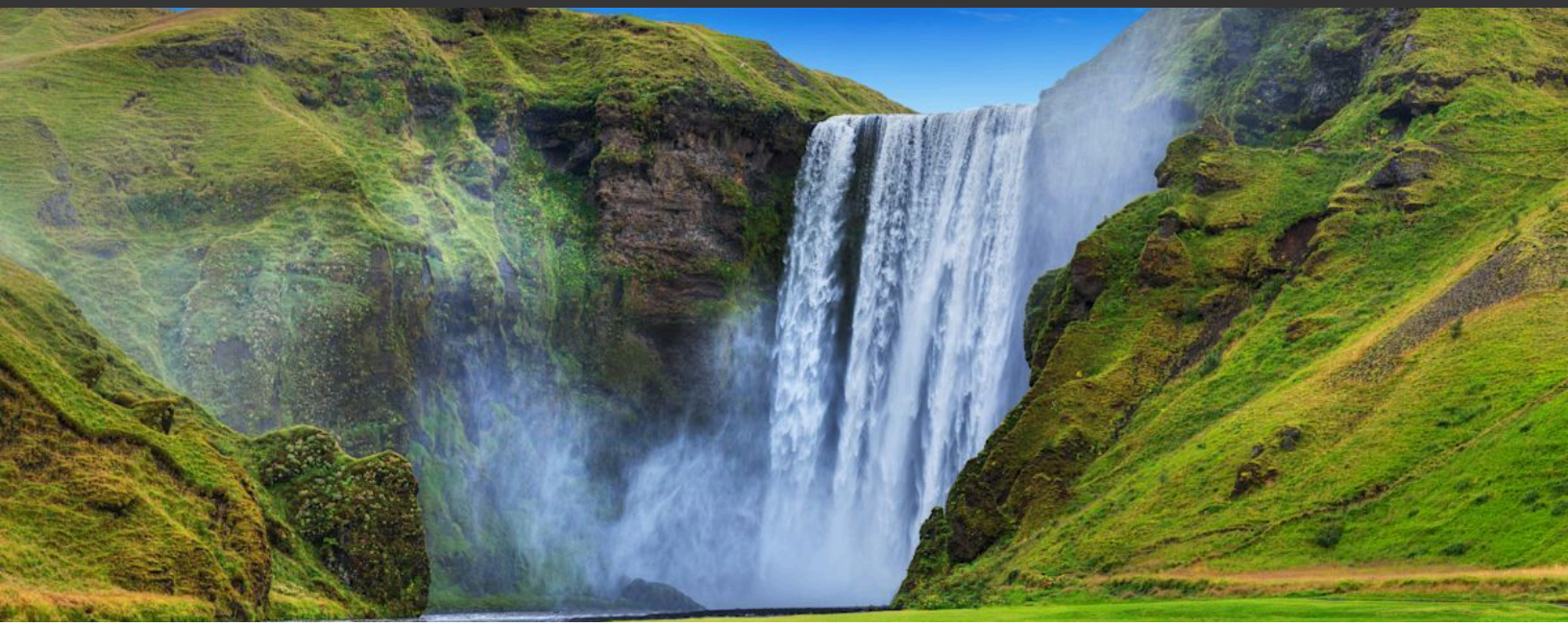
Reykjavik / Keflavik

Depart Reykjavik after circling the land of fire and ice

- Transfer to the airport for homeward flights

Our Iceland expedition comes to a close today. After breakfast, a transfer to Keflavik International Airport is included to meet departing flights.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Iceland: Circling the Land of Fire & Ice Accommodations

A Full Loop Around a Nordic Realm of Waterfalls, Glaciers, Geysers & Volcanoes



Hotel Kria

Named for the swift Arctic tern, Hotel Kria feature contemporary Nordic design that complements cozy mountain-view rooms, where guests can retreat after exploring the nearby black sand beach, Reynisfjara.



Hotel Jokulsarlon

This new luxury property features contemporary Nordic design along Iceland's southeast coast, spacious rooms, a restaurant with local cuisine and outdoor hot tubs and cold plunge.



Fjalladyrd Guesthouse

In remote Modrudalur, on the highest farm in Iceland at 1,539 feet, two separate guesthouses with traditional sod roofs accommodate seven guests each, with a restaurant on the premises.



Fosshotel Myvatn

Designed by award-winning architects, this modern hotel's hillside location overlooking Lake Myvatn offers great views and the ideal location for exploring this volcanic area rich in migratory birdlife.



Hotel Isafjordur

Centrally located in the Westfjords' main town, these simple yet comfortable accommodations offer a minimalist modern Scandinavian aesthetic with views across the bay of Isafjardardjup.



Hotel Reykjavik Saga

This elegant new 4-star hotel in the heart of Reykjavik features sleek contemporary design elements and is just steps from all the city center attractions.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/europe/iceland-nature-adventure/accommodations.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

NO ONE Shows You More of Iceland

Iceland: Circling the Land of Fire & Ice

Iceland is one of the world's leading travel destinations. That's why we have worked diligently to craft a unique itinerary that shows you all the best of Iceland while also getting you to less-visited places. Discover what makes Nat Hab's Iceland adventure different—and better:

1 **You Will Experience SO Much More with Nat Hab**

Compare carefully...while many operators offer the same limited set of Iceland highlights, we have included far more places, experiences and activities for a truly comprehensive immersion in the diversity Iceland has to offer. From private boat excursions in search of puffins and whales to a 4x4 expedition into the remote highlands, from traditional fishing villages to glaciers and geothermal features, you'll have a thorough encounter with this captivating country.

2 **Circle the Whole of Iceland, and Elude Crowds**

Many Iceland tours focus solely on Reykjavik and the south coast. While there are plenty of exciting natural attractions in this limited area (and thus plenty of crowds), we take you completely around the country, As far as we know, this is the only land-based (non-cruise) trip to do that. Few visitors get out to the remote Westfjords. And few explore the east coast, a tranquil region of mountains, forests, fjords and fishing villages. Using a combination of flights and scenic drives, we follow the entire perimeter of Iceland while making inland forays into natural areas where people are fewer and elements of traditional culture endure.

3 **A Small Group Offers a More Authentic Experience**

Conventional Iceland tours utilize large motorcoaches for groups of 30–50, but we limit our group to 11, ensuring a more peaceful experience, plus the ability to stay at smaller hotels in more remote locations. It also means you'll have personal interactions with our Expedition Leader and local Icelandic guide.

4 **Just 11 Guests Travel with Two Guides, for More Flexibility**

Our trip is led by a Nat Hab Expedition Leader, plus a local guide who adds an essential insider perspective. This arrangement also allows us to divide up on occasion into two smaller groups for excursions at different physical ability levels.

5 **Internal & Chartered Flights Allow More Time for Exploring**

While driving in Iceland is actually a highlight—its roadways offer some of the most scenic vistas in the world—distances between regions can be long, and roads are often rough and winding. That's why, where it makes sense, we've included air transfers to get you more comfortably from place to place, and to increase the time we have to explore on the ground. In one instance, we include a private chartered flight from Akureyri to Isafjordur, saving the time and hassle of a connection through Reykjavik.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

6 **Three Private Boat Excursions**

We charter our own excursion boat or Zodiac to get you closer to nature in three different settings. A full day outing in the Westfjords includes whale watching and a visit with a farm family on Aedey Island; on another trip we visit a colony of seals in Lonafjordur; and at Fjallsarlon Glacier Lagoon, we cruise alongside bobbing icebergs in a private Zodiac.

7 **We Seek to Avoid the Busiest Sites**

While we choose to include some of Iceland's highly popular natural wonders, we mostly stay away from places and routes that are packed with tour buses and large groups (the Golden Circle being a prime example), instead featuring equally impressive yet less crowded spots. And when we do visit popular places you don't want to miss, we facilitate a quieter experience, such as arriving early before crowds form, or booking a private ice lagoon cruise just for our group.

8 **Private Vehicles Offer a Window Seat for All**

We charter comfortable mini buses to accommodate our small group, ensuring room to spread out and enjoy the view from your window seat. It's a big contrast from motorcoach tours where you're jostling for a look or struggling to find a spot for your jacket. Our Super Jeep 4x4 excursions also include a window seat for every guest.

9 **Autumn Departures Offer a Chance to See the Northern Lights**

Although we can never guarantee it, if you travel on a later-season departure, when night skies are dark once again after the long Arctic summer, you could see the aurora borealis! If it's on display and the sky is clear, our odds to spot it are good.

10 **You Won't Find More In-Depth, Personalized Guiding Expertise**

Unlike some tours that rely on bus drivers or expeditors for each component of your trip, we enlist our own Nat Hab Expedition Leader to oversee every aspect of your adventure. Our guide is an expert naturalist, well versed in Iceland's geology, geography, botany, history and culture, who also cares for you in a highly personal manner. We also have a local guide with us for the duration, for an insider perspective that only an Iceland resident can provide. Traveling with *two* guides, we can divide into even smaller groups for excursions at different physical ability levels. See Expedition Leader bios and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

11 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Iceland Adventure**

When you travel with Natural Habitat, you receive our exclusive guarantee, clearly stating that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. Read our important promise.

12 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

13

Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our worldwide adventures, we have been chosen by World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $16995 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 11 Travelers

Iceland: Circling the Land of Fire & Ice Dates, Pricing & Info

A Full Loop Around a Nordic Realm of Waterfalls, Glaciers, Geysers & Volcanoes

2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jun 23 - Jul 4, 2027	**$19495** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Jul 1 - Jul 11, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	
Jul 2 - Jul 13, 2027	**$19495** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Jul 5 - Jul 15, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	
Jul 6 - Jul 17, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Jul 13 - Jul 23, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	
Jul 14 - Jul 25, 2027	**$19495** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Jul 17 - Jul 27, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jul 21 - Jul 31, 2027	**$16995** +internal air	
Jul 25 - Aug 4, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	
Jul 29 - Aug 8, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	
Jul 31 - Aug 10, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	Women's Journey
Aug 2 - Aug 12, 2027	**$16995** +internal air	
Aug 5 - Aug 15, 2027	**$16995** +internal air	
Aug 7 - Aug 17, 2027	**$16995** +internal air	
Aug 12 - Aug 22, 2027	**$16995** +internal air	
Aug 15 - Aug 25, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Aug 17 - Aug 27, 2027	**$16995** +internal air	
Aug 23 - Sep 2, 2027	**$16995** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Aug 26 - Sep 6, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Aug 31 - Sep 11, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Sep 3 - Sep 13, 2027	**$16995** +internal air	Autumn Departure
Sep 7 - Sep 17, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	Autumn Departure
Sep 7 - Sep 18, 2027	**$18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Sep 9 - Sep 19, 2027	**$17395** +internal air	Autumn Departure

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2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Jun 22 - Jul 3, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Jun 28 - Jul 8, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Jun 28 - Jul 9, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Jun 30 - Jul 10, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Jul 4 - Jul 14, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Jul 6 - Jul 17, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Jul 7 - Jul 17, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Jul 10 - Jul 21, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Jul 12 - Jul 22, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Jul 18 - Jul 28, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Jul 21 - Jul 31, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Jul 24 - Aug 3, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Jul 27 - Aug 6, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Jul 29 - Aug 8, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Aug 1 - Aug 11, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Aug 5 - Aug 15, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Aug 10 - Aug 20, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Aug 14 - Aug 24, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Aug 17 - Aug 27, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Departure – Return Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028	Pricing	Notes
Aug 22 - Sep 1, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	
Aug 25 - Sep 5, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Aug 30 - Sep 10, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Sep 1 - Sep 11, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	Autumn Departure
Sep 6 - Sep 16, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	Autumn Departure
Sep 7 - Sep 18, 2028	**From $18995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Sep 9 - Sep 19, 2028	**From $16995** +internal air	Autumn Departure

See https://www.nathab.com/europe/iceland-nature-adventure/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

- **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guides, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers for those arriving by air on Day 1 and departing by air on the final day, private whale watching tour, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

- **Internal air:** Charter flight from Akureyri to Isafjordur and scheduled flight from Isafjordur back to Reykjavik (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Important Information About This Trip

Click here to see example photos of walks and hikes from our Iceland adventure.

Our grand Iceland adventure is different from more typical tour offerings. Though we do include some major highlights, we deliberately take you away from the most crowded tourist spots and into more remote locales that unveil Iceland’s rich natural history and traditional culture. This starts as a fast-paced itinerary designed to maximize time in the field, with full days of exploration. Please be prepared to spend time outdoors in unpredictable weather, which may include heavy rain and wind—or perfect sunshine.

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And speaking of weather, conditions in Iceland are always changeable and vary by season. Our trips run from July through September. July brings the warmest temperatures and longer days, while August is slightly cooler with noticeably shorter daylight as autumn approaches. September marks a vivid seasonal shift, with crisp air, rich fall colors, fewer crowds, and the return of dark nights that may allow for northern lights sightings. Temperatures are cooler and weather can be more variable, with frequent wind and rain—it's not uncommon to experience multiple seasons in a single day. For many travelers, these dramatic conditions, quieter landscapes, and autumn light make September one of the most rewarding times to explore Iceland.

Due to the diminutive stature of the local horses, the maximum rider weight each horse can carry is 250 pounds and an alternative activity will be provided for those who are unable to ride.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Reykjavik. **You must arrive at Keflavik International Airport (KEF) no later than 3:30 pm on Day 1** in order to be ready for a welcome dinner and briefing beginning at 5:30 pm. Upon arrival, you will be met by a Nat Hab representative and transferred approximately one hour to the hotel. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

You may depart at any time on the final day of the trip.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



Iceland: Circling the Land of Fire & Ice Extensions

A Full Loop Around a Nordic Realm of Waterfalls, Glaciers, Geysers & Volcanoes



East Greenland Arctic Adventure

Encounter raw Arctic beauty on Greenland's remote east coast near the edge of the ice sheet. From our deluxe expedition camp, explore by boat, kayak and on foot, where very few travelers venture.

$15795 (+air)



Wild Iceland Explorer

Experience highlights and hidden corners of less-traveled western Iceland—including the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, often called "Iceland in miniature," and the remote volcanic Highlands.

$13995



Iceland & Greenland: A Nordic Discovery

Discover less-traveled sides of these two Nordic countries on a unique itinerary that combines the geologic drama of Iceland’s rarely visited Highlands with Greenland’s mighty glaciers, fjords and Inuit culture.

$20495 (+air)

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.