

ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY



Journey of Purpose & Discovery



Journey of Purpose & Discovery to Iceland

Reykjavik, Grindavik, Gullfoss, Hrauneyjar, & Hella

June 17-25, 2022

Long summer days with nearly 24 hours of sunlight are offset by short winter days with only a few. The country ranks at the top for quality of life, gender equality, and democracy; it also leads in health care and education.

BOOK NOW 888.747.7501

Iceland Highlights

- ✓ 7 nights / 8-day journey through Iceland
- ✓ Smaller group size and private guided journey will allow for a high level of **interaction with your group and time for networking** with your travel companions and local people.

Cultural Connections

- ✓ Hike up an active volcano in Grindavik. **Fagradalsfjall** is a tuva volcano formed in the last glacial period.
- ✓ Explore some of the most majestic scenery in the world, including **Gullfoss Waterfall**, UNESCO World Heritage rated **Thingvellir National Park**, and a black sand beach with amazing basalt cliff formations. There are some bird cliffs above the black sand beach and if you're lucky you could even spot a puffin. It is one of the most popular landmarks on the south coast and has featured in *Game of Thrones*, *Darren Aronofsky's Noah*, *Star Trek* and *Star Wars: Rogue One*.
- ✓ Visit the delightful **Stöng** Viking-era long house with its fascinating history. Learn about Iceland's Viking past while taking in the gorgeous scenery in the valley and nearby waterfall **Hjálparfoss**.
- ✓ Hike in **Landmannalaugar Nature Reserve** in the Highlands. Take your pick from short, easy trails or tougher climbs up ancient volcanos for panoramic views over the region.

Educational Interaction

- ✓ An informal meeting will be requested with local educators at a **local school** if permitted.
- ✓ Enjoy dinner in a private **family home** of a local teacher to see how the locals live and meet their family.

What's Included:

- Accommodations throughout
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- Group transfers to and from Iceland (gateway city set tentatively out of Denver)
- Local English-speaking guides
- Meals as mentioned

Not Included:

- Personal expenses at the hotel
- Meals not specified
- Tips for national guide
- Passport renewal or issuance
- Domestic flight to gateway city
- Departure taxes where applicable



📍 Dallas, Texas

DAY 1, Friday, June 17, 2022

Fly to Keflavik Airport

Depart from Dallas today and make your way to Reykjavik, Iceland. The stunning beauty and friendly people alone are worth a visit!



📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 2: Saturday, June 18

Welcome to Iceland

Upon arrival, the group will be transferred to your local hotel to drop your bags.

After some time to get lunch on your own at or nearby the hotel meet with a local guide for a **village orientation tour**. Grindavík is a fishing town on the southern side of Reykjanes Peninsula. It has a population of approximately 3,300 people. Like many places in Iceland, Grindavík also has a long history with writers. Guðbergur Bergsson was born here, and Spanish writer Jaime Salinas Bonmatí lived and died here.

Head back to the hotel to check-in later this afternoon with the rest of the day at leisure to relax.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

Overnight: Volcano Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: N/A

📍 Grindavik, Iceland

DAY 3: Sunday, June 19

Cultural Program

Please Note: Breakfast is included daily at your hotel.

After breakfast head to the **Saltfish Museum**. In the late 19th century salted fish was to Iceland what oil is to many countries in the Arabian Peninsula. The image of a golden cod was in Iceland's original coat of arms. As you stroll along one of the best harbors in Iceland, you will arrive at the museum. There you can learn more about the industry that is an important element in Iceland's economic development and prosperity.

Next you will hike up an active volcano on the nearby Reykjanes Peninsula called **Fagradalsfjal**. This tuya volcano formed in the Last Glacial Period and is about 3 miles wide and 9 long. Enjoy a trek with your guide to see it up close and personal yourself! No volcanic eruption had occurred for 800 years on the Reykjanes Peninsula until 19 March 2021 when a fissure vent appeared in Geldingadalir to the south of Fagradalsfjall mountain. The eruption is emitting fresh lava as of the printing of this itinerary.

Continue to **Seltún**, a colorful high temperature geothermal area and a part of Reykjanes nature reserve. Visiting Seltún is like stepping into another dimension. Seltún has many mud-pots and fumaroles, and minerals deposited from geothermal solutions provide colorful sediments. Good walking paths are around the area and parking. There is no describing what nature offers us in geothermal areas; you just must see it for yourself.

Lunch is on your own with dinner provided at a local lobster restaurant near the ocean.

Overnight: Hotel Selfoss (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner





📍 Gullfoss, Iceland

DAY 4: Monday, June 20

Golden Circle

Depart this morning after breakfast and head to the golden circle area.



Your journey will begin by treading in the footsteps of the Vikings at **Thingvellir National Park**. Walk through the gorges that are being torn apart as the tectonic plates rip away from each other and if you listen closely, you just might hear the echoes of the Vikings deliberating at this UNESCO world heritage site of the first parliament in the world.

Next enjoy the relaxing geothermal baths to the **Fontana Spa** in Laugarvatn. Soak in a natural pool, listen to the bubbling hot spring in the steam rooms, or for the venturesome, take a dip in the refreshing lake. Laugarvatn Fontana is composed of a series of interconnected baths and steam rooms that complement each other to create a healthy, natural and unique spa experience.

Next visit the **Geysir geothermal area** so see their boiling mud pits, exploding geysers and lively Strokkur which spouts 100 feet into the air every few minutes.

Your last stop is to see the majestic waterfall **Gullfoss**, widely considered to be one of the most beautiful in the world.

Lunch will be provided today with dinner on your own.

Overnight: Litli Geysir Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch

📍 Þjórsárdalur, Iceland

DAY 5: Tuesday, June 21

South Iceland Tour!

Check out of your local hotel after breakfast and head to tour a tomato farm greenhouse in Reykholt called **Friðheimar**. Lunch will be provided today at the farm/greenhouse.



After lunch head onward to Þjórsárdalur valley which has a lot to offer. From spectacular nature to fascinating history and some unique hiking opportunities. You will also visit the beautiful waterfall of **Hjálparfoss** and then visit the reconstructed Viking farm **Þjóðveldisbærinn** at Stöng to learn about Iceland's Viking past. The farm served as one of the sets for the famous TV-series Game of Thrones.



Dinner will be provided this evening along with an overnight in Hrauneyjar Highland Center. These are simple accommodations but a well-located family-owned hotel and restaurants with a team of experienced and enthusiastic staff. The modern refurbished rooms offer excellent accommodation for travelers looking for extra comfort.

Overnight: Hrauneyjar Highland Center

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner



📍 Hella, Iceland

DAY 6: Wednesday, June 22

Landmannalaugar Nature Reserve

Landmannalaugar is a place in the **Fjallabak Nature Reserve in the Highlands** of Iceland. It is at the edge of Laugahraun lava field, which was formed in an eruption in around 1477. It is known for its natural geothermal hot springs and surrounding landscape. Landmannalaugar is an area in Iceland that is famous for its colorful rhyolite mountains and epic day hikes. Geothermal hot springs, lava fields, and unique hiking trails attract adventurous travelers all summer long.

A boxed lunch will be provided today.

Landmannalaugar is one of Iceland's best areas for day hikes. Take your pick from short, easy trails or tougher climbs up ancient volcanoes for panoramic views over the region.

Dinner is provided this evening after settling into your local hotel in Hella area.

Overnight: Hótel Lækur

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

📍 Selfoss, Iceland

DAY 7: Thursday, June 23

South Shore Tour

This day will also be focused on seeing the natural beauty of Iceland. We'll be traveling around the area covered in ash from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano which stopped air traffic all over Europe in 2010.

Some of the amazing locations you will visit today include a walk behind **Seljalandsfoss**, one of Iceland's iconic waterfalls (conditions permitting). The waterfall drops 60m and is part of the Seljalands River that has its origin in the volcano glacier Eyjafjallajökull.



Explore **Reynisfjara Beach**, memorable due its black sand beach and amazing basalt cliff formations. Reynisdrangar are basalt sea stacks situated under the mountain Reynisfjall near the village Vík.

Another amazing waterfall you will visit is **Skógafoss** which is situated on the Skógá River along the cliffs of the former coastline.

Drive to Reykjavik and check into your local hotel.

This evening you will visit the home of a local educator to chat and explore what professional life is like in Iceland. Enjoy a home cooked meal and spend time making new friends.

Overnight: Center hotel Plaza

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner



📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 8: Saturday, June 24

Explore Reykjavik

If permitted, we will request a **visit to a local school** or an added opportunity to meet with local educators if site visits are not permitted.

Lunch will be provided at the Lava Restaurant in Blue Lagoon.

Spend a relaxing afternoon at the world-famous thermal spa. Discover the waters of the Blue Lagoon an otherworldly wonder in the heart of a volcanic landscape. The beneficial powers of geothermal seawater were first discovered in the early 1980s when residents began to bathe in the serene blue lagoon that had formed in the lava field beside the Svartsengi Geothermal Resource Park. Some people came to the water for pleasure. Others came for healing. But all who came, left with sensations of profound revitalization. Experience for yourself the radiant powers of geothermal seawater. Relaxing. Rejuvenating. Unforgettable. Entrance includes a silica mud mask, towel and drink.



Overnight: Center hotel Plaza

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch

📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 9: Saturday, June 25

Depart for home today

After breakfast and some free time head to the Keflavik International Airport for your flight home late this afternoon.

Lunch is by individual arrangement depending on flight time.

Included meals: Breakfast

WHY NANDA JOURNEYS?

"It's all about customer service. Tapping the knowledge, expertise and communication capability of a Nanda professional means our group gets expert advice customized to our interests, knows what to expect each step of the way, gets answers and help on all those impossible exceptions that crop up, and returns from the adventure having an experience that lasts a lifetime...and craving even more." G. Crispin

"Nanda Journeys lives up to its tag line - traveling with purpose and passion. How refreshing to have a purpose to traveling in addition to being a tourist. The passion was quite evident with the all the guides - national, cultural and group leader. Each displayed a true love for what they were doing, its importance and the joy in sharing this journey together as a group of like-minded people. I am so grateful for this experience as it opened my heart to other cultures and felt theirs open to mine!" C.A Drick



CULTURAL PROGRAM | DAY-BY-DAY

📍 Grindavik, Iceland

Volcano Hotel

Ketilsstaðaskóli

871 Vík, Mýrdal, Iceland

Telephone: +354 486 1200

<http://www.volcanohotel.is/>



📍 Selfoss, Iceland

Hotel Selfoss

Eyravegur 2, 800 Selfoss

Telephone: +354 480 2500

<https://hotelfselfoss.is/is/>



📍 Geysir, Iceland

Litli Geysir

GEYSIR HAUKADALUR, 801 ÍSLAND

Telephone: +354 480-6800

<https://www.hotelgeysir.is/litli-geysir-hotel>



📍 Highland, Iceland

Hrauneyjar

851 South Iceland

Telephone: +354 487-7782

<https://www.thehighlandcenter.is/>





CULTURAL PROGRAM | DAY-BY-DAY

📍 Hella, Iceland

Laekur Hotel

Hróarslækur
851 Hella

Telephone: +354 466-3930

<https://www.hotellaekur.is/>



📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

Center Hotel Plaza

Þverholt 14, 105
Reykjavik, Iceland

Telephone: +354 595-8500

<https://www.centerhotels.com/en/hotel-plaza-reykjavik>

