

JCCNS 2024 Trip to Iceland - Itinerary

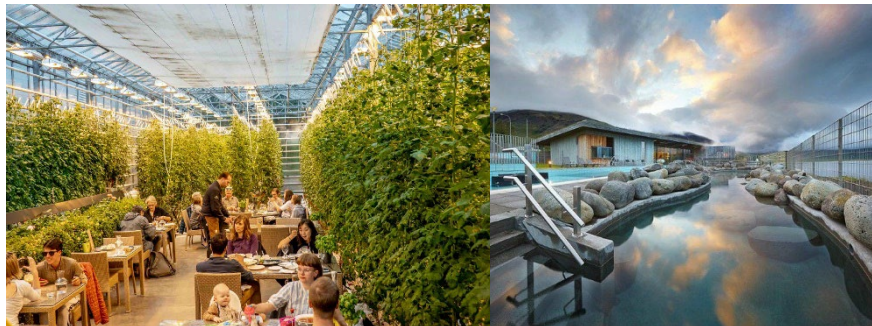
Monday April 8 - Day 1 - Depart Boston

Your flight departs at 8:50 PM.

Tuesday April 9 - Day 2 - Arrive, Hot Springs Experience with Geothermal Bread

Our flight lands at 6 AM where we'll proceed through customs, immigration, collect luggage, and meet our Icelandic tour director. We'll nap on bus while we transfer from the airport to a restaurant (2 hr) for a rare food experience for lunch. The theme of this restaurant is tomatoes, in many different forms. We'll dine in a greenhouse where we enjoy a lunch focused on tomatoes. Next, we'll visit Laugarvatn Fontana for a relaxing natural hot springs experience. While here we will also experience a geothermal bakery first hand: digging a pot of fresh bread from the hot black sand. We'll have a chance to sample the bread, served hot from the ground with Icelandic butter. From here, we're only a half hour from our hotel where we will check in. Our hotel is located right by the famous geysir! A chance to freshen up in your room before we rejoin for an early welcome dinner at the hotel.

Meals Included: Lunch, Dinner



Wednesday April 10 - Day 3 - Full Day Golden Circle Tour

We'll start our day visiting an important site located right by our hotel - the geothermal fields of Geysir with bubbling mud pools and the high-spouting Strokkur hot spring. After visiting the geysir, we'll continue to Thingvellir National Park (UNESCO World Heritage site) where the world's oldest parliament met for centuries on the shores of Iceland's largest lake. Here we may have a chance to walk between two continents. Proceed to the dramatic two-tiered Gullfoss waterfall, a spectacular sight in winter when frozen mid-cascade (weather dependent). We'll finish our day relaxing at another hot springs, the Secret Lagoon. While many tourists visit the famous Blue Lagoon, the Secret Lagoon is where the locals go. We'll unwind here before returning to the hotel to freshen up and enjoy another dinner at the hotel.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner



Thursday April 11 - Day 4 - Geothermal Power plant, Lava Tunnel Tour, Waterfalls, Arrive in Vik

We'll check out of our hotel this morning and head toward the beautiful South Coast, enjoying a different view of the winter landscapes. Our first stop today will be to visit Hveradalir, one of Iceland's largest geothermal areas, tucked away in Iceland's highlands. We'll tour a geothermal exhibition, located at the Hellisheiði geothermal power plant, where we'll learn how Icelandic people have harnessed geothermal energy for hundreds of years. Next, we'll tour a nearby lava tunnel cave with natural ice sculptures & stalactites. A lava tube is formed as lava from an eruption forms a channel, which stays hot as the land around it cools. Once the lava empties out, it leaves behind a tube-shaped cave with an utterly fascinating interior. Continue on to see two spectacular waterfalls, Skogafoss and Gluggafoss before arriving at our hotel located in Vik on the South shore of Iceland.



Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday April 12 - Day 5 - Vik

We'll explore Vik and its surrounding areas today. Visit Reynisfjara and Víkurfjara beaches, taking a walk on the black sand and admiring the extraordinary rock formations and thundering waves of the Atlantic Ocean. Stop at the Dyrholaey Nature Reserve for a spectacular photo opportunity and see a plane wreck on the beach. Optional tours offered in the afternoon before dinner at the hotel.



Optional Excursion to see the Katla Ice Cave (maximum 12 participants, \$300/pp, 4 hr excursion) A guide will lead you through the mysterious wilderness in a Super-jeep. Arrive and witness the awe-inspiring combination of fire and ice as you explore the volcanic glacier outlets of Mýrdalsjökull glacier, a remote location inaccessible to most. Moderate difficulty.

OR

Optional Lava Show (\$43/pp, 1-1.5 hr tour) recreates a volcanic eruption by superheating real lava up to 2000°F and then pouring it into a showroom full of people. Easy.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday April 13 - Day 6 - Vik / Return Flight to USA

Depart Vik early this morning as we make our way towards Reykjavik. En route, we'll stop at Seljalandsfoss Waterfall. Arrive in Reykjavik mid morning and visit the Perlan Observation deck for a 360* view of Reykjavik and its surrounding areas. Embark on a driving tour/orientation of Reykjavik by motorcoach, seeing several sites of interest including the Höfði house - the location for the 1986 summit meeting of Ronald Reagan and former Secretary General of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, that effectively marked the end of the Cold War. After some free time to stroll around the streets at your own pace for an independent lunch and maybe some shopping, we'll transfer to the airport mid afternoon. Our flight returns to Boston at 6:50 PM.



Hotels

Hotel Geysir (2 nights)

4* hotel opened in 2019

<https://hotelgeysir.is>

Katla (2 nights)

3* hotel in Vik

<https://www.keahotels.is/hotel-katla>