

ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY



Journey of Purpose & Discovery



Journey of Purpose & Discovery to Iceland

Reykjavik, Hvolsvöllur, Gulfoss

May 20-27, 2023 (pending conf)

\$5,799 (Based on double occupancy)

\$1,299 (Single Supplement)

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

- ✓ 6 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** to meet with the local people.
- ✓ Dine in a **Viking longhouse** and learn about this history of their people coming to Iceland.

Cultural Connections

- ✓ Explore some of the most majestic scenery in the world, including **Gulfoss 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*.
- ✓ Explore the **Raufarhólshellir Lava Cave** with its room 10-to-30-meter ceilings making it easy to navigate and being only 30 minutes from Reykjavik so ideal for a day trip.
- ✓ Enjoy a **foodie walking tour** and explorations of downtown Reykjavik with its **Skólavörðustígur Art Street**. Popular for tourists and locals alike this area has a variety of goods for sale including local handicrafts, arts and jewelry. Enjoy some people watching even if you don't want to shop, or pop into a local bar or café.
- ✓ Take a hike on a glacier! This is an informative and easy glacier walk with your certified and experienced glacier guide will lead you through a frozen wonderland of different shades of glacier ice.

What's Included:

- 3-4* accommodations throughout
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- Group transfers to and from Iceland (gateway city set out of Chicago)
- Local English-speaking guides
- Most meals

Not Included:

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





CULTURAL PROGRAM | DAY-BY-DAY

📍 Chicago, Illinois

DAY 1, Saturday, May 20, 2023

Fly to Keflavik Airport

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

📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 2: Sunday, May 21

Welcome to Iceland

Upon arrival this morning, the group will be met by your local guide. Head directly to the **Blue Lagoon** where you'll be able to experience a couple of hours' relaxation in one of the most unique places on earth. Discover the waters of the Blue Lagoon. Journey through a spa of the volcanic earth and harmonize with nature as you relax after your flight.

Lunch will be provided at the Lava Restaurant this afternoon before heading south to **Hvolsvöllur**.

Stop for a visit to **Raufarhólshellir**, the fourth longest lava tube in Iceland at 4,461 feet. This is one of the best ways to see the effects of the subterranean forces at work from volcanic activity.

Head onward to check into **Hotel Vik**. Every room comes with blackout curtains, a wardrobe, complimentary WiFi, a flat-screen TV, telephone, desk, coffee, and tea.

Dinner will be provided at a local restaurant before you head out to walk behind **Seljalandsfoss**, one of Iceland's iconic waterfalls (conditions permitting). The waterfall drops 200 feet and is part of the Seljalands River.

Overnight: Hotel Vik (or similar)

Included meals: Lunch & Dinner



📍 Hvolsvöllur, Iceland

DAY 3: Monday, May 22

Cultural Program

Please Note: Breakfast is included daily at your hotel.

Your time spent on the southern parts of Iceland will focus on seeing the natural beauty of Iceland. You will be traveling around the area that was covered in ash from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano which stopped air traffic all over Europe in 2010.

After breakfast head out to visit **Skógafoss** Waterfall. Situated on the Skógá River along the cliffs of the former coastline.

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

Stop for lunch in Vik before heading onward for a **glacier hike** with your guide. Put on your hiking shoes and enjoy a Glacier Hike at Sólheimajökull Glacier. This is an informative and easy glacier walk with your certified and experienced glacier guide will lead you through a frozen wonderland of different shades of glacier ice.

Dinner will be provided at a local restaurant like Skálakot Lodge, located in the countryside near the highlands and nearby glaciers and volcanoes before heading back to your hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Vik (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 4: Tuesday, May 23

Golden Circle Tour & On to Reykjavik

Check out of your local hotel after breakfast and head to the golden circle area.

Your first stop will be at **Flúðir** before visiting the **Secret Lagoon**. Flúðir is a small, picturesque village at the base of Miðfell Mountain where you will visit the geothermal Secret Lagoon hot springs. These hot springs run around 100° Fahrenheit year-round and were built back in 1891. They are officially known as the **oldest swimming "pool"** in the country.

Lunch will be at a tomato farm greenhouse in Reykholt called Friðheimar.

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



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.

Last you will tour **Pingvellir - National Park**. Pingvellir means literally "Parliament Plains" the Althing general assembly was established around 930 and continued to convene there until 1798. Major events in the history of Iceland have taken place at Pingvellir and therefore it has been named a UNESCO World Heritage site of the first parliament in the world.

Drive onward to Reykjavik and check into your local hotel. **Skuggi Hotel** is located at the heart of the city and convenient to explore the area when you have free time. All the good stuff, like Hlemmur Food Hall, Laugavegur shopping street, and Hallgrímskirkja, is close at hand.

Dinner will be provided at Ingólfsskáli Viking Longhouse.

Overnight: Skuggi Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 5: Wednesday, May 24

Reykjavik & Shopping

After breakfast the group will enjoy a foodie walking tour and some time to shop this morning. Get to know authentic Icelandic restaurants, bars & establishments where to locals go.

Enjoy lunch at Mathöll downtown today.

Explore downtown, Laugavegur Main Street & Skólavörðustígur Art Street as you explore today.

Stop for a visit to see the impressive **Hallgrímskirkja Church** (Leif Eiriksson Church). The church is open for visitors in the afternoons when services are not going on. They have a delightful view of the city if you want to climb their tower to look out. They are the largest church in Iceland and the tower is among the tallest structures in the country. The church is named after the Icelandic poet and cleric Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614–1674), author of the Passion Hymns.

Enjoy some free time this afternoon with dinner provided at Sjávargrillið.

Overnight: Skuggi Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 6: Thursday, May 25

Explorations Continue

After breakfast, head out to visit **Víðgelmir Cave**. This unforgettable journey through Iceland's largest lava cave will impress as you learn about the immense forces that carved out this land. The cave is in Hallmundarhraun lava field, which is the largest in Borgarfjörður.

Stop in **Reykholt** before a local lunch. Visit the former home of the medieval scholar Snorri Sturluson who wrote some of Iceland's most cherished sagas and the Prose Edda which tells of the origins of Nordic Mythology.

This afternoon, visit either **Deildartunguhver** or **Krauma** hot springs.

Dinner will be provided at Grazie Trattoria.

Overnight: Skuggi Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 7: Friday, May 26

Flyover Experience & Museum Visit

After breakfast you will have a chance to experience **FlyOver Iceland**, a state-of-the-art full motion ride with a wraparound screen. "You will hang suspended, feet dangling, before a 20-metre spherical screen while our film whisks you away on an exhilarating journey across Iceland. Special effects, including wind, mist, and scents, combine with the ride's motion to create an unforgettable experience."

Lunch will be provided today followed by a visit to the fantastic **Perlan Interactive Museum**. They have the world's first indoor ice cave and glacier. Perhaps end your visit with a stop at the top of the dome for a 360-degree view of the city.

Dinner will be provided at ROK this evening.

Overnight: Skuggi Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 7: Saturday, May 27

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



📍 Hvalsöllur, Iceland

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Klettsvegi 1-5

870 Vik Iceland

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



📍 Reykjavik, Iceland

3 Star Skuggi Hotel

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