

CULTURE + WALKING

# ICELAND

South Coast & Snæfellsnes



→ *Classic*  
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Land of Fire and Ice

What must the first Vikings have thought of Iceland? They found Geysir (the original geyser) hurtling boiling water 200 feet into the sky. Great streams of lava...glaciers... fjords teeming with whales...a solitude that must have made the fjords of home feel crowded by comparison. We love Iceland first because it's still a land of chaotic, supremely beautiful nature. Whether you're marveling at an endless colony of cartoonish puffins or watching the clouds turn shades of sherbet at sunset, you'll experience this place with remarkable intensity. And today's Icelanders are a colorful, cordial lot as you'll discover at every stop, and when you're invited into a family meal in the remote village of Bogarnes.. Along the way, you'll dig into a lobster feast, soak in a geothermal spa and stay in luxury hotels that capture the island's unique vibe.

## DAY 1

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### REYKJAVIK / HELLA

- Guided walk in Reykjavik
- Lunch in a private home
- A lobster dinner in a classic fishing village

We meet in Reykjavik, the world's northernmost capital. It's a compact city, tucked between a mountain backdrop and the ocean that laps at its front door. By the time Reykjavik began to develop as a town, its site had already been inhabited for a thousand years or so. On our introductory walk, you'll get a firsthand look at what a fascinating modern mix the city has become. There's a village feel to the classic architecture. But the Icelanders are also known for their hip, on-the-edge cultural sensibilities. We'll see both sides of the city. And a family invites us into their private home for a lunch and our first taste of the local specialties.

This afternoon, we take a short drive east along the coast. There's even a chance of spotting seals along the way. Our 4-star luxury resort encapsulates the Icelandic countryside. The low-slung timber lodge sits on a grassy plain, bounded by a small glacier-blue salmon river and the steaming cone of a nearby volcano. The night skies are gorgeous – even more so if the neon curtains of the Aurora Borealis put on their show. Tonight, we visit the tiny fishing village of Stokkseyri. Lobsters thrive in these waters, and they are the stars of tonight's dinner. You should definitely go for both the creamy, tomato-y lobster soup and the lobster entrée.

**OVERNIGHT: HELLA**  
**MEALS: L, D**

## DAY 2

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### MT. HEKLA WALKS

- Walking amid lava fields, rock formations and the volcanic landscape

Breakfast will include the *hafnagrautur*, the rich creamy oatmeal that Icelanders love, and the tangy yogurt-like Skyr. And you'll want to fuel up because we're headed for a day in the wilderness in the spectacular highlands near Mount Hekla, Iceland's most active volcano. Everything about this terrain is a reminder of the island's fiery origins. We'll walk in lava fields...see the steamy, bubbling evidence of geothermal activity...and marvel at the pink, green, blue, yellow and purple mountains. This is nature at its most elemental. You'll feel an awesome sense of solitude. And like almost everywhere in Iceland, the stark beauty of the land and the constantly changing skies come together to form visual images you'll never forget.

Later, we return to our hotel to rest before dinner tonight in the hotel's acclaimed gourmet restaurant, with a farmer's market menu based on local ingredients.

**OVERNIGHT: HELLA**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 3

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### CAPE HJÖRLEIFSHÖFÐI

- Walk to a glacial lagoon
- Stroll from a black sand Atlantic beach to a Viking grave site

Near the tiny town of Vik, North Atlantic waves roll up onto a black - yes, black - beach. The sand is ground down basalt from volcanic eruptions. But the stars of this stretch of coastline are the Reynisdrangar, three sharp black pillars that emerge from the water offshore. Legend has it that they're really three trolls who stayed out too late and got turned to stone by the morning sun. It's one of those places where the geology is at least as interesting as the mythology. Just a little further along the coast, mythology gives way to Viking history as we make our way up and onto an island where your guide knows where to find the ruins of the grave of a Viking explorer.

The water in Solheimajokull Glacier froze hundreds of thousands of years ago. Think about that this afternoon when you touch it. And touch it you will when your walk leads to the shores of a glacial lake. Your guide knows all about the history and what's happening as the ice melts at an accelerating pace.

**OVERNIGHT: HELLA**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 4

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### GEYSIR / PINGVELLIR

- Exploring Iceland's oldest national park
- Learning about the world's first parliament

You're familiar with Old Faithful, but the first erupting geothermal pool known to Europeans was in Iceland. And it gave its name – Geysir – to all others. The Great Geysir, whose spumes can jet 200 feet into the air, is much less active today, but nearby Strokkur still vents every five minutes or so, and we'll see the show.

Then we're off to Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A deep tectonic rift valley bisects the park, which also contains the country's largest natural lake. The vistas are vast, and as we walk the park's trails you get a true feel for the tumbled wilderness that's so typical in Iceland. But the most amazing feature of the park is that it's also the home to the world's oldest parliament, founded in the year 930. Today, it's hard to imagine this place as a legendary seat of government, but it was sited here so that no chieftain would have to travel more than 17 days to participate. For generations, this place was the center of Icelandic culture, and every summer people from all over the country would pitch camp here for a communal experience in the sharing of news, trading and entertainment.

We cap our day with a drive to the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, which is sometimes called "Iceland in miniature" because it contains so many of the country's finest sights. Lording over it all is the glacier-capped volcano that Jules Verne used as the setting for "Journey to the Center of the Earth." We'll check into our countryside hotel with magnificent views of the glacier and a startlingly blue estuary.

**OVERNIGHT: SNAEFELLSNES**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 5

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### SNAEFELLSNES PENINSULA

- Walking amid stunning views of the sea and the glacier
- Whale watching off the rocky coastline
- Spotting pairs of Atlantic Puffins nesting for the summer
- Visiting with a shark fisherman

## DAILY ITINERARY

### ICELAND | SOUTH COAST & SNAEFELLSNES | CULTURE + WALKING

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Your hotel is perfectly located at the western tip of the peninsula. Without even leaving the grounds, you can see amazing sights. But we've also scouted some of the best trails in the area to give you a leisurely, close-up look at this remarkable region. After breakfast, a coastal footpath winds between light seashell-colored sand with impressive lava outcroppings intruding into the water and vibrantly colored sea grass. The walk takes us to Búðir with its solitary church dating back to 1703, perfectly sited on the promontory.

You'll have a chance to roam in the tiny fishing villages on the rocky coast before you take to the water for a cruise with a chance of spotting minke and orca whales as well as seals and an impressive array of sea birds. Iceland is home to the world's largest breeding colony of Atlantic Puffins. About 700,000 pairs of the birds dig burrows in the grassy hillsides above the cliffs around the island. We'll learn about their habits and the environmental challenges these distinctive birds are facing. We top off the cruise by challenging your taste buds with a Viking sushi experience, the freshest seafood you may ever get!

In a country with so much fertile land and surrounded by water, almost every family has a farmer and a fisherman in their bloodline. Your guide is no exception, as you find out this afternoon when you meet his cousin, a shark fisherman. They'll regale you with stories of the sea, demonstrate the equipment their ancestors used to reel in these ultimate predators, and even offer you a tasting of fermented shark (hákarl), an old food tradition.

While the shark is a taste you may not acquire, dinner tonight is another story. Your hotel's restaurant is known as "The Mecca of Icelandic Cooking." The renowned chef will assemble a locavore meal that will include typical seasonal ingredients that can range from lamb and the freshest seafood to moss, mushrooms and wild herbs.

**OVERNIGHT: SNAEFELLSNES**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 6

### REYKJAVIK

• Lunch at a family home "on the edge"

You can't get any closer to local Icelandic culture than we do today. We're off to Bogarnes, a remote village on a rocky peninsula. That house with the red roof? It's name translates as "On the Edge" and its location figured in many of the most famous sagas. Today, it's the home of the local chief of the police and his family. And that aroma? It's homemade lamb stew in the local style – the lunch we share with the family before going for a walk in the garden and hearing stories of the Viking settlers who landed here 1,200 years ago. It's a quiet, quaint and totally authentic look at local life to cap our time together.

At day's end, we'll transport you to the Reykjavik airport or to a hotel of your choice in Reykjavik if you wish to extend your stay.

**MEALS: B, L**

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## Tour Hotels



### Hotel Ranga

Built in log-cabin style, this hotel has an excellent reputation for accommodations and service. Named 'Best Hotel in Iceland' and 'Best Resort Hotel in Europe', it features an acclaimed riverside restaurant and outdoor geothermal hot tubs.

**OVERNIGHT: HELLA | NIGHTS: 3**



### Hotel Budir

This countryside hotel sits in a lava field on the Snaefellsnes peninsula, with views of the glacier and estuary. Hotel Budir's restaurant has been referred to as 'The Mecca of Icelandic cooking', due to its unique and delightful seasonal menu.

**OVERNIGHT: SNAEFELLSBAER | NIGHTS: 2**

## Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
June 7-12, 2020	\$5,895	\$6,890
July 12-17, 2020	\$5,895	\$6,890
July 19-24, 2020	\$5,895	\$6,890
August 16-21, 2020	\$5,895	\$6,890
September 13-18, 2020	\$5,895	\$6,890
June 6-11, 2021	\$5,995	\$6,990
July 18-23, 2021	\$5,995	\$6,990
August 15-20, 2021	\$5,995	\$6,990
September 12-17, 2021	\$5,995	\$6,990

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE) to learn more about private journeys.

## Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 6 Days, 5 Nights

**START:** 10:00 AM Alda Hotel lobby, Reykjavik, Iceland

**END:** 5:00 PM Keflavik Airport (KEF), Reykjavik, Iceland Optional transfer to Alda Hotel in downtown Reykjavik.

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths

## What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Privileged Access Events**

READY TO BOOK?  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

## Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)



## TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

## AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

## ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference



## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Iceland...

- Spotting whales off the coast of the Snaefellsnes Peninsula
- Walking amongst the lava fields of cinematic Mt. Hekkla
- Spotting puffins nesting above black sand beaches
- Savoring award-winning Atlantic farm-to-table cuisine
- Exploring with your local guides, descendants of shark fisherman and 9th century Vikings

*"Atli was a great guide. He shared so many stories about Iceland (personal and historical) that I really felt like I understand the Icelandic culture."*

—Lori Singer., Chestnut Hill, MA

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

## You might also enjoy...



### England

#### Cornwall Coast to Land's End

Culture + Walking

##### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking lush green cliffs lined with coastal paths
- Crossing a causeway to an island castle
- Exploring seaside hamlets with picturesque harbors

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/cornwall/>.



### Norway

#### Oslo, Jostedal & Bergen

Culture + Walking

##### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Gliding through awesome fjords
- Joining a professional guide for a glacier walk
- Settling into a small village hotel surrounded by mountains and water

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/norway/>.



### Nova Scotia

#### Halifax, Bay of Fundy & Lunenburg

Culture + Walking

##### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring historic seaports, coastal paths and fishing villages
- Enjoying unsurpassed birding and whale watching
- Sailing along Lunenburg's historic waterfront

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/novascotia/>.



You might also enjoy...



## Scotland

### Edinburgh & the Highlands

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring the iconic ruins of Urquhart Castle
- Tasting single malt whisky at an artisanal distillery
- Gliding between highland mountains on the waters of Loch Ness

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/scotland/>.



## Switzerland

### The Bernese Alps & Oberland

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking on the surface of a glacier
- Going for a llama trek on a Alpine farm
- Eating your way through a culinary hike on the Stockhorn

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/switzerland-walking-tour/>.

ATLI & KOMMI'S

*excellent*

ADVENTURE

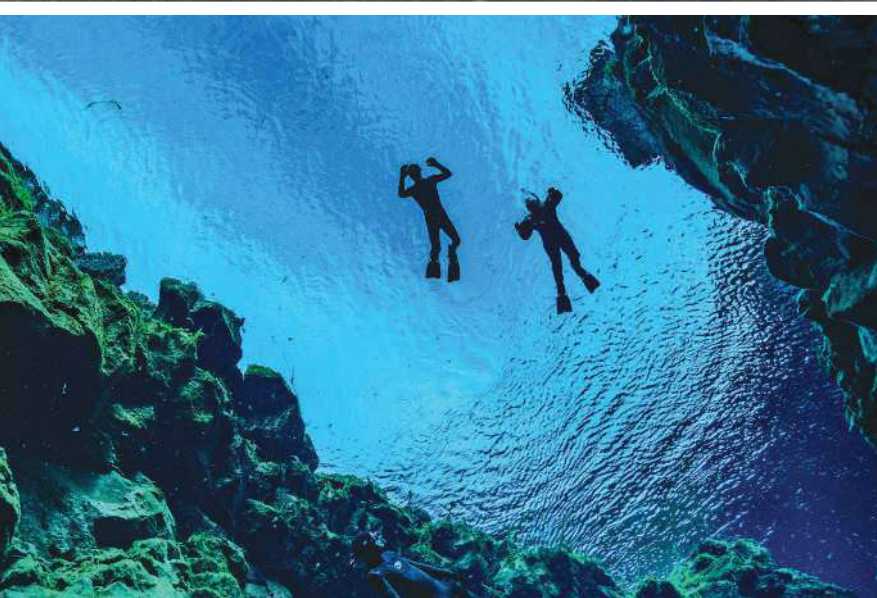
IN ICELAND, A YEAR-ROUND MULTISPORT TRIP IS  
AN ADRENALINE HIGH FROM BEGINNING TO END.

Any time your traveling companions have Vikings and shark fishermen in their bloodlines, you know that interesting things are going to happen. We just returned from scouting a new Iceland Multisport trip with our friends Atli and Kommi, the local guides who win raves on our Family and Culture + Walking Trips. As one guest put it: "I want to be with them when the Zombie Apocalypse happens."

Kommi and Atli show you the sights like nobody else. But these two Icelanders are doers, not just observers. With them in the lead, you'll get full immersion into Iceland instead of just driving the Golden Circle the way so many tourists do.

Imagine yourself in the most remote setting from "Game of Thrones" or your favorite "Star Wars" planet. That starts to come close to Iceland. Volcanoes and glaciers have done crazy things. Wavy plains of cooled lava flows wear spongy carpets of electric green moss. Geysers shoot up and waterfalls arc down off cliffs. Those glaciers shed bergs like some cosmic ice dispenser. As for the Northern Lights, "wow" isn't adequate. But just WOW.







If you crave a vacation with a variety of activities and experiences, Iceland is nirvana. Whenever Kommi or Atli would say, "Today, you can do this thing or that thing," we'd say, "Why not both?" And so it will be when you join us on this Multisport adventure. Many times, you're able to create your own adventure by choosing which activities appeal most to you.

For example, one day they ask "flippers or boots?" If you reply "flippers", you find yourself stepping into insulated wet suits to go "tectonic snorkeling." At just one spot, a gap between two tectonic plates contains a skinny lake of crystal glacial water. In water that's as clear as glass, you feel like you're floating in thin air. If you want to skip the flippers and keep your hiking boots, you can join one of the guys for an awesome walk in Þingvellir National Park. The UNESCO World Heritage Site is bisected by a tectonic valley and is cinematic beyond belief. Untamed as it is, it was also the place where local Viking chieftains started meeting in the year 930 to form the world's oldest parliament.

The lion's share of another day is spent on top of a glacier, starting with a hike to the glacier's terminal face. Specialized guides join up with crampons, ice axes and other gear, and then you make your way to the top and across the ice field. You see impressive crevasses and even tuck into the coolest picnic ever. The next day, at the "snout" of another glacier, you climb into Zodiacs and chug in close to where icebergs are calved. This is also the place where you can explore ice caves carved by glacial melt.

You can choose to ride shaggy, short-legged Icelandic horses on a black sand beach or walk along coastal footpaths to a nesting colony of Atlantic Puffins. You'll walk to a waterfall to explore it from behind. (It's nobody but you, looking out at Iceland through a roaring curtain of water.) And one of our favorite hotels is a manor house on a family farm where trails lead you through sheep meadows to Viking ruins. At the end of another day, the geothermal Blue Lagoon is the perfect spot for a long steamy float.

There are other places where you can see fjords and walk on glaciers and visit sheep farms and clamber over frozen lava and eat sensational farm-to-table meals. But nowhere else can you do it all in such a compact geographic area and have so much fun. Your trusty research team did ... and you will too!

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## IS ICELAND FOR YOU?

### WHEN ARE DEPARTURES?

Year-round, so you can go any time and in any season.

### DO YOU SEE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS?

Scientifically, the Aurora Borealis happens year-round. You're likeliest to witness it from September to April when the night sky is darker, but we've seen them on tour in August!

### HOW ARE THE HOTELS?

Luxurious and stylish! One is a family-owned manor hotel on a sheep farm. The other is a contemporary gem situated between two glaciers.

### DO YOU NEED A LOT OF EQUIPMENT?

We provide all of the important stuff for your activities — from snorkeling gear to crampons to Land Rovers!

### DO YOU EAT ICELANDIC COD THE WHOLE TIME?

Seafood of all kinds is amazing, but this is an all-round foodie destination with super inventive and flat-out delicious farm-to-table cuisine beyond anything you can imagine.



YES



NO