

Iceland Expedition

HIKING ADVENTURES IN A SURREAL LANDSCAPE



TRIP DATES

2024

June 3-10, 2024

June 22-29, 2024

July 5-12, 2024

July 26-August 2, 2024

August 18-25, 2024

2025

June 2-9, 2025

June 21-28, 2025

July 25-August 1, 2025

August 17-24, 2024



Wilderness Travel

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Iceland is a mystical world of spouting geysers, blue lagoons, lava fields, and multicolored rhyolite valleys stretching to the sea—these fantasy landscapes must be seen to be believed. On coastal, mountain, and glacier adventures, we explore Vatnajökull National Park and the brooding heaths of saga country, where Viking clans created the world's first parliament. We'll hike high above Skógafoss waterfall, across the Dyrhólaey headland, and along the clearly visible tectonic plates at Thingvellir National Park, a World Heritage Site. Delights along the way include fresh-caught salmon and Arctic char, and soaks in geothermally heated mineral waters.



Wilderness Travel

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Itinerary

DAY 1

REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND / HOFN / KETILLAUGARFJALL

From Reykjavík, we have an early morning transfer to the domestic airport for a short (50 minutes) flight to the small coastal village of Hofn, set on the tip of a peninsula on Hornafjörður Fjord. The dramatic Vatnajökull icecap looms on the horizon as a white line and descends in picturesque glacial tongues to the sea. At 3,300 square miles, it is Europe's largest glacier and provides a superb backdrop for this small southeastern coastal town. After check-in and a trip orientation meeting, we set off on our first hike, heading up and out of the broad valley of Laxardalur on a rarely traveled path alongside fascinating geologic formations and multicolored hills. Arriving at the base of the prominent peak of Ketillaugarfjall, we enjoy spectacular views of the massive Vatnajökull Glacier and the coast. After an optional hike to the summit (weather permitting), we descend through rolling hills and then make a steep and rocky descent to the lush green lowlands of Nes. Overnight at hotel near Hofn...LD

Hiking Details: 5-7 miles, 1,400 foot ascent/descent; with optional summit hike, 2,200 feet ascent/descent

Note: We recommend you arrive in Reykjavík a day early to enjoy this charming capital, with its beautiful harbor and fine restaurants.

History: While Irish monks used Iceland as a hermitage through the 9th century, the first permanent resident was a Norwegian who arrived in 874 AD and built a home in what is now Reykjavík. More Norse settlers followed during the Age of Settlement (870-930 AD). They established a general assembly and convened in a building at Thingvellir known as the Althing. Among the achievements of this early parliament was an egalitarian nation of farmers with no hierarchical class structure. The republic was made up of 39 chieftains. In 1262, the land came under Norwegian rule, and in 1380, the Danish crown took over Iceland and ruled for 500 years. The recognition of Iceland as a sovereign state under the Danish crown came in 1918, and Iceland declared its independence as the Republic of Iceland in 1944.

DAY 2

JÖKULSÁRLÓN LAGOON / VATNAJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK

Jökulsárlón Lagoon is a spectacular body of water filled with powder-blue icebergs calved from the Breidamerkurjökull Glacier, and our hike brings us along the shores of the lake. After a picnic lunch, we reach the glacial wilds of Vatnajökull National Park. Conditions permitting, we can take a hike surrounded by the broad expanse of Skaftafell Heath and the snowy peaks of the Oraefajökull Glacier, including Hvannadalshnukur (7,000'), the highest point in Iceland. Skaftafell enjoys a mild climate most of the time, which encourages the growth of luxuriant birch forests. Overnight at Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon...BLD

Hiking Details: 3-6 miles, with a 500-foot elevation gain/loss



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	8 days
Arrive:	Reykjavík, Iceland
Depart:	Reykjavík, Iceland
Lodging:	7 nights hotels
Meals:	All meals included (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Hiking / Trekking
Trip Level:	1 2 3 4 5 6 Moderate to strenuous hiking, some steep sections, 3-8 hours a day, optional glacier walking, van support

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike in an unearthly landscape of canyons, iceberg-filled lagoons, and geysers
- Explore the dramatic rift valley of World Heritage-listed Thingvellir National Park
- Learn about Iceland's Viking heritage, savor the long twilight of the midnight sun
- Taste savory Icelandic cuisine, soak in a geothermal hot spring



“This was an amazing trip. I feel like I am still walking the fjords! The beauty of Iceland will never leave me. Thank you!”

Linda A., Minneapolis, MN

Icelandic Place Names: Most Icelandic place names contain a reference to some natural feature of the landscape. Oraefi means upland; vik means small bay; mork means woods; jökull means glacier; hofn means harbor; fell or fjell means mountain; tindur means summit; dalur means valley; vellir means plains. Words containing hver, laug, and reyk indicate the presence of hot springs.

DAY 3

MÚLAGLJÚFUR / KVÍÁRJÖKULL GLACIER

In one of the most spectacular settings in Iceland, we enjoy a morning of hiking in Múlagljúfur, a dramatic scenic canyon with plunging waterfalls. This hidden gem is close to the glacier lagoons of Fjallsárlón and Jökulsárlón, and we'll have fantastic views of Rótarfjallshnúkur (6,063') and the Vatnajökull Glacier, the largest one in Europe. In the afternoon, we explore the Kvíárjökull Glacier, with its huge terminal moraines, the largest in Iceland. We'll hike from the flat area to the more crevassed spots (not to worry—crampons are provided!) and our time on the glacier will depend on the conditions of the ice and weather. This glacier is relatively unvisited, and it will be wonderful to be on the glacier without any other people. Overnight at hotel...BLD

Hiking Details: Morning hike, 3.6 miles; afternoon hike, 4 miles

Land of Fire and Ice: The first humans who arrived in Iceland's unique landscape of sculpted lava flows, smoking volcanoes, and thundering waterfalls must have thought that they had arrived at a battlefield of the ancient gods. In fact, Iceland is very young in geological terms, formed only 20 million years ago as magma (liquid rock) poured from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a fissure in the seabed between the North American and European continental plates. The country boasts some 30 active volcanoes that regularly erupt and add lava and ash to the landscape. So numerous are Iceland's hot springs that they provide the major source of geothermal heating energy for residents of Reykjavík. While fire is a main element in shaping Iceland, ice has played a major role as well. Scientists believe that Iceland was covered with a thick sheet of ice just 8,000 years ago. As the icecap melted, it carved dramatic steep-sided valleys, deep fjords, and glacial valleys flooded by the sea. Today only 10 percent of the country is covered by ice.

DAY 4

VIK / SKOGAR

A morning drive brings us to the tiny seaside village of Vik for a brief stop en route to the spectacular Dyrhólaey headland, rising 400 feet above the sea. Lying just offshore are unique rock pillars that are home to rich birdlife including fulmars, guillemots, razorbills, gannets, and many species of gulls. We may also view puffins nesting (June through early August). Our picnic lunch (weather permitting!) is near the spectacular Skógafoss waterfall. In the afternoon, we set out for a not-to-be-missed hike to the 200-foot-high Skógafoss waterfall, hiking up and along its source, a deeply carved streambed flowing from Iceland's southernmost glacier, Myrdalsjökull. We descend to



Skogar, passing one gorgeous waterfall after another as we make our way to our hotel. Overnight at hotel...BLD

Hiking Details: 2-3 hours, 1,500-foot ascent/descent

Wildlife: Iceland's fauna is dominated by birds. The largest groups are seabirds, waterfowl, and waders. There are approximately ten million puffins in coastal colonies. The seas contain common and grey seals and 12 species of whales. The only native mammal is the Arctic fox. Iceland is unusual in having no reptiles or amphibians.

DAY 5

THJORSARDALUR VALLEY / HÁIFOSS

Today we head inland to the Thjorsardalur Valley, where we find the ruins of Stöng, one of the ancient settlement farms that were destroyed in the volcanic eruption of Mt. Hekla in 1104. Archaeologists excavated Stöng's ruins in 1939, and in 1974 a Saga-era replica of the farm was built nearby on the 1100th anniversary of Icelandic settlement. From Stöng, we follow a faint trail up the valley along the Fossá River to the 400-foot Háifoss waterfall, one of Iceland's prettiest and most impressive, high-volume falls. We can walk right up to it and feel the power as the water plunges fiercely down into a canyon. Just a short distance away from Háifoss is another waterfall called Granni ("The Neighbor"). It originates from the same river but is much smaller in volume. We can enjoy a panoramic view of both waterfalls from the eastern side of the falls. Return to Skogar for overnight at hotel...BLD

DAY 6

GULLFOSS / RANGA

We head out early in the morning to visit Gullfoss, a magnificent waterfall that disappears into a deep gorge. Next we explore the Great Geysir, the oldest and one of the world's most impressive examples of the phenomenon. Eruptions here, though rare and infrequent, can hurl boiling water up to 150 feet in the air. Nearby is Strokkur geyser, Iceland's version of Yellowstone's "Old Faithful," with eruptions every 10 minutes or so. We also visit the Fridheimar Greenhouse, where we can see how environmentally friendly energy sources are used to grow tomatoes (and tomato soup is on the menu here). Our hike near Nesjavellir allows us time to explore the lava fields and fissures that run through the area. After the hike we have an opportunity for a relaxing dip in the hotel's outdoor hot tub, with its dramatic setting in the foothills of the volcano of Mt. Hengill.

Overnight at hotel...BLD

Hiking Details: 7 miles

The Icelandic Sagas: The heroes of the Viking Age are remembered in prose novels called sagas ("story" in Norse). The sagas describe historical events in Iceland, voyages of discovery across the North Atlantic, and family histories.



"This trip gets my highest rating in terms of leadership and management of details. Iceland is a delightful and surprisingly beautiful place to visit."

Dennis S., Oakland, CA



“The trip far exceeded our expectations in beauty. The moss-covered mountains, waterfalls, gorges, and glaciers were truly gorgeous.”

*Ellen and Harvey F.,
Los Angeles, CA*

They were written during the late 13th and 14th centuries on vellum using berry juice as ink. The best known are Njal's Saga, Egil's Saga, and Laxdaela Saga, which have been translated into numerous languages and are considered among the great heroic epics of the world, and they provided source material for Wagner's Ring cycle. For the ancients of Iceland, storytelling was a form of entertainment that passed the long winter nights or kept up spirits for traders a long way from home. The Viking kings often employed skalds (storytellers) to spread the word of their exploits. Although the stories were likely embellished by the skalds, they nonetheless preserve some truth of historic events that occurred across Scandinavia before and during Viking times.

DAY 7

THINGVELLIR NATIONAL PARK / GLYMUR / REYKJKAÐÍK

Thingvellir National Park is the home of the world's oldest parliament, the Althing, first held in 930 AD. Until 1798, Thingvellir was the nation's meeting place for 868 uninterrupted years. We have a look at the remaining Althing buildings and tour the visitors' center, then head out to explore the fascinating features of Thingvellir National Park's landscape, a vivid reminder that Iceland is located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the meeting point between the North American and European continental plates. The park is on a clearly visible part of the continental rift, where the end of the European plate is slowly drifting away from the North American continental plate, and the deep chasms visibly demonstrate how the land is slowly separating. Our afternoon hike



is a spectacular grand finale of sweeping coastal panoramas and the Glymur waterfall, plunging over 600 feet into a hidden chasm of moss-covered cliffs. We traverse a rocky and sometimes steep trail, skirting the waterfall's edge before crossing a refreshingly chilly stream, exploring the top of the falls again, then descending along a stony path with superb views of Whale Fjord. We return to Reykjavík and check into our accommodation. This evening we gather for our Farewell Dinner in a harborside restaurant serving traditional cuisine with a modern twist (wonderful scallops!)...BLD

Hiking Details: 2-3 miles (morning hike); 7 miles, 1,800-foot ascent/descent (afternoon hike)

DAY 8

SKY LAGOON / DEPART

After a leisurely breakfast buffet and morning in town, we soak in the wonderfully warm waters of the Sky Lagoon. This geothermal lagoon opened in 2021 and overlooks the Atlantic Ocean from its infinity-edge pool—the ideal place for relaxing pre-travel. From here, we'll head to Keflavík, the international airport, for homeward-bound flights, or continue on to Europe...BL

Weather Note: Iceland's weather is notoriously changeable and will dictate our exact hiking itinerary. We will remain flexible to accommodate weather conditions that may require changes, such as substituting different hiking routes or switching the days of certain hikes.



“I loved Iceland. The geographic diversity from day to day made each hike so different, from glaciers and icebergs to swimming in a hot river.”

Ken G., Orlando, FL

Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$7195 (10-14 members)

\$7795 (4-9 members)

Single supplement: \$1265

Internal airfare: \$220 (subject to change)

2025 Trip Cost: Please call for details

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Due to the volatility of currency markets, we can only offer the most competitive pricing on our trips in Iceland by partially tying the trip cost directly to the value of the Krona. In the late spring of 2023, when we set the rates for our 2024 program, the US Dollar equaled 142.0 Kronur. While in most years, no price changes are ever necessary, if there were to be a significant change in exchange rates, we may be forced to raise or able to lower our trip cost; if so, your final invoice, sent two weeks before your final payment is due, will reflect the difference. Please note that the calculation will not be a straight proration. While most of the trip cost is paid in Kronur, the remainder of our expenses are paid in US Dollars. The overall effect is to moderate any change; thus, if the Krona were to rise in value, the trip cost would rise less than might be expected, and if the Krona were to fall, the drop in land price would also be less than might be expected.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- Land transportation, airport transfers for internal flight on Day 1 and departing flights on Day 8, and sightseeing as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, transfers for arrival before Day 1 and independent departure, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors, expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Reykjavík, Iceland

Suggested Airport: Keflavík International Airport (KEF)

Suggested Date & Time: Anytime prior to Day 1

Meeting Place:

Upon arrival in Reykjavík, you can transfer on your own quite easily to all city center hotels on Reykjavík Excursion's FlyBus, which meets all arriving flights outside of the terminal. Tickets can be purchased either at the FlyBus booth in the arrivals hall with a credit card or online (www.flybus.is). The Flybus will drop passengers directly to the major hotels in Reykjavík. The transfer takes about 45 minutes. The FlyBus can also provide a departure transfer to the airport from these same hotels. Although taxis are available outside of the terminal, they are much more expensive than taking the FlyBus.

On the morning of Day 1 of the trip, your Trip Leader will pick you up at any hotel within the Reykjavík city center and transfer you to the morning trip orientation. Please let us know which hotel you will be staying in before the trip begins.

DEPARTURE

Reykjavík, Iceland

Suggested Airport: Keflavík International Airport (KEF)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 8, anytime after 5:00 pm

A group airport transfer will be provided to Keflavík International Airport in the afternoon of Day 8.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Iceland.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please forward a copy of your email confirmation from the airline with exact arrival/departure times. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

You may wish to spend extra nights in Reykjavík before or after the trip. We are happy to book these nights for you (an "on your own" expense), but hotels often offer special rates available on their website that may be lower than our contract rates. You will often find the lowest room rate by booking your reservation directly through the hotel. For more information, see our Extra Service Request Form.

Accommodations

HOTELS NEAR VATNAJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK

Vatnajökull National Park, Iceland, Day 1 (1 night)

In the Vatnajökull National Park area, we stay at one of the following properties:



FOSSHOTEL VATNAJÖKULL

With wide views of Vatnajökull Glacier, Fosshotel Vatnajökull is a peaceful hotel set in a valley eclipsed by mist shrouded mountains. Guest rooms are clean and modern, with heated floors in the bathroom and Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. The lobby has a welcoming seating area with floor-to-ceiling windows looking across the plains. Enjoy a drink from the hotel bar and if you're lucky, watch local bands play on the outdoor deck—a true Icelandic experience.



HOTEL KLAUSTUR

Hotel Kalustur is a simple lodge in the small village of Kirkjubæjarklaustur. This lodge has a very convenient location for our hikes in Skaftafell National Park. It is basic, with rooms on the small side, but clean and comfortable.



HOTEL SMYRLABJÖRG

Set in a remote location on the Ring Road between Jökulsárlón and Höfn, this simple family-run country hotel is still a working farm, with about 350 sheep and assorted hens, ducks, and dogs. Guest rooms are simple, but comfortable and clean, with views of either the mountains or the sea, and the meals served in the on-site restaurant are based on local produce.

HOTELS IN THE SKAFTAFELL AREA

Skaftafell, Iceland, Days 2 to 3 (2 nights)

In the area around Skaftafell, we stay at one of the following properties:



FOSSHOTEL GLACIER LAGOON

Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon is a four-star hotel with a dramatic location set at the foot of the mountains between two amazing sites, Skaftafell and Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon. This hotel embodies a lot of what makes Iceland so stunning. The architecture and interior design highlights the singular beauty of the area, while the lobby, lounge, and restaurant feature large windows to enjoy sweeping views of the amazing landscapes. An open lounge area is perfect to enjoy a drink from the nearby bar or a game of cards. Guest rooms are comfortable, with nice bathrooms and wonderful views. For those who wish to unwind, there is an on-site sauna guests can enjoy.



HALI COUNTRY HOTEL

Located within a 10-minute drive to the famous Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon, the Hali Country Inn is the perfect base for exploring the area. Guest rooms are simple yet comfortable, with private bathrooms, nice beds, and large windows to enjoy the scenery. Complimentary tea and coffee are available throughout the day and there is a nice restaurant on the property.



HOTEL SKAFTAFELL

This lodging is truly in “the middle of nowhere,” near the tongue of the huge Vatnajökull Glacier on the edge of spectacular Skaftafell National Park. Lava fields stretch out in front of the hotel, and on a clear day, you can see the ocean. Rooms are small and simply furnished but cozy and comfortable. Have a drink at the tiny upstairs bar for a fantastic glacier view.

Accommodations (cont'd)



HOTELS IN THE VÍK AREA

Vík, Iceland, Days 4 to 5 (2 nights)

In the Vík area, we stay at one of the following properties:

HOTEL RANGÁ

Halfway between Reykjavík and Vík along the south coast, the Hotel Rangá has a wonderfully isolated setting. The Rangá offers spacious, well-appointed rooms, and a good restaurant that serves some of the freshest fish imaginable. The hot tubs have amazing views.

HOTEL FLUDIR

Set near three national parks and offering fantastic views of the Icelandic countryside, Hotel Fludir takes pride in its peaceful location outside of Reykjavík. The single-story hotel has clean and comfortable guestrooms, and each room has private access to the hotel's garden—a rustic outdoor area with tables, fireplaces, and two hot tubs framed by large boulders and basalt columns. Fludir has its own greenhouse that grows many of the vegetables they use for the restaurant, and they serve a hearty breakfast. If you have time, be sure to unwind with a drink on the garden's deck beneath the Midnight Sun, or enjoy a soak in their hot tubs.



HOTEL GLYMUR

Akranes, Iceland, Day 6 (1 night)

This boutique hotel sits on a hillside overlooking Hvalfjörður, one of the longest fjords in Iceland. Guest rooms have views of either the sea or mountains. At the end of the day, relax in one of the outdoor hot tubs, with magnificent views of the fjord.



BERJAYA REYKJAVIK MARINA HOTEL

Reykjavík, Iceland, Day 7 (1 night)

Set in Reykjavík's marina district, close to the shops and restaurants, the Berjaya Reykjavik Marina Hotel has guest rooms with colorful and "quirky" modern décor combined with maritime antiques. The common spaces that take up the entire ground floor include a restaurant and renowned cocktail bar, cafe, gym room, and cinema. The hotel is within walking distance to the Harpa concert hall.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/iceland-southern-hiking-tour/



SÖLVI ÞÓR JÓNASSON

Sölvi Þór Jónasson was raised deep in Iceland's Westfjords, "where the road ends" at a farm in the smallest and most isolated commune on the island. He is a true nature lover and spends most of his time in the wilderness of his home country. Sölvi holds a degree in tourism and has been working in the field since 2013. When he is not introducing travelers to the wonders of Iceland, he enjoys fly fishing, snowmobiling, soccer, and golf.



ORRI SIGURJÓNSSON

Orri Sigurjónsson grew up in the small town of Hvanneyri in the western region of Iceland. He studied carpentry in college, but his true calling has always been the enchantments of Iceland's rugged landscapes, and he has been guiding in Iceland since 2010. "Traveling throughout the mountains is my passion," he says, "and being able to share that passion with other travelers and show them around my beautiful country is something I consider a privilege." When he's not leading trips, he enjoys mountaineering, skiing, ice climbing, skydiving, and playing music with his band, Vertigo.



DÖGG ÁRMANNSDÓTTIR

Dögg is a native of Iceland and a true nature lover. With a background in management, she started leading trips on the side for fun. But once she realized taking travelers out onto the trails of Iceland was something she truly had a passion for, she never looked back. Since becoming a guide, Dögg has returned to university to study Icelandic nature and geology. She has traveled around the world and lived in many different places, but she always comes back to her homeland and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. She finds the nature, geology, and landscapes of Iceland utterly inspiring, and also has a soft spot for Iceland's friendly people. Dögg is a dedicated mountaineer, skier, and cyclist, and she's always up for the next adventure.



SANTIAGO BEJARANO

Santiago Bejarano trained in environmental sciences in his native Ecuador and began his guiding career by bringing visitors to the jungles and highlands of Ecuador and to the storied Galápagos Islands, where he worked as a naturalist. He later moved to Britain, which has been his home now for many years, and divides his time between Ecuador and Europe. Santiago guides for us on the high trails of the Alps of France, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland and into the epic fjords of Norway. "Guiding gives me the chance to be a link between cultures and to share my passion for nature. It also allows me to spend a lot of time in a place I really love—out in nature itself." Santiago enjoys photography, traveling, a good conversation, the diversity of life, and humanity. He is fluent in English, Spanish, and German.

Trip Leaders (cont'd)



PÁLL RAGNAR EGGERTSSON

Páll Ragnar grew up in a small town just outside of Reykjavík where he has lived most of his life. Traveling and hiking around the beautiful landscapes of Iceland with his family and friends has been a passion of his from a very young age. He joined the Icelandic Search and Rescue Team many years ago and is now a part of the Elite Mountain Rescue Brigade. Páll has been a guide for several years and always loves showing off his country to travelers from around the world. In his free time, you can find him outdoors hiking, skiing, rock climbing, and ice climbing.



ÞÓRA JÓHANNA HJALTADÓTTIR

Þóra is a native Icelandic who is passionate about the outdoors and Iceland's unique landscapes. She grew up on a farm in southern Iceland and spent a couple of years in Denmark. Þóra works in informational technology, but has also been a guide for more than 20 years. When she's not working or leading trips, she enjoys running, tennis, biking, and knitting.



JIRI ROHEL

Jiri Rohel, from the Czech Republic, has been a guide for WT since 2011. He holds a master's degree in English and music and studied clarinet at a conservatory. Jiri loves mountain life and spent a month trekking in Nepal's Annapurna range. He has also climbed to the summits of Mont Blanc in France, Mt. Elbrus in Russia, the Matterhorn in Switzerland, and the highest peaks in the Austrian Alps. Having grown up in the Czech Republic, Jiri can share his experience of living in Communist Czechoslovakia and the transition to life in today's modern Czech Republic. When not leading trips, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing music with his dulcimer band, taking photographs, and being outside in nature, whether hiking, climbing, trekking, cycling, or skiing.



JÓN MARINÓ SÆVARSSON

Jón Marinó Sævarsson was born and raised in Akureyri, the "Capital of North Iceland." He has explored many parts of Iceland and loves sharing his culture with other travelers. When he is not guiding, he enjoys mountain biking, skiing, hiking, and fly fishing.



LÍA ÓSKARSDÓTTIR

Lisa is a native Icelandic and an outdoor adventurer who spends most of her time climbing, hiking, and biking on the mountains and glaciers of Iceland. She has a degree in adventure guiding from Thompson Rivers University in BC, Canada, and has also completed advanced courses from the Association of Icelandic Mountain Guides in mountaineering and glacier travels. She's used her knowledge gained from these courses throughout the past many years working as a full-time guide in Iceland. When she's not scaling mountains or biking down the trails, she loves spending quality time with her daughter, doing just about anything.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 3+, Moderate to Strenuous. It features daily mountain hikes and hotel accommodations throughout. The hikes can be considered strenuous because they are on undefined, steep trails or through some rugged terrain. The terrain can be very wet. There are many short but steep parts on our hikes, and much up and down. Sturdy, well-broken-in hiking boots are essential. Gaiters are not required but will protect your pant legs from getting wet when we hike through boggy areas. Hiking poles are highly recommended (we provide poles to those who do not wish to pack their own).

GETTING IN SHAPE

For your own enjoyment, we recommend you make a special effort to be in good physical condition. Daily brisk walking and/or regular hiking (or using a stair-climbing machine at your gym) are excellent preparatory exercises.

TRANSPORTATION

We drive to a starting point for our hike and our vehicle picks us up at the end of the hike to drive us to our night's lodging. Some days combine sightseeing and hiking, but we usually don't spend more than a couple of hours in the van at one stretch. Where possible, those who are not up for hiking can usually opt out and spend time on their own at the hotel.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS

Our nights will be spent at comfortable hotels and inns. Please keep in mind that on this trip we are crossing rural Iceland. The rooms in our hotels and inns will not always conform to international hotel standards and sizes. Please note that in Europe, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the U.S. We do our best to secure early reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be at 7:30 pm.

WEATHER

Temperatures should be in the mid 50s, perfect for hiking. The weather can provide spectacular clear days but can also be very wet, cold, and changeable, and we want you to be well prepared for all you may encounter. Icelandic weather is always unpredictable, so you must come prepared for at least some rain and bring appropriate rain gear. It is unlikely that it will be hot. The winds can be strong and very cold, even on sunny days.

BEING A CONSIDERATE TRAVELER

Please show respect for the cultures we are visiting by observing local customs concerning appropriate dress, particularly in sacred places. Your Trip Leader is always available to answer any questions that you may have regarding this. If it is necessary to use a cell phone during the trip, please do so privately. Smoking is rarely an issue these days, but if you do smoke, please do so only away from the group.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at europa@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Reykjavik	34/25	36/27	36/27	41/30	48/37	52/43	55/45	54/45	48/39	43/34	36/28	34/25
Vik	38/30	39/30	42/32	44/36	50/41	54/44	58/49	57/48	52/44	45/37	41/33	40/33
Rainfall - Inches												
Reykjavik	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.0	2.4	2.6	2.6	3.3	3.4	4.5	3.8	3.9
Vik	7.2	6.3	6.5	6.7	5.4	6.3	7.0	8.0	9.6	9.2	8.1	9.2



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Condé Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

October 18, 2023 3:30 PM