



ICELAND Land of Ice & Fire

June 18-24, 2022
7 Days / 5 Nights



**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF GREATER HOUSTON**

Global Perspectives, Local Conversations



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ITINERARY

DAY 1	Leave USA for Reykjavik, Iceland
DAY 2	Arrival in Reykjavik - City Sightseeing / Reykjavik
DAY 3	Borgarnes & Glacier Excursion / Reykjavik
DAY 4	Golden Circle Excursion / Reykjavik
DAY 5	Horse Farm Visit - More time in Reykjavik / Reykjavik
DAY 6	Whale Watching - Blue Lagoon Geothermal Spa / Reykjavik
DAY 7	Departure

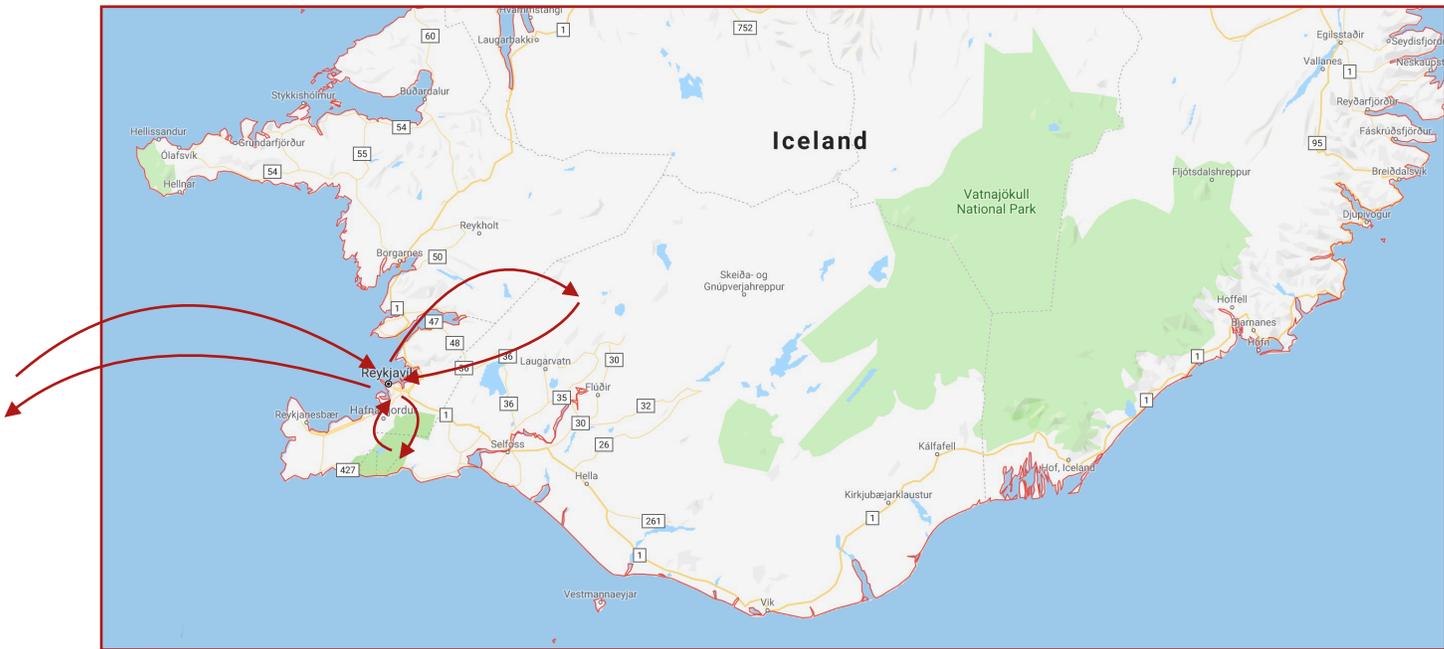


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MAP TRAJECTORY





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HIGHLIGHTS

The Great Geysir - the original one.

Hallgrimskirkja Cathedral.

Langjokull Glacier.

Waterfalls and Icelandic Horses.

Whale Watching Boat Excursion.

Blue Lagoon Geothermal Spa.

Icelandic Cuisine.



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INCLUDED

5 nights' accommodation in Reykjavik.

Daily breakfast. Lunch and dinners as indicated in the itinerary.

Private English speaking guides for excursions and city sightseeing.

Private transportation with driver.

All the sightseeing indicated in the itinerary; related entry fees.

Two small bottles of water per person per day on the bus for excursions.

Tips for included meals – hotels.

Local taxes, service charges.

Gratuities for guides and drivers.

NOT INCLUDED

Airfare.

Any drinks with included meals except tea or coffee for breakfast.

Personal expenditures.

Travel insurance (can be provided on request.)



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SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

Suggested flights are on United Airlines:

18 June Houston to Newark
UA 2494 dep: 2:35 pm / arr: 7:14 pm

18 June Newark to Reykjavik
UA 966 dep: 8:55 pm / arr: 6:30 am on 19 June

24 June Reykjavik to Newark
UA 967 dep: 11:20 am / arr: 1:15 pm

24 June Newark to Houston
UA 1590 dep: 2:45 pm / arr: 5:25 pm

Fare TBA.



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PROGRAM DETAILS

DAY 1

Sat, June 18 - Leave Houston

We will leave Houston for Reykjavik, Iceland.

Reykjavik: Reykjavík is the capital and largest city of Iceland and with an urban area population of around 200,000, it is the home of the vast majority of Iceland's inhabitants. It is the center of culture and life of the Icelandic people as well as a focal point of tourism in Iceland. The city itself is spread out, with sprawling suburbs. The city center, however, is a very small area characterized by eclectic and colorful houses, with good shopping, dining, and drinking.

When it started to develop as a town in the 18th century, Reykjavík had already been inhabited for almost a thousand years. Legend has it that the first permanent settler in Iceland was a Norwegian named Ingólfur Arnarson. He is said to have thrown his seat pillars into the sea en route to Iceland, and decided to settle wherever the pillars were found. The pillars washed up in Reykjavík, and so that was where he set up his farm.



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DAY 2

Sun, June 19 - Reykjavik

Arrival in Reykjavik early in the morning and start with a half-day program in the city.

We will start with a visit to the National Museum of Iceland, where the present meets the past, and guests gain insight into Icelandic cultural history.

Then we will take a walk in the older part of the city to explore the art galleries and the imposing, white-concrete Hallgrímskirkja Cathedral, a landmark dominating the Reykjavik skyline. We will continue to the Perlan Building (the Pearl), which is built on top of natural hot water sources at Oskuhlio Hill. We will have our lunch at the restaurant on the top floor of the building, under the glass dome, while we enjoy the spectacular views of the city.

Early in the afternoon, we will check in our hotel. Rest of the day at leisure in Reykjavik.

Overnight in Reykjavik

Meals: L

National Museum of Iceland: Including around 2,000 objects and 1,000 photographs, the museum's permanent exhibition is conceived as a journey through time: it begins with the ship in which medieval settlers crossed the ocean to their new home, it ends in a modern airport, the Icelanders' gateway to the world.

Hallgrímskirkja Cathedral: At 74.5 meters (244 ft) high, it is the largest church in Iceland and among the tallest structures in the country. The church is named after the Icelandic poet and clergyman Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614–1674).

Situated on a hilltop near the centre of Reykjavík, the church is one of the city's best-known landmarks and is visible throughout the city. State Architect Guðjón Samúelsson's design of the church was commissioned in 1937. He is said to have designed it to resemble the trap rocks, mountains and glaciers of Iceland's landscape.



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DAY 3

Mon, June 20 - Hraunfossar - Barnafossar & Langjokull Glacier

We will meet our guide at 9:30 AM and leave for our excursion at 10:00 AM. First, we will drive to Borgarnes for a visit to the settlement center. After a tour of the exhibition we will have lunch at the nice restaurant of the settlement center.

Then, we will drive to Husafell with stops at Hraunfossar and Barnafossar. In Husafell we will hop on a tour to the Langjokull glacier, Europe's second largest, and have a guided tour of the man-made ice cave within.

Back to our hotel in Reykjavik late afternoon.

Overnight in Reykjavik

Meals: B-L-D

Borgarnes Settlement Center: Housed in an imaginatively restored warehouse by the harbor, the Settlement Center offers fascinating insights into the history of Icelandic settlement and the Saga era. The museum is divided into two exhibitions. The Settlement Exhibition covers the discovery and settlement of Iceland. Egil's Saga Exhibition recounts the amazing adventures of Egil Skallagrímsson (the man behind Egil's Saga) and his family.

Langjokull Glacier is the second largest ice cap in Iceland (953 km²), after Vatnajökull. It is situated in the west of the Icelandic interior or Highlands of Iceland. Under Langjökull there are two or more volcanic systems. The calderas can easily be seen from the air. The best known of these is Hveravellir with its hot spring and high temperature area to the east of the glacier.



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DAY 4

Tue, June 21 - The Golden Circle

This morning we start with visiting Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO site and the place where the Icelandic Parliament was founded in AD 930. Þingvellir is also located in a rift valley that marks the crest of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge caused by the North American and the Eurasian tectonic plates separation. We will have a chance to walk along the part of it, called Almannagjá gorge.

After our visit, we will have lunch and we will continue on to Gullfoss, the "Golden Falls", one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe. Only a few minutes' drive from Gullfoss is the renowned Great Geysir, which has given its name (from the Old Norse word geyser, meaning "to gush") to hot geysers all over the world. It was the first geyser described in print and the first known to Europeans. We will admire one of the most active geysers in the area, Strokkur, spouting up to 98 feet. On our way we will cross the highlands via Kaldidalur and Linuvegur; and see the colorful crater lake Kerith.

We will return to our hotel in Reykjavik late in the afternoon.

Overnight in Reykjavik

Meals: B-L-D



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DAY 5

Wed, June 22 - Icelandic Horses & Musical Hours

This morning we will have a 4-hr excursion to a horse farm near Reykjavik to meet the friendly Icelandic horses. In this local horse farm, we can attend to these beautiful creatures and be led around the stables without holding the reins ourselves. Our excursion begins in the town of Hafnarfjörður within the Capital Region of Reykjavik. There, the stables are located, and we'll arrive in the morning to take part in the daily routine of grooming and attending to the Icelandic horses that call the farm their home.

After plenty of time interacting with the horses and taking pictures, we can opt for giving riding a try within the paddock.

We will return to Reykjavik by noon.

In the afternoon, we will have an hour and a half of music-story telling session (based on availability of the artist.) A well-known Icelandic artist will tell stories and perform folk songs related to the Icelandic tales. She also opens up the space for questions about Iceland, its people, culture and all in between; she is a specialist in taking the guests on a journey through the Icelandic history, its stories about ghosts, elves and the peculiar local traditions.

Rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Overnight in Reykjavik

Meals: B

Icelandic Horse: is truly a unique breed, known throughout the world for its friendly temperament and vibrant personality. These animals arrived at the island with the very first settlers. Having adapted to their environment with no natural predators around, they are not easily spooked.



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DAY 6

Thu, June 23 - Whale Watching - Blue Lagoon Geothermal Spa

We will start our day with a 3.5 hour whale watching expedition. Whales are beautiful animals and one of nature's most extraordinary sights. With experienced guides on board, we will hear their wealth of knowledge on the whales, as well as passing on some interesting facts and old sea stories about encounters with these magnificent creatures. The whales round these parts are not shy, often surfacing quite close to the boat, and, to see a whale up close truly is a sight to remember.

When we return from our boat expedition, we will have free time for lunch on our own.

We will spend the afternoon relaxing in the Blue Lagoon, the geothermal spa, which is in a volcanic area close to Reykjavik.

Overnight in Reykjavik

Meals: B

Blue Lagoon: The geothermal water originates 6,562 ft below the surface, where fresh water and seawater combine at extreme temperatures. It is then harnessed via drilling holes at a nearby geothermal power plant, Svartsengi, to provide electricity and hot water for the nearby communities. On its way to the surface, the water picks up silica and minerals, before emerging at a soothing 100°F, perfect for a re-energizing bath. The beautiful blue color comes from the silica, which reflects the sunlight.



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DAY 7

Fri, June 24 - Departure

After breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport for our return flight.

Contact Us

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