



5 Days

# Iceland

## Super Jeeps and Glaciers

Iceland is a Geographer's paradise. With volcanoes, hot springs, geysers and, not to mention, its dramatic glaciers. It's a country that never ceases to amaze! This dynamic and adventurous geography school trip has been designed to incorporate all the major sites in an active and amazing adventure guaranteed to engage and inspire your students. As well as the well-known highlights including the Pingvellir National Park, geothermal areas and black sand beaches we get off the beaten track by hiking on the Sólheimajökull glacier to witness its features and learn how glaciers impact their natural environment over time. We have an exciting afternoon of white-water rafting and a day exploring the country in Super-Jeeps.



# Recommended tour itinerary

Day  
1

## Arrive Reykjavik, Iceland

Welcome to Iceland. On arrival we'll be met by our highly experienced local team and transferred directly to the Blue Lagoon where we can recover from our flight relaxing in the naturally heated warm water. This huge outdoor spa is 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>, holds six million litres of geothermal seawater and is powered entirely by geothermal energy. A visit to the Blue Lagoon is not only a relaxing start to the trip, it's one of the few places on Earth where you can bathe between two continents as the Euro-Asian and American tectonic plates meet here. The distinctive blue colour is down to the high levels of silica and minerals, reported to have great benefits for the skin and general well-being.

After time at the Blue Lagoon we will continue onto Reykjavik. Depending on timings we will head out for an orientation walk to get acquainted with this charming and compact capital city.

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Day  
2

## Super-Jeep Adventure: Pingvellir National Park, Gullfoss Waterfall & Great Geyser

The Golden Circle route is the most popular sightseeing route in Iceland for a reason. It includes visits to the Thingvellir National Park - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the most renowned hot spring in the world and probably the most beautiful waterfall in Iceland. In this unique 4x4 Jeep tour you will also take a drive on Iceland's second largest glacier.

After we have been picked up from our hotel, we will drive to the Thingvellir National Park. This UNESCO site is where the oldest existing parliament in the world was formed. It's not only one of the most historic places in Iceland, but also a natural wonder because of its location literally ON one of only two tectonic rift valleys in the world.

At Thingvellir, you can actually see how the continental plates of America and Europe have drifted apart. Huge canyons are the clearest manifestation of that, one of which (the "Peningagja canyon") is thought to make wishes come true when you throw a coin into it.

From Thingvellir we will continue to the geothermal area around the Geyser hot spring and Gullfoss waterfall (the Golden Waterfall). These attractions are two of the most popular in Iceland.

After lunch, it's time for some action. The jeeps continue towards the Langjokull glacier, Iceland's second largest glacier, where we will try out our super Jeep vehicles off road. The ride will take us across glaciers and highlands, splashing through rivers and rough terrain. This drive is only available for monster jeeps and you will be experiencing something absolutely unique. After the off-road ride and with time permitting, we will visit Faxi, a small but beautiful waterfall and then head to the amazing Kerid crater before driving back to Reykjavik.

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Day  
3

## Árbæjarsafn Open Air Museum or National Museum. Cultural visit to Hveragerdi Geothermal Park & Helliheið Geothermal Power plant

Árbæjarsafn is the historical museum of the city of Reykjavík. Its purpose is to give the public an insight into the living conditions, work and recreational activities of the people of Reykjavík in earlier times. Quaint old buildings have been uprooted from their original sites and rebuilt here, 2.5 miles from the city centre. Alongside the 19th century homes are a turf-roofed church, various stables, smithies, barns and a boathouse. This is a popular place for students as history comes to life.

We then journey on stopping to see the in Helliheið Geothermal Power plant. The area surrounding the power plant is a wild and barren landscape. As we drive up to the plant we will see the huge vents where the steam is stored with miles of pipes stretching into the distance. The tour is an insightful introduction to renewable energy plants.

We continue on to Hveragerði where we have an opportunity to study how a community develops around, and adapts to, its often harsh environment. This geo-park is unique - nowhere else in the world is there a populated region so close to an active high-temperature geothermal area. It was a draw to early settlers as inhabitants learnt that the natural hot water could be used for heating, cooking, and baking. We will have an in-depth tour of the area, learning how the locals make use of these boiling hot springs that erupt in their gardens. We will boil eggs in the hot springs and those who wish can have a mud foot-bath.

We will then have an amazing opportunity to try our hand at white water rafting. The Hvita flows from the glacier Langjökull towards the south and creates the majestic waterfall Gullfoss; it is a beautiful and fun river for rafting. The river has a perfectly balanced mix of serene canyons and adrenaline pumping waves and rapids. No-one should leave Iceland without embracing a river rafting adventure and experiencing the true power of nature in its rawest form! Along the journey, we raft through the scenic Bruarhlod canyon and in that stunning setting participants have the option of jumping from a cliff into the river.

Our destination this evening will be Hellishólar, a 10 minute drive from Hvolsvöllur and about an hour's drive from Reykjavík. On site is a restaurant, common area, hot tub, laundry access, golf, fishing and cycling.

Day  
4

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## Sólheimajökull Glacier & South Shore

On the fourth day, we will explore the Icelandic south coast. Our first stop is a visit to the Seljalandsfoss and Skógarfoss waterfalls, both featuring distinctive rock escarpment shelves over which the water cascades, best illustrated at Seljalandsfoss which you can actually walk behind. Afterwards we will visit the "Eyjafallajökull Erupts" exhibition where we will watch an amazing action video of the eruption that put half world on a hold. We return to Reykjavík for our final evening.

Day  
5

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## Return to the UK

After breakfast we head back to the airport for our flight direct to the UK.

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# Further information

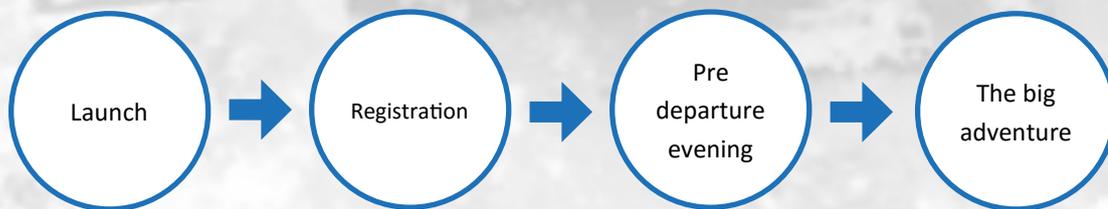
## Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

## What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

## Your educational journey timeline



## Physical journey rating:



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

## Culture shock rating:



Culturally, this is the least challenging of the STC's trip grades. English is the native language. Students are likely to find the food, customs and access to services similar to the UK.



# A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.

## 1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

## 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

## 3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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