



Craig
travel

ICELAND

BOOK BY DEC 19
SAVE \$200 PP

LAND OF ICE AND FIRE
MAY 31 - JUN 10, 2025 | 11 DAYS | 19 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADER: NANCY KNOX

Waterfalls are plentiful in Iceland

This incredible land of ice and fire is blessed with truly amazing geography, featuring lunar landscapes, hot springs, geysers, grand vistas, and best of all, warm, friendly people. Pristine natural wonders await your arrival: over 10,000 waterfalls, 15 active volcanoes, numerous glaciers, and Europe's largest icecap. The rugged coastline is teeming with wildlife, including whales and birds of every description and size.

Join us for an exploration of Iceland, where we will discover its magnificent scenery and meet the welcoming locals, whose Nordic and Celtic ancestors have called this rugged island home for over 1,100 years.

Accompanied by our Canadian journey leader and a professional local guide, we will gain insights and develop a deep appreciation for this enchanting land. Come see for yourself why Iceland has become a top destination for nature lovers and adventurers from around the globe.



Tour Highlights

- Explore Snafellsnes Peninsula's towering mountain vistas
- Cruise the beautiful Breiðafjörður fjord with its rich and diverse wildlife
- Enjoy the magnificent waterfalls of Iceland, including Godafoss, Seljalandsfoss, Gullfoss, and Dettifoss (conditions permitting)
- Experience whale watching up close in Húsavík
- Dormant and active volcanoes, geysers and hot springs
- Breathtaking volcanic landscapes, shaped by nature over thousands of centuries
- Europe's largest ice field, Vatnajökull
- Cruise among the icebergs at Jökulsárlón
- Soak in the thermal waters of the famous Blue Lagoon
- Reykjavik, Iceland's capital and largest city
- Farewell dinner at The Harpa

Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Keflavik with Air Canada
- Accommodation in comfortable hotels as indicated or similar
- 19 meals included as noted (B - 10 breakfasts, L - 1 lunch, D - 8 dinners)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Services of our journey leader plus our professional guide in Iceland
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Journey Leader

Nancy Knox has served as a minister in the United Church for over 35 years. Her personal travels have taken her across Canada, as well as to Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. Nancy loves group travel and has led tours to Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Heart of Europe tour featuring Oberammergau. She believes travel builds bridges of understanding, and sharing these experiences with others makes them truly unforgettable. Nancy looks forward to joining you on this incredible journey to Iceland.



MAY 31, Saturday

CANADA / KEFLAVIK

Tour members from across Canada gather for our flight to the North Atlantic island of Iceland.

JUN 1, Sunday

KEFLAVIK / THINGVELLIR NATIONAL PARK

After meeting our local guide, we will head to a nearby location for breakfast and then visit Viking World. There, we will see 'The Icelander,' a replica of a 9th-century Viking ship, and delve into the story of Iceland's Viking heritage. We then bypass the capital on our way to Thingvellir National Park, the site of Iceland's first and one of the world's oldest parliaments, established in 930 AD. This park is located along a geological fault that shapes Iceland's stunning landscapes. Following a lunch break, our journey continues to the picturesque village of Reykholt, renowned as the home of 13th-century author Snorri Sturluson and the site of Iceland's largest hot spring.

Fosshotel Reykholt (2 nights)

BD

JUN 2, Monday SNAEFELLSNES PENINSULA

An exhilarating cruise exploring the natural paradise of Breiðafjörður awaits in the charming village of Stykkishólmur. Relax and take in the spectacular island scenery and dramatic tidal flows, teeming with a variety of bird life, including puffins, eider ducks, kittiwakes, fulmars, and the white-tailed eagle. Along the north coast, we visit remote fishing enclaves and observe the towing of a dredge along the ocean floor, scooping up shellfish delicacies that we have the opportunity to sample. Our journey continues around the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. As we round its tip, with the icecap and volcano towering above, we pass Arnarstapi, a region of striking columnar basalt formations shaped by the pounding waves. We then drive through barren lava fields, past fertile farmlands, and by the Eldborg crater, en route back to our hotel. BD



Indigenous horses of Iceland

JUN 3, Tuesday GLAUMBAER / AKUREYRI / MÝVATN

We cross over the Holtavorouheioi Pass en route to Húnavatnssýsla and Skagafjörður, making a stop at the beautifully restored Glaumbaer farm museum. This region is famous for its horse breeding, so be sure to keep an eye out for the charming Icelandic horses in the meadows. We will enjoy lunch at a local horse farm, providing a perfect opportunity to observe these small horses up close and engage with the breeders and their staff. Afterward, we follow the scenic route along the north coast to Akureyri, a city nestled on a stunning fjord. Our day concludes with a visit to the impressive Godafoss or 'The Waterfall of the Gods' before we arrive at our hotel near Lake Mývatn.

Sel Hotel Mývatn (2 nights)

BLD



Glacier Lagoon

JUN 4, Wednesday

HÚSAVÍK / ÁSBYRGI

Today, we head to the charming village of Húsavík to embark on a whale watching cruise with chances to see humpback whales and thousands of puffins aboard traditional Icelandic oak boats. After lunch, we drive along the picturesque coastline of the Tjornes Peninsula to Ásbyrgi, a horseshoe-shaped gorge believed to be the hoof print of Odin's eight-legged horse, Sleipnir. This evening, there may also be an opportunity to enjoy a local hot spring. BD



The beautiful town of Husavik

JUN 5, Thursday

LAKE LÖGURINN

The landscapes around Lake Mývatn will fascinate us with their volcanic formations, geothermal springs, and abundant bird life, especially ducks. We will explore the moon-like lava formations at Dimmuborgir and the pseudo-craters at Skutustadir. At Namaskard, the land is so densely covered with solfataras and devoid of vegetation that it feels like stepping onto another planet. Conditions permitting, there may be an opportunity to see the mighty Dettifoss, Iceland's most powerful waterfall, thundering 44 metres down into a deep gorge. We continue through the remote desert highlands of Modrudalur to the Fossa River, before reaching our hotel near Egilsstadir and Lake Lögurinn.

Lake Hotel Egilsstadir (1 night)

BD

JUN 6, Friday

LAKE LÖGURINN / HÖFN

Journey south through the sheltered eastern fjords, past small fishing villages like Reyðarfjörður and Fáskrúðsfjörður, stopping for brilliant photo opportunities. We shall visit Stöðvarfjörður village, where we will see the famous stone collection of Petra before continuing to



Observe puffins in their natural environment

Breiddalsvik and Djupivogur. Finally, our scenic drive brings us to the area around the former Almannaskarð Pass, offering stunning photo opportunities before we end our day near Höfn.

Hotel Smyrlabjörg (1 night) BD

JUN 7, Saturday **HÖFN / VÍK**

Drive along the base of Vatnajökull, Europe's largest icecap, to the glacial lagoon of Jökulsárlón, where we will enjoy a cruise among the icebergs. Explore Skaftafell National Park to see vast valley glaciers descending nearly to sea level. On a short walk around the park, we will see a unique landscape and possibly wildflowers that thrive on the lower slopes of the mountains. Then we will cross the Skeiðarársandur outwash plains on our way to the village of Vík and our hotel. **Hotel Vík** (1 night) BD

JUN 8, Sunday **SKÓGAR / GEYSIR / REYKJAVIK**

Rising early, we visit the Skógar Folk Museum to gain insights into the lives and challenges faced by Icelanders over the last century. We then make a brief stop at Seljalandsfoss waterfall, followed by a visit to Geysir, where the Strokkur geyser dramatically showcases Iceland's geothermal activity by shooting boiling water high into the air every five to ten minutes. Nearby there are numerous hot springs that send steaming water cascading across the hills. Visit Gullfoss, Iceland's most spectacular waterfall, before returning to Reykjavik.

Hotel Klettur (2 nights) B

JUN 9, Monday **REYKJAVIK**

Today's highlight is the Blue Lagoon, one of Iceland's best-known sights. Bring your bathing suit to relax and refresh in the hot pools, sharing the experience with local Icelanders. A nearby heat exchange plant uses geothermal heat drawn from two kilometres underground to produce hot water for heating homes and offices. The excess brine, which is quite blue in colour, fills this lovely lagoon, where we can bathe in its hot mineral water. The land around the lagoon, covered with hard lava, gives the sense that we are on the moon. Upon our return, we will explore the capital by driving through the old city centre and the fisheries harbour, with visits included to Perlan (the Pearl), for views over the city, and the landmark Hallgrímskirkja Church. Enjoy free time to explore the city centre, see the parliament building, and visit the National Museum. Tonight, gather for a special farewell dinner at The Harpa, one of the world's most unique buildings. BD

JUN 10, Tuesday **REYKJAVIK / CANADA**

Enjoy a free morning to explore the capital before we transfer to the airport for our return flights to Toronto and our homes across Canada. B

CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging: This is a coach tour with relatively long travel days and a busy itinerary. Several of the site visits involve a good deal of walking, much of it over rough, uneven surfaces. To fully enjoy this journey, members should be good walkers. Hotels in the countryside are clean and comfortable, with relatively compact rooms reflecting the island's simple lifestyle. Most are low-rise (two stories) and do not have elevators. As porters are not available, members must be prepared to handle their own luggage. Iceland is an expensive country to visit, and while we provide exceptional value, members need to allow for the high cost of additional meals and services.

Book by December 19, 2024
and save \$200 per person

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only* (Join / Leave hotel).....	\$8,295
Toronto	\$9,195
Montreal / Ottawa (Join Montreal).....	\$9,395
Halifax / Winnipeg	\$9,465
St. John's.....	\$9,525
Saskatoon / Regina	\$9,565
Edmonton / Calgary / Vancouver	\$9,465
Victoria.....	\$9,565
Single Supplement	\$1,975

*Land only price excludes flights and airport transfers. Prices are based on sharing a twin-bedded room at hotels, on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective June 2024. Please discuss your domestic flights at time of booking. Prices are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due February 27, 2025

Deposit is \$700 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



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