

# School Group Travel Sample Itineraries

## South Iceland in a Nutshell

8 days

The area between Reykjavik and the south coast village of Vik incorporates much that Iceland is best known for – glaciers, geysers, waterfalls and hot springs and offers a whole range of related topics both physical and human. Extensions include either the glaciers of Skaftafell or the coast and landforms of Snaefellsnes.

Below is a sample 6-night itinerary based on the Budget scheme.

**Day 1:** Fly overnight from Winnipeg to Keflavik via Minneapolis.

**Day 2:** Transfer to the Blue Lagoon where you can take a dip in the milky blue geothermal waters of Iceland's most famous attraction. Continue to your accommodation in Reykjavik for evening meal and overnight stay.

**Day 3:** Meet your guide and travel east through the mountains to the **Nesjavellir Geothermal Power Station**, located on the edge of the rift valley that saw the establishment of the first democratic parliament in the world in the year 1000 AD at **Thingvellir**. Explore the rift and continue to **Geysir**, where Iceland's most reliable geyser Strokkur spouts every 5 minutes or so. Nearby witness the immense power of the two-tiered waterfall **Gullfoss** before visiting a former volcanic crater, **Kerid**. Continue to your accommodation in Reykjavik or a rural guesthouse.

**Day 4:** Drive east and visit **Seljalandsfoss** a narrow waterfall that plummets over a former sea cliff and which is possible to walk behind. In contrast the waterfall at **Skogar** is a broad curtain of water that thunders 60m over a cliff edge. There is also a superb folk museum looking at rural life through the ages, complete with re-constructed turf houses. The **Solheimajokull glacier** is the next port of call and if you wish you can take an optional trip up onto the icecap towed by a powerful Bombardier tracked vehicle. Continue to your farm stay accommodation close to the village of Vik.

**Day 5:** Continue east across the huge **Myrdalssandur** outwash sands where attempts have been made at soil stabilisation. Its eastern boundary is one of the world's largest effusions of lava, the **Eldhraun** from the Laki eruption of 1783. Close by you can study the **Fjadrargljufur**, where glacial overspill has created a gorge with superb fluvial features. Cross Iceland's largest outwash plain at the margin of the immense **Skeidararjokull** glacier snout, part of the Vatnajokull icecap. It was here in 1996 that there was a sub-glacial eruption that hit the headlines and demolished the road with floods approaching 40,000m<sup>3</sup>/sec. Overnight at a hotel near the glacier.

**Day 6:** The proximity of **Svinafellsjokull** allows for detailed investigation before continuing to **Kviarjokull**, a valley glacier with impressive arcuate moraines before reaching the stunning pro-glacial lake **Jokulsarlon** with its armada of icebergs. During the summer it is possible to cruise the lake in an amphibious vessel. Return west towards Vik and your farmstay accommodation passing columnar basalt cliffs.

**Day 7:** Visit the beach and dunes at **Vik** considering the nature of the rock cycle before picking up the columnar theme again in the impressive cliffs of **Reynishverfi**. The coastline between here and **Dyrholaey** is worthy of study with a variety of features including Iceland's answer to Durdle Door – an immense rock arch. En route to Reykjavik pass through the small town of **Hveragerdi** where you can swim in geothermal waters, go horse riding or carry out a rural settlement study.

**Day 8:** You may like to spend time in the capital sightseeing and shopping or possibly join a three-hour **whale watching** trip from Reykjavik harbour between April and October. Alternatively visit the **Krisuvik** geothermal area on the way to Keflavik for the return flight.

### Price:

Per person based on minimum 20 students and 2 staff (free).

### 7-night tour

**Budget from C\$2219**

**Standard from C\$2719**

### Includes:

- Return flights between Winnipeg and Iceland.
- Transportation in Iceland.
- Accommodation on a full board basis (standard scheme) or half board basis (budget scheme).
- Guide services.
- Optional activities, taxes and airport fees not included.



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