



A world away yet tantalizingly close, Iceland is a magical island of pure and unspoiled natural beauty. Iceland is a verdant paradise of electric green valleys punctuated by craggy mountains, steaming hot springs, boiling mud pools, and lava fields said to be inhabited by elves. Here, we will meet hardy locals who have historically carved a living from both the land and sea in farming communities and fishing villages, as well as discover the history of this isolated nation preserved in a series of medieval tales known as the Sagas. Their customs and traditions are inspired from centuries of folk tales passed down from generation to generation, and are full of magic, ghosts, elves, and huldufolk (hidden people).

Although shaped by its past, Iceland continues to push the progressive envelope and continuously ranks at the top of better life indexes for its strong quality of life. You'll get further insight into the lives of these resilient people during A Day in the Life of an Icelandic horse farm where we'll stay overnight. In Akureyri, sit down with a local family for a home-hosted dinner. Later, in the capital city of Reykjavik, witness the creativity of a city that has harnessed the power of nature to provide sustainable energy to its inhabitants when you learn firsthand about geothermal power at the Hellisheidarvirkjun Power Plant. Icelandic culture and traditions combine for an unforgettable adventure in an unspoiled land.

For more information and registration, visit us at

www.uaf.edu/summer/travel

or call (907)474-7021

Important note: Travel insurance is always recommended for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency.

Tour Dates:

September 15-25,
2025

Tour Cost:

\$6,795

Single Supplement
\$500

Inclusions

- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- Ground transportation
- Entry fees
- Educational programs
- Three meals per day
- Transfer to and from the airport
- Gratuities

Transportation costs to and from Iceland are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.

Day 0, September 14

- You may choose to arrive a day early and stay near the airport in Keflavik, where the tour will begin.

Day 1, September 15: Selfoss

- Transfer to Selfoss, the largest town in South Iceland and the gateway to all that this area of rich farmland and natural wonders has to offer. Located on the banks of the Olfusa River, it is home to around 8,500 inhabitants.

- Meet up with your tour leader, who will lead you on an orientation walk around the vicinity of our hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is free to relax and settle in. Later, our group will gather for a Welcome Briefing at the hotel.

- The evening is free for your own discoveries—check with your leader for ideas. Perhaps you'd like to stroll along the Olfusa River or explore the neighborhoods of Selfoss for a truly local experience.

Day 2, September 16: Selfoss

- We'll start the day with a drive to a local wool studio for an interactive session on wool dyeing, spinning, and knitting. We'll be able to help craft wool products using traditional techniques and learn how natural ingredients are utilized throughout the production process, as well as why Icelanders have become so dependent on wool products over the centuries.

- Then, we'll take a bus ride to discover more of Iceland's marvels as we circumnavigate the Golden Circle, a ring of natural highlights: Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir hot spring area, and Thingvellir National Park.

- The evening is free for your own discoveries. Perhaps you'd like to spend your evening relaxing in the local Selfoss swimming pools, which features both hot and cold pools. Swimming is a popular pastime among Icelanders, providing the opportunity to observe and mingle with them.

Day 3, September 17: Selfoss

- In the morning, we'll drive to Seljalandsfoss Waterfall, situated along Iceland's Ring Road. Melting glacier water pours over a rocky cliff, creating a 180-foot waterfall shrouded in great clouds of mist. On a walking tour of the falls, we'll witness the raw, roaring power of this natural site (which truly must be seen—and heard—to understand).

- After lunch, we'll drive to Vik Village, where we'll get a true taste of the rugged Icelandic landscape with a Super Jeep Tour, an off-road driving experience led by a local guide. Depending on the weather, we may drive to the dormant glacier of Kotlujokull, or alternatively, we'll head to Hofdabrekku Heidi Mountain. Our excursion will last about 3 hours and will include a light hike.

- Later, we'll return to our hotel in Selfoss, where you will have the remainder of your day free to explore on your own.

Evening: Free for your own discoveries. Your Trip Experience Leader is happy to provide suggestions.





Day 4, September 18: Daeli

- After breakfast, we'll drive to a family-run farm in northern Iceland, where we'll meet the owner and his or her family. During our overnight stay, we'll get an intimate look into everyday life on the farm and learn what it's like to live in such a remote area. We'll also learn about Icelandic horses, what makes them unique and how they are bred.
- After lunch, we'll enjoy a horse show before joining the family for a walk around the surrounding wilderness. This a great opportunity to experience life in the Icelandic countryside firsthand as we learn about farming practices and hear from the farm workers.
- Settle into your accommodations after dinner. The rest of the evening is free to explore.



Day 5, September 19: Akureyri

- After breakfast, we'll check out of our accommodations and drive to Siglufjordur, a fishing village nestled in a narrow fjord along the coast of northern Iceland.
- In the afternoon, we'll visit the Herring Era Museum, the largest maritime museum in Iceland. Witness eleven different types of boats, a documentary about herring fisheries, and more. Then, we'll continue our drive to Akureyri, Iceland's second-largest urban area.
- After checking into the hotel, we'll set off on an orientation walk through the town, which includes a visit to the Botanical Gardens—a peaceful garden showcasing local and international flora.



Day 6, September 20: Akureyri

- Morning drive to the Lake Myvatn area, sculpted throughout the ages by volcanic eruptions and renowned for its diverse bird population, with ducks, gyrfalcons, plovers, ptarmigans, and more. Along the way, we'll stop to visit Hverabraud, where we'll observe how locals harness geothermal energy to make homemade bread. Then, we'll drive to Namafjall, where we'll witness the bubbling, hot mud pools native to this area.
- In the afternoon, we'll drive to Godafoss ("waterfall of the gods"), where the current carries rushing water along a glacial river and over the rocks, falling 40 feet into the pool below
- Then, we'll drive back to our hotel in Akureyri, where we'll have a couple of hours to rest or discover the area on our own. Later, we'll break into smaller groups and depart for the home of a local family for a Home-Hosted Dinner.



Day 7, September 21: Akureyri

- After breakfast, we will drive to Dalvik, a commercial fishing port. After we arrive, we'll set sail on a restored fishing vessel from the harbor for a morning whale-watching excursion. We hope to spot minke whales, white-beaked dolphins, harbor porpoises, and humpback whales in the waters of the northern Atlantic. After taking in the sights, we'll sail back to the harbor.
- After lunch, we'll drive back to Akureyri. The remainder of the day is free for you to plan as you'd like. For art enthusiasts, perhaps you'd like to explore the Akureyri Art Museum to get a sense of the creative Icelandic spirit.



Day 8, September 22: Reykjavik

- We rise early this morning to check out of our hotel and drive to Akureyri airport for our flight to Reykjavik. Upon arrival in Iceland's capital, we'll drive to Perlan, a museum and exhibition hall whose rotating glass dome dominates the Reykjavik cityscape.
- After lunch, we drive to our hotel in Reykjavik. The remainder of the day is free for your own discoveries. To help you familiarize yourself with the city, your leader will lead an orientation walk.

Day 9, September 23: Reykjavik

- Morning drive to the Hellisheidarvirkjun Geothermal Power Plant. Led by a local guide, we'll tour the plant and learn about green energy in Iceland.
- Next, we'll drive to the Árbæjarsafn open-air historical museum in Reykjavik to gain insight into the living and working conditions of Icelanders in the past. We'll examine the turf houses and grounds before walking to our lunch spot, which is nearby. We'll also be entertained by a local musician and singer.
- After lunch, we'll drive back to our hotel in Reykjavik. The remainder of the day is yours to explore.

Day 10, September 24: Reykjavik

- In the morning, we'll drive to the Blue Lagoon, one of Iceland's most famous natural wonders. The water in the lagoon—comprised of 70% sea water, 30% fresh water and maintained at a steady 100°F—is rich in blue-green algae, mineral salts and silica mud, all of which exfoliate the skin and leave it feeling smooth.
- Next, we'll drive to the nearby town of Grindavik on the rugged Reykjanes Peninsula. The landscape here is vast and has been shaped through the centuries by dynamic volcanic forces.

Day 11, September 25: Homeward Bound

- Transfer to the airport and catch your return flight home.

