



# EXPERIENCE ICELAND

BOOK BY JAN 31  
SAVE \$200 PP



**LAND OF ICE AND FIRE**  
**MAY 31 - JUN 10, 2024 | 11 DAYS | 19 MEALS**  
**JOURNEY LEADER DEBORAH HART**

*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 as we explore this land, discovering its magnificent scenery and welcoming people whose Nordic and Celtic ancestors have called this rugged island home for over 1,100 years.

In addition to our Canadian journey leader, we will have a professional local guide and the group size will be strictly limited. Our past departures of this exceptional itinerary filled very quickly so enroll as early as possible to avoid disappointment. We invite you to join us as we discover Iceland.



### Tour Highlights

- Explore Snæfellsnes Peninsula's towering mountain vistas
- Cruise beautiful Breioafjorour fjord with its rich and diverse wildlife
- Enjoy the magnificent waterfalls of Iceland, including Dettifoss, Godafoss, Seljalandsfoss and Gullfoss
- 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

**Deborah Hart** has been a United Church of Canada minister for over 30 years, serving throughout Canada. She has a deep commitment to ecumenical and interfaith work. Her hobbies include photography and interfaith clergy curling! Deborah has travelled extensively, often designing and leading tours and enjoys learning about the culture, history, faith and current lives of people around the world. Her travels have taken her to the Caribbean, Israel, Jordan and the Sinai, India and Nepal, Syria and Lebanon, East Africa, South America, plus many regions in Europe. Deborah believes that travel enriches our lives as it helps to broaden our horizons, break down barriers, promote understanding and build community. She looks forward to meeting and travelling with all those who join her on this marvelous Iceland journey.



### MAY 31, Friday

### Canada / Keflavik

Tour members from across Canada gather in Toronto for the direct flight that will take us to the North Atlantic island of Iceland.

### JUN 1, Saturday Keflavik / Thingvellir National Park

We start by meeting our local guide, then we transfer to a nearby location for a nourishing breakfast and a visit to Viking World, which features an exact replica of the famed Viking ship and tells the story of Iceland's Viking heritage. After bypassing the capital, we head to Thingvellir National Park, where Iceland's first and one of the world's oldest parliaments was founded in 930 AD. This park is located on one of the geological faults that create Iceland's stunning landscapes. After a lunch break, we'll drive through Borgarfjorður County to the charming village of Reykholt, famous as the home of the 13th-century author Snorri Sturluson and Iceland's largest hot spring. On our way to the hotel, we might also enjoy views of Langjökull Glacier.

**Fosshotel Reykholt (2 nights)**

BD

**JUN 2, Sunday** **Snafellsnes Peninsula**

An exhilarating cruise exploring the natural paradise of Breioafjorour Fjord awaits in the charming village of Stykkishólmur. Relax as we observe the fantastic island scenery and dramatic tidal flows featuring a variety of bird life, including: puffins, eider ducks, kittiwakes, fulmars and the white-tailed eagle. Along the north coast, there are a number of remote and quaint fishing enclaves where we will cast out a small net-plough and drag the seabed for some shellfish delicacies which everyone will have an opportunity to sample. We will continue our exploration as we drive around Snafellsnes. Rounding the tip of the peninsula with the icecap and volcano towering above us, we pass Arnarstapi, a region of unusual columnar basalt rock formations that have been eroded by the pounding waves. We drive through barren lava fields, past fertile farmlands and the Eldborg crater en route back to our hotel. BD



*Indigenous horses of Iceland*

**JUN 3, Monday** **Glaumbaer / Akureyri / Laugar**

We cross over the Holtavorouheioi Pass en route to Húnavatnssýsla and Skagafjörður, to visit the beautifully restored farm museum of Glaumbaer. This county is famous for horse breeding, so we will certainly see many of the charming Icelandic horses in the meadows. We enjoy lunch at a local horse farm, where we will have opportunity to see these tiny horses up close and to chat with the breeders and their staff. Next, we follow the scenic route along the north coast as we journey to Akureyri, a city set on a beautiful fjord. Then we visit Godafoss, which means “The Waterfall of the Gods”, before arriving at our hotel near lake Mývatn. BLD

**Sel Hotel Mývatn** (2 nights)

BLD



*Glacier Lagoon | Credit Jon Gurr*

**JUN 4, Tuesday** **Húsavík / Ásbyrgi**

The charming fishing village of Húsavík awaits us, where we shall undertake a whale watching cruise, with opportunities to see humpback whales and thousands of puffins aboard Icelandic oak boats. After a break for lunch we drive along the stretch of attractive coastline of Tjornes Peninsula to Ásbyrgi, a horse-shoe-shaped gorge, reputed to be the hoof print of Odin’s eight-legged horse Sleipnir. There may be an opportunity this evening to enjoy a local hot spring. BD

**JUN 5, Wednesday** **Lake Lögurinn**

The landscapes around Lake Mývatn will fascinate us, featuring incredible volcanic formations, geothermal springs and the lake itself, teeming with bird life, particularly ducks. We will walk among the unique moon like lava formations at Dimmuborgir and explore the pseudo craters at Skutustadir. At Namaskard, the land is so peppered with solfataras and void of vegetation that it feels like standing on another planet. Conditions permitting, there may be an opportunity to see the mighty Dettifoss, Iceland’s most powerful waterfall thundering 44 meters down into a deep gorge. We continue through the remote desert highlands of Modrudalur to Fossa River, then to our hotel close to Egilsstadir and Lake Lögurinn. BD

**Lake Hotel Egilsstadir** (1 night)

BD

**JUN 6, Thursday** **Lake Lögurinn / Höfn**

Journey south through the sheltered eastern fjords and past small fishing villages like Reyoarfjorour and Faskruosfjorour, stopping for brilliant photo opportunities.



*Scenic landscapes await*



*Observe puffins in their natural environment*

We shall visit Stoovarforour village, where we will see the famous stone collection of Petra before continuing to Breiddalsvik and Djupivogur. Finally our scenic driving day takes us up Almannskaro Pass to take photos before ending our day in Höfn.

**Hotel Smyrlabjörg** (1 night) BD

**JUN 7, Friday** **Höfn / Vík**

Drive along the base of Europe's largest icecap, Vatnajökull, to the glacial lagoon known as Jökulsárlón, to enjoy a cruise among the icebergs. Explore Skaftafell National Park, where huge valley glaciers sweep down almost to sea level. On a short walk through the park we will see a unique landscape and possibly wild flowers that thrive on the lower slopes of the mountains. We continue over the Skeioararasundur outwash plains to the village of Vík and our hotel.

**Puffin Hotel Vík** (1 night) BD

**JUN 8, Saturday** **Skógar / Geysir / Reykjavik**

Rising early we visit the lovely Skógar Folk Museum to gain some insights into the harshness of life in Iceland over the past century. After a brief visit at Seljalandsfoss waterfall, we will stop at Geysir to enjoy views of one of Iceland's most famous highlights. Known as Strokkur, the geothermal activity in Iceland comes bubbling to the surface, ejecting a stream of 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 famous and spectacular waterfall before returning to Reykjavik, Iceland's capital.

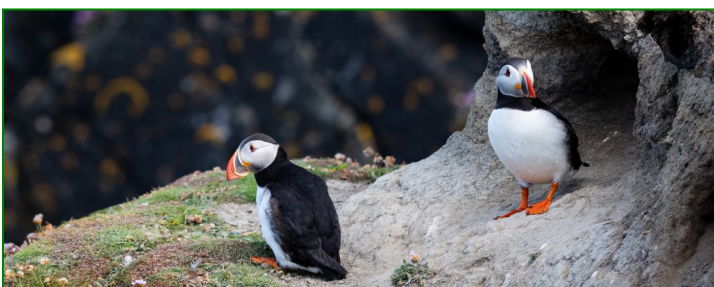
**Hotel Klettur** (2 nights) B

**JUN 9, Sunday** **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 to heat homes and offices. The excess brine, which is quite blue in colour, fills this lovely lagoon where we can bathe in the hot mineral water. The land around the lagoon is covered with hard lava, giving the sense that we are on the moon. We will explore the capital upon our return, driving through the old city centre and the fisheries harbour, with included visits 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 the visit the National Museum. Gather for a special farewell dinner tonight at The Harpa, one of the world's most unique buildings.

**JUN 10, Monday** **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



A couple of Puffins in search of food

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**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 (2 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 and deposit by January 31, 2024  
and save \$200 per person**

**Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars per person**

Land Only* (Join / Leave hotel).....	\$6,995
Toronto .....	\$8,195
Montreal / Ottawa (Join Montreal).....	\$8,395
Halifax / Winnipeg .....	\$8,495
St. John's.....	\$8,555
Saskatoon / Regina .....	\$8,595
Edmonton / Calgary / Vancouver .....	\$8,495
Victoria.....	\$8,595
Single Supplement .....	\$1,985

\*Land only price excludes flights and airport transfers. Prices are based on sharing a twin-bedded room at hotels, on a minimum 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective August 2023. 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 will be due February 27, 2024  
Deposit is \$600 per person**

To reserve your places on this journey, complete and send the enrollment form, with your deposit to:



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