

South West Iceland 6 days / 5 nights - Itinerary



Board Basis: **Half Board with 4 Packed lunches**

Linen for all passengers.

Please note that your itinerary may be subject to change according to weather and other time constraints.

Day 1 **Sunday 26 May 2019**

Group making own arrangements for transportation to and from the UK airport.

Guide Guide days 2-5

Flight Information

10:35 Check in at Manchester Airport
13:05 Depart on Icelandair flight FI441
14:50 Arrive Keflavik International Airport - Main Terminal

Icelandair

Pre-allocated seats have been requested for your group.

Please note: pre-booked seats can be subject to change by the airline and are not guaranteed.

Icelandair operates a cashless on board service. A complimentary drink will be provided to each passenger but if you wish to purchase additional food or drink while on your flight it can only be paid for by direct debit or credit card. We suggest that if you and your group require anything extra to eat or drink you should allow time to purchase these in the airport before boarding your flight.

Alternatively, you may want to advise parents that they are able to pre-purchase food via the Icelandair website before their child departs.

Transfer from Keflavik Airport (driver only)

After clearing customs and immigration, please proceed to the exit of the terminal building where your coach driver (who will be holding up a sign with your school name) will be waiting for you. GJ Coaches, office hours Mon - Fri, 8:30 - 16:30 - Tel: +354 511 1515 Outside of office hours, emergencies only - Tel: +354 895 2007

Reykjanes Peninsula

Walk amongst solfataras, boiling mud pools and hot springs. Drive through lava deserts to Leif the Lucky Bridge - Bridge between continents and span the fissure said to be the

Mid-Atlantic Ridge and see the effects of Continental drift. Information boards in English at each location.

Accommodation	Hotel Cabin, Borgartún 32, Reykjavík, tel:(00354) 511 6030
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19:00 Dinner at Hamburger Factory - Hoftatorg Tower	The Hamburger Factory, Katrínartúni 2, 105 Reykjavík, Tel: +354 5757575
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Reykjavik - local swimming	Geothermal swim at Laugardalslaug open air swimming pool, Sundlaugarvegur, 105 Reykjavik, Tel: +354 553 4039 Tel. +354 411 5100. Check the website for current opening times and prices. Pay locally. http://www.sundlaug.is/reykjavik-sundlaugar/14-laugardalslaug Please note: all swimmers are required to shower, without swimming costume, before entering the swimming pool. Please ensure all students are aware of this. This is for sanitation reasons and some pools will not always have individual shower cubicles. There are however 4 male and 4 female shower cubicles at the Laugardalslaug pool. Please ask your guide to call ahead if you wish to visit Be careful! – The water is quite shallow at the bottom of the slide.
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Day 2 **Monday 27 May 2019**

Breakfast	To be taken from 08:00am
Packed lunch provided by Hotel Cabin	Please check with reception whether your group will be making up their own packed lunches or having them prepared by the hotel. Please check your breakfast time and location with reception as large groups may need to be split.
08:30 Guide Consultation	The group leaders should aim to meet the guide in the hotel lobby 30 minutes prior to departure. This is an excellent opportunity for you to make sure that he or she has a full understanding of your specific requirements and expectations so the trip can be tailored to meet your needs. Depending on length of time you wish to spend at your stops the guide may suggest some changes to your itinerary and leaving out some stops altogether in order for your group to get the best experience. Please discuss the required length of time at stops.
10:00 LAVA – Iceland Volcano & Earthquake Centre	Newly built in 2017, the LAVA Centre in Hvollsvollur is ideally located to reveal the volcanic forces at work in the country. Dedicated to Iceland's range of volcanoes – and in particular the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in 2010 – the centre features interactive educational tools which explore the art and science of Iceland's unique geology. Tel. +(354) 415 5200
Seljalandsfoss	This waterfall's plume spills 60m over a former sea cliff, now sited far inland due to isostatic rebound. Subject to weather & ice conditions it is possible to walk behind the waterfall.
Skogafoss	Another of Iceland's most impressive waterfalls – with a wide, thundering curtain of water 60m high. See farms evacuated during the Eyjafjallajökull eruption, as they were cloaked with ash from the volcano.
13:00 Glacier Walk	<p>This very popular trip takes you on an exploration of the frozen glacier tongue of Solheimajokull. A wonderland of ice sculptures and deep crevasses await your discovery. The experienced glacier guide will teach you how to use basic ice equipment, crampons and ice axes.</p> <p>Sturdy comfortable walking boots are required and they should be firm at the front to ensure the crampons fit securely.</p> <p>You will have approximately 1-1.5 hours on the ice, depending on the group size and ability.</p> <p>Operated by Asgard – Beyond Tel. +354 779 6000 or +354 867-5456</p> <p>*Please note, depending on the route used it can sometimes take between 20-45 minutes to walk to the glacier.</p>
17:00 Icelandic Lava Show	A unique opportunity to experience flowing rock; the only show in the world where you can witness and feel the heat of molten lava in a safe environment. The visit begins with a short film on Icelandic volcanoes, before seeing what happens when red hot lava meets ice, as it typical in nearby volcanoes such as Katla. Following the show, visitors have the opportunity to pose questions about lava, the show and Iceland's volcanism to the local experts. Toilets and café available. Tel: +354 823 7777
Accommodation	Hotel Dyrhólaey, Brekkur, Vík, tel:(00354) 487 1333

Day 3 Tuesday 28 May 2019

Breakfast	At 8.00am. Remember to collect your packed lunches.
Myrdalssandur	An area of 700km ² of sand flats created by volcanic eruptions and jokulhlaup (glacier burst). During some eruptions occurring under icecaps, large areas of ice can melt and the resulting outburst flood brings a rush of sediment and ice-laden floodwater.
Laufskálavarða	A former farm site demolished by a Katla eruption in 894. Superstition encourages passers-by to add to the cairn marking the site or to build another small cairn in the vicinity – judging by the number of cairns, Icelanders (and tourists) are clearly very superstitious! However, please remember that building cairns elsewhere on the island is not allowed, as it spoils the nature and disturbs rocks and vegetation.
Eldhraun	The 560km ² lava flow, believed to be the largest worldwide in historical times from a single eruption (Laki 1783), is covered in moss, in places 30cm deep. It is an interesting site to observe plant colonisation but please avoid treading on the moss
Fjarðarargljúfur	An impressive canyon around 100m deep and 2km long, running through hyaloclastite (soft, granular rock) with lava intrusions. The entire formation dates back to the Ice Age 2 million years ago but was eroded by melt water as the glaciers retreated.
13:00 Boat Trip on Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon	<p>A boat trip on the fascinating glacial lagoon is highly recommended. A trip amongst the icebergs is unforgettable and the photographic opportunities are endless. Join this excursion from in front of the cafe/little shop which is just beside the lagoon, just off of the ring road (Road 1). Life jackets are provided. Dress up warmly and don't forget your camera!</p> <p>The guide should call ahead to confirm arrival time: +354 478 2222 / +354 868 4797</p> <p>This excursion is subject to weather and ice conditions on the day and is subject to cancellation</p>
Please note	Your group will need to be split
Skaftafell	One of the more accessible sections of the 12,000km ² Vatnajökull National Park, Iceland's and Europe's largest protected area. Skaftafell is popular with hikers offering many scenic walking trails, among them routes to the glacier tongues of Skaftafellsjökull and Svínafellsjökull. At the Visitor Centre, learn about the park, its glaciers and many natural features. Café and toilets are available on site.
Kirkjugólf	Polished basalt columns, which are unusual in that they are viewed from above and resemble a 'Church Floor'.
Accommodation	Hotel Dyrhólaey, Brekkur, Vík, tel:(00354) 487 1333
Evening Meal	At your accommodation

Day 4 Wednesday 29 May 2019

Breakfast At 8.00am. Remember to collect your packed lunches.

Important note for visits to beaches: Please ensure you keep well away from the sea. The local recommendation is at least 20 metres, but we suggest you err on the side of caution. Even when the sea appears to be calm, freak waves can occur with very little warning and potentially fatal consequences.

Vik	At this tiny coastal town, walk down to the black sand beach and view the remarkable "Reynisdrangar" sea stacks. Whilst geologists talk of volcanic plugs, folklore tells a different version of how this spectacular natural monument was formed. Debris from the Katla eruption of 1918 extended Vík's coastline by 500m and you can see how the locals have responded to the threat of 'jokulhlaup' at different stages in the village's history. Just west of the town, observe the dyke built to protect the settlement from future flooding. Facilities include a souvenir shop, café and toilets.
Reynishverfi	Walk along the black volcanic beach to see magnificent basalt cliffs and caves. Take photos standing and sitting on the basalt columns! Black Beach café (call 659-7141 to check if open)
Dyrhólaey	The name means 'door hill island' – with its 120m high natural rock arch this prominent headland is likely to have been formed in a submarine eruption similar to that of Surtsey Island in 1963. On a clear day, enjoy spectacular views of the volcano Eyjafjallajökull and icecap Mýrdalsjökull. The area is rich in birdlife with puffins, kittiwakes and guillemots nesting on the cliffs during the summer months. Note: this area has restricted access during the nesting season.
14:00 Hveragerdi Geothermal Centre	A collection of hot springs and solfataras in the town centre, where students and staff get the opportunity to taste eggs boiled in the hot springs and rye bread baked overnight in the hot steam. Tel +354 4834601 / +354 6603905
16:00 The Lava Tunnel	Raufarholshellir is an expansive cave, one of the largest and longest in Iceland, allowing your students to see the inner workings of a volcanic eruption. Perfect for those less able, pathways and footbridges allow for easy access to this subterranean wonder. Tel: (+354) 519 1616 or mobile (+354) 760 1000
Accommodation	Hjardarbol Guesthouse, Hjardarboli, Ölfus, Ölfuss 801, tel:00354 483 5444
Evening meal confirmation	Your guide should call ahead 2-3 hours in advance of arrival at your hotel to confirm the time of your evening meal.
Evening Meal	At your accommodation

Day 5 Thursday 30 May 2019

Breakfast	At 8.00am. Remember to collect your packed lunches.
10:00 Secret Lagoon	<p>The "Secret Lagoon" natural hot springs and bathing pool are located in the small village of Flúðir on the Golden Circle route. With the steam rising into the air, the place has a magical feeling. The water stays at 38-40 Celsius all year round and is perfect for bathing. In the area, you'll find several other geothermal springs, and a modest geyser, which erupts every 5 minutes, showing off for the guests relaxing in the lagoon!</p> <p>*Please note this is a natural pool and there are some large boulders under the water surface. Please advise your group not to climb on or try to jump off them as they can be slippery.</p> <p>Remember your swimming costume and towel.</p> <p>Tip: You may find it useful for half of your group to view the outside area while the other half use the changing rooms to avoid congestion.</p> <p>Tel : (00354) 861 0237</p>
Gullfoss	These double falls drop around 33m then plunge into a mile-long gorge – one of Iceland's most photographed waterfalls. Café, souvenir shop and toilets can be found here.
Geysir	Visit the site of Geysir, a spouting hot spring that gave its name to all the world's geysers. Although it doesn't often spout nowadays, its neighbour 'Strokkur' erupts every 10-15 minutes reaching a height of around 30m. One of the trio of natural wonders on the Golden Circle route. Café, souvenir shop and toilets are available.
Efstidalur dairy farm - pay locally	Visit a working dairy farm where the barn has been converted into a restaurant, with windows into the cow shed, where you can watch the cows and calves in their daily environment. The farm makes its own milk products such as ice-cream, skyr, feta cheese and more. (Small home made soft ice from – ISK 400 or one scoop ISK 450, payable locally). Tel: +354 4861186 or +354 8621626 Please ask your guide to call ahead if you wish to visit.
Pingvellir (Thingvellir)	This National Park is where Iceland's parliament was established in 930AD. The site straddles the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, its rift valley forming where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates pull apart at an average of 3cm a year. From the Hakið Visitor Centre enjoy an overview of the site and its geology. Then, walk among the rifts and see ropy pahoehoe lava from a shield volcano eruption, as you learn of the events that shaped Iceland's early history. As you gaze into the water-filled fissure Peningagjá, note how clear the water is, having been filtered through lava before it enters the lake. Facilities include café, Visitor Centre and toilets.
Accommodation	Hotel Smari, Hildasmara 13, Kopavogur, Reykjavik, tel:00354 588 1900
19:30 Dinner at Italiano Pizzeria Restaurant	



Day 6 Friday 31 May 2019

Transfer

Early transfer to Keflavik Airport for your flight home

Icelandair at Keflavik

On arrival at the airport you have two options. Make sure you all do one or the other. 1. You will see individual self-check-in machines as you enter the building which you are welcome to use. You should then proceed to the check-in desks to drop your bags. 2. Alternatively you should make yourselves known to a member of IGS (uniformed check in staff) when you arrive at the airport and you will be directed to the relevant desk for check in and bag drop.

Flight Information

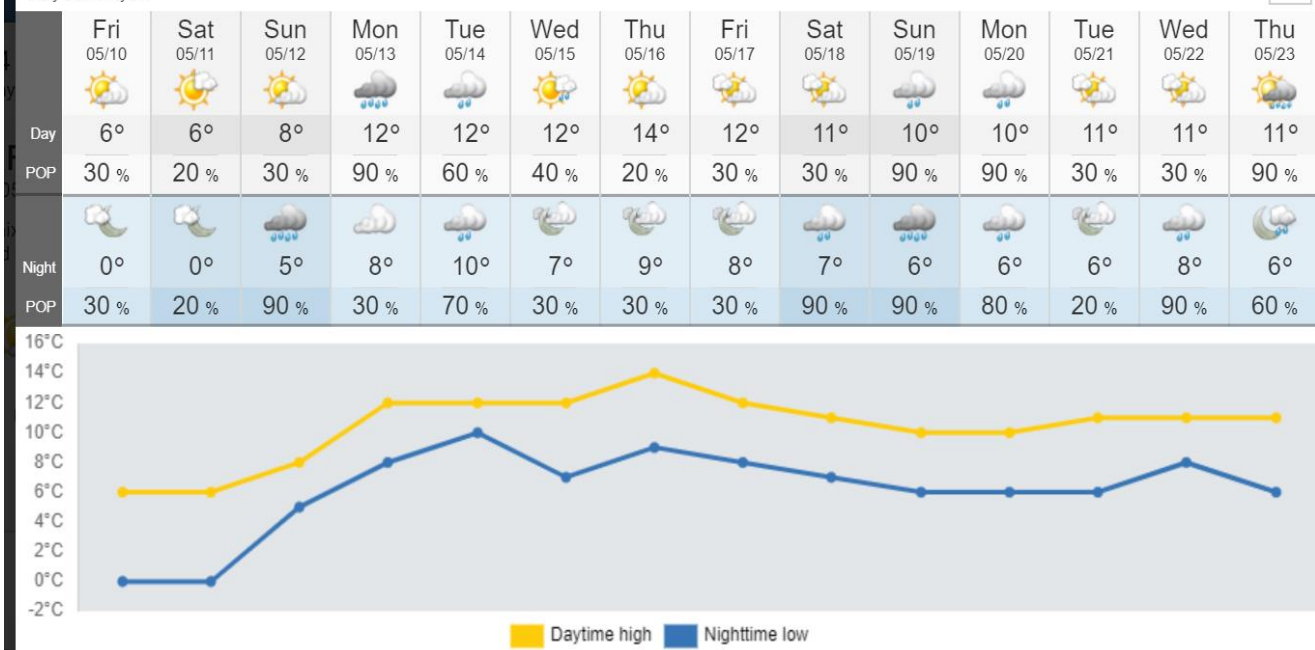
06:00 Check in at Keflavik International Airport - Main Terminal

08:00 Depart on Icelandair flight FI440

11:45 Arrive Manchester Airport

Icelandair

Full 14 Days Overview May 10 - May 23



<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/is/14-day-weather-trend/-/reykjavik>

This site gives a 14 day weather forecast for Iceland