DESTINATION GUIDE
ICELAND

POPULATION
325,000

LANGUAGE SPOKEN
Icelandic

CURRENCY
Name: Icelandic Krona, Code: ISK

ELECTRICITY
Electricity supply is 220 volts throughout Iceland with 2 pin wall sockets (Europlug). Adapters are required for British appliances.

TIME ZONES
GMT

COUNTRY DIALING CODE
+354
1. National Museum of Iceland
2. National Gallery of Iceland
3. Hallgrímskirkja Church
4. Saga Museum
5. Reykjavik Museum
6. The Blue Lagoon
7. Hlíðarfjall Akureyri Ski Resort
8. Vatnajökull National Park
9. Herring Era Museum Siglufjörður
10. Akureyri Art Museum
11. Geyser of Haukadalur
12. The Húsavík Whale Museum
BRIEF HISTORY

1707
The Black Plague strikes and 33% of the population is wiped out

1783
Lots of volcanic activity means that much of the natural farmland is destroyed and there is mass starvation

1940
The country is occupied by the British Army

1941
American troops stay in Iceland for World War 2, a defence agreement is agreed

1944
The country is formally established as a Republic

1949
Iceland is a founding part of NATO

1958
Over-fishing by the British leads to dispute with the two countries

1994
The country joins the European Union and establishes an economic agreement

2008
Due to the economic crisis the banking system fails and nearly collapses
A guided tour of Reykjavik gives you the highlights of Iceland’s capital city. Visit Hallgrímskirkja Church; The Pearl with its fabulous viewing deck; Reykjavik City Hall, with its striking raised-relief map of Iceland (when available); and pass by Höfði House where Reagan and Gorbachev met in 1986 to begin the process of ending the Cold War. For more information contact your STA Travel Expert.

Flexible starting point

This museum takes a look through the history of Iceland, including key moments that have steered the country into what it is today. There are English audio guides available, making a self-guided tour easier. Life-like wax figurines bring Iceland’s history to life, from learning about the Vikings to the modern day.

Location: Grandagardi 2, 101 Reykjavik

Take a look at The National Museum and explore the history of Iceland at the ‘Heritage and History in Iceland’ exhibition. The exhibition includes around 2,000 objects as well as around 1,000 photographs. The museum itself contains various exhibitions including the heritage and history of the country, the way of life for the Icelandic people and a look into Iceland’s social culture.

Location: Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavík

Showcasing Icelandic cultural history, this museum has everything you need to know from the Settlement ages to present day. The Settlement Exhibition shows the remains of a settlement dating back to 871 AD, and a reconstruction of how it would have looked. The objective of the Museum’s work is to enhance interest, understanding and respect for the history of Reykjavik, and to ensure that everyone has access to the city’s cultural heritage.

Location: Árbæjarsafni, Kistuhyl, 110 Reykjavík
Those who are passionate about art will love the National Gallery of Iceland as it has a wealth of valuable artworks on display, with various exhibitions by both foreign and Icelandic artists. This museum has ever changing exhibitions of old and new. There are beautiful works of art, which demonstrate the dramatic landscape of the country from the 19th and 20th century.

Location: 7, 101 Reykjavík

Hallgrímskirkja church is Reykjavík’s main landmark and its tower can be seen from almost everywhere in the city. It was designed by the late Guðjón Samuel in 1937, this architecturally beautiful church is a must see right in the centre of Reykjavik. You can’t miss it! The building is intriguing and has a huge organ inside.

Location: Skólavörðustígur, 101 Reykjavík

From cycling around the city centre, to along the coast and around the hills, you will see it all on a fun bike ride. Admire the buildings in the city and see the best landscape whilst learning about Iceland on a fun tour. Trips vary in distance and places visited.

Flexible starting point

The Blue Lagoon geothermal spa is one of the most visited attractions in Iceland. The Lagoon is a man made lagoon fed by the water output of the nearby geothermal power plant which runs turbines to generate electricity and heat. Visitors can relax and enjoy the view whilst bathing in the waters rich in minerals and reputed for its healing powers.

Location: Grandavík
WHAT TO SEE AND DO!

ICELAND

GOLDEN CIRCLE TOUR

The Golden Circle tour allows you to visit some of Iceland's most stunning sights, the Geysir geothermal area, the Gullfoss (Golden Falls) waterfall, the historical and geological wonder that is Pingvellir National Park, and the idyllic Friðheimar greenhouse cultivation centre. This is a hugely popular tour that cannot be missed!

Location: Valley of Haukadalur

SOUTH SHORE

The south coast of Iceland is one of the country’s most scenic regions. A south coast tour includes a stop at the gorgeous Seljalandsfoss waterfall as well as the Skógafoss waterfall, with its impressive 60 m drop (196 ft). Part of the tour will also include a visit to the Skógafoss waterfall, to get a taste how Icelanders lived in past centuries.

Flexible starting point

SKAFTAFELL NATIONAL PARK

Experience the breathtaking scenery, the rugged mountains, and the beautiful glaciers along with a vast variety of plants and wild life in Skaftafell National Park. Within the park lies half of the largest ice cap in Europe, Vatnajökull, which is surrounded by glaciers on three sides. It offers a view of the volcano Laki and the tallest mountain in Iceland, Hvannadalshnjúkur, standing at 2.110 metres high.

Location: Kirkjubæjarklaustur

HERRING ERA MUSEUM

This museum details the history of the herring in this small fishing village and how the boom of trade influenced the development for the villagers. There are artefacts from the fishing boats and storage houses, throughout seven locations.

Location: Siglufjörður
The Northern Lights tour in Iceland takes you to see a spectacular natural phenomenon which happens during the winter months. The Northern Lights, also known as Aurora Borealis, are caused by the interaction of particles from the sun with the upper atmosphere near the North Pole. The locations visited during the Northern Lights tour vary from day to day depending on weather conditions.

Flexible starting point

The Akureyri Art Museum, located in the center of Akureyri, the second-largest city in Iceland is the only art museum in Iceland located outside of the Capital Region. This centre for visual arts and culture contains contemporary art from all over the world from many famous artists. Local art is also on display, and there are ever changing exhibits from new artists.

Location: Akureyri

Pingvellir National Park, the site of Iceland’s ancient parliament is in the district of Bláskógabyggð in south west Iceland, near the Reykjanes peninsula and the Hengill volcanic area. It is the only place in the world where you can snorkel between two tectonic plates. At Pingvellir National Park you can see the American and Eurasian tectonic plates pulling apart at the rate of a few centimetres per year.

Location: Bláskógabyggð

Take part in an adventure at sea with an unforgettable trip into the world of whales and sea birds. You and your group are likely to enjoy sightings of minke whales, humpback whales, white-beaked dolphins and harbour porpoises.

Location: Reykjavík’s Old Harbour
DAY ONE
MORNING: Arrive and enjoy a guided Reykjavík city tour to see some of Iceland’s most spectacular, and well known landmarks and sights.

AFTERNOON: See the Ellidaár river and the Laugardalur Valley before seeing the geothermal pools or going whale watching.

DAY TWO
MORNING: Drive along the south coast of Iceland to see the stunning Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls.

AFTERNOON: See the spectacular Myrdalsjökull glacier, the coastline and Reynisdrangar rock formations.

DAY THREE
MORNING: See the hot springs shoot a column of boiling water up to 30m in the air and visit Gullfoss waterfall.

AFTERNOON: Visit the wonder of Pingvellir National Park, and see the Friðheimar greenhouse or the Hellishiedi geothermal plant.

DAY FOUR
MORNING: Experience the bird cliffs, spectacular mountains and volcanic craters and charming fishing villages in the Snaefellsnes peninsula.

AFTERNOON: Take a trip to the beautiful communities of Arnarstapi and Hellnar that lie in close proximity to the renowned Snaefellsjökull glacier.

DAY FIVE
MORNING: End your Iceland adventure with a dip in the Blue Lagoon.

AFTERNOON: Depart from Iceland and return to the UK.

Like the sound of this Geography and Biology Tour? Or do you want a tailor-made trip that’s perfectly aligned to your curriculum objectives?

Hvað kostar þetta (mikið)
How much does this cost?

Ég mundi vilja kaupa ...
I would like to buy ...

SUGGESTED ITINERARY
TRAFFIC INSURANCE
Travel insurance might not be the most exciting thing in the world but it could be the most important purchase you and your students make. We can secure fantastic rates on group policies, just ask your STA Group Travel Expert for more information.

CASHCARD & LOYALTY SCHEME
The STA Travel Prepaid Mastercard Cashcard is the secure way to carry yours and your students’ spending money. With the STA Travel Cashcard Loyalty & Referral Scheme you can earn up to £100 extra spending money for your next educational trip!

ID CARDS & DISCOUNT CARDS
There are thousands of discounts available with our International Teacher Identity Card (ITIC) and International Student Identity Card (ISIC). We can also co-brand your ITIC and ISIC cards, making them unique to your group.

POPULAR PACKAGES
The best way to travel around Reykjavik has to be the hop on hop off sightseeing bus at conveniently located bus stops. Speak to your Travel Expert about the Reykjavik Hop on Hop off bus, and hit all the top spots in Reykjavik.

DON’T FORGET!
We can provide unique hoodies and t-shirts printed with your school, college or university badge, and any other message you would like.
YOUR DEDICATED EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL EXPERT PROVIDES FREE ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO CREATE A BESPOKE EDUCATIONAL TRIP OF A LIFETIME FOR YOUR STUDENTS

WE’LL GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS AND HELP YOU...

1. Choose the destination and activities to meet your course aims and objectives
2. Work with our Educational Travel Experts who tailor-make the perfect trip for your needs
3. Find the resources you need to get approval from your Head Teacher or Head of Department
4. Check availability and set the dates
5. Promote your trip with a range of free resources that you can download and use as you please
6. Send out letters and permission slips to parents and students
7. Collect deposit payments and confirm the final numbers
8. Sign and agree the booking conditions
9. Finalise your travel arrangements and itinerary. You’ll receive a final pack with all the useful information for your trip, and you’re off!
ABTA AND ATOL PROTECTION

We’re an ABTA member, so from the moment you book with us, we’re here to give you advice and assistance on how to protect your travel arrangements in the unlikely event that things go wrong.

Our Air Travel Organiser’s Licence (ATOL) gives you all the protection you need, so that in the event of any unforeseen circumstances, all parts of your trip will be covered.

STF ASSURED MEMBER AND LOTC QUALITY BADGE HOLDER

Our commitment to supporting learning outside the classroom and providing high-quality travel experiences for young people has resulted in us being awarded the ‘Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTC) Quality Badge’.

You can be sure of our ongoing commitment to good practice and safety in school travel, as we are an assured member of the School Travel Forum (STF), an accreditation that is externally verified each year. You can find out more and download our STF Certificate on www.schooltravelforum.com