



Lewis & Clark College Alumni and Parent Trip August 2020

Travel Partner: Iceland Travel, Margret Sigurjonsdottir (margrets@icelandtravel.is)

Start Date: August 8, 2020

End Date: August 18, 2020

Note from Emily Decker, Sr. Associate Director of Alumni and Parent Programs: There are details to this itinerary still to be finalized as we get nearer to our August 2020 departure date and some activities may shift slightly in the coming months as we refine the trip. However, you'll be able to get a good sense of our adventure from the information provided below. If you have any questions, just let me know. I may be reached at emily@lclark.edu or 503-768-7838.

DAY 1: August 8, 2020 -Arrival- Reykjavik- 50 km /31miles (Airport - Reykjavik transfer)

Your guide will be waiting for you in the arrival hall, ready to take you to your private coach. You'll then head straight for the capital and arrive at the Perlan Museum for a late breakfast/early lunch and 360° Observation Deck. Enjoy a refreshing breakfast or early lunch and an amazing view over Reykjavik at the Perlan "Wonders of Iceland" Museum's observation deck.

After the Perlan, we will explore Reykjavik and the surrounding area. Details of this afternoon will be confirmed at a later date.

Check in at our hotel will be between 2 and 4 pm.

Welcome dinner at a nearby restaurant – details to come.

Overnight at the Centerhotel Midgardur

DAY 2: August 9, 2020 – Day in Reykjavik

Part of this day will be planned by Hjordis Magnúsdóttir and Benedikt Hoskuldsson, both L&C class of 1983. Our plans for the day are still in the works, but we'll likely spend the morning together with Hjordis, Benedikt and other local L&C alumni hearing about life in Iceland. Your afternoon/evening will be on your own to explore Reykjavik. We'll communicate the final plan once we have all the pieces in place.

Dinner on your own tonight!

Overnight at the Centerhotel Midgardur

DAY 3: August 10, 2020 - Reykjavik - Inside the Volcano – Skyrgerdin - South Shore - Vik (230 km/142 miles)

Today we will leave early from our hotel and head towards the Blue Mountain area. The drive takes about 30-40 minutes. We will be greeted at a parking lot and taken by a mountain guide for a comfortable 40-50 minute walk to the crater of the dormant Thrihnukagigur volcano. This volcano is a unique natural phenomenon. With the necessary gear provided, we've created a tour that opens the door to a new world, including descending 400 feet in an open cable lift to the bottom of the crater.

After this amazing experience, we'll head directly to Skyrgerdin in Hveragerdi for a skyr introduction and lunch.

After lunch we will continue through Selfoss along the agricultural area of South of Iceland to Hella and Hvolsvöllur. We will stop here for the Lava Center, an interactive, high-tech educational exhibition depicting volcanic activity, earthquakes and the creation of Iceland over millions of years. After a visit to the Lava Centre we continue to the area beneath Eyjafjallajökull glacier, which erupted in 2010 as many may remember. We will stop at Skogafoss waterfall and continue on to the black sands of Reynisfjara beach. Here you can witness the powerful waves and amazing basalt column features carved by the power of the sea.

Overnight and dinner at the KEA Katla Hotel in Vik.

Day 4: August 11, 2020 – Skaftafell National Park – Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon – Hofn Area (265 km/165 miles)

Breakfast at your hotel. Continue your journey on the Ring Road. Cross Eldhraun, the largest lava flow recorded on the planet in historical times. Visit Kirkjubæjarklaustur town, the former site of a 12th-century Catholic convent. Our adventure continues over Skeidararsandur sands to Skaftafell, a beautiful glacial area within Vatnajökull National Park. Continue to the stunning Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon to see

the birthplace of icebergs.

Dinner and overnight at the Fosshotel Vatnajökull in Hofn.

**Day 5: August 12, 2020 – Hofn and the Eastfjords – Egilsstadir
(265 km/165 miles)**

The magnificent East Fjords with views of towering mountains plunging vertically into the sea. Pass through coastal fjord villages on your way to Egilsstadir. En route, we will stop at Djupivogur, Stodvarfjörður, and Faskruosfjörður.

Visit Petra's Stone Museum.

Dinner and overnight at Guesthouse Egilsstadir.

**Day 6: August 13, 2020 – Egilsstadir – Wilderness Center – Egilsstadir
(115 km/71 miles)**

Explore the hauntingly beautiful landscape of East Iceland at the edge of North-Europe's largest wilderness area, an area with snow-streaked mountains, far-reaching views, numerous waterfalls and heaths where herds of wild reindeer roam.

After breakfast at your hotel we will head to Fljótsdalur, a valley with rich green forests bordering legendary Lagarfljót Lake. According to local folklore, the lake is the home to a giant aquatic serpent similar to the Scottish Loch Ness Monster. The first stop is colourful Hengifoss waterfall, where you'll take a short hike to view the waterfall and its amazing basalt column formations up close. Next, drive to Skriðuklaustur, a stone manor home located on the former site of a 14th-century monastery. It is one of East Iceland's most iconic buildings. Learn about the excavations of the monastery and the life of the famous author, Gunnar Gunnarsson, who designed the manor home (entry to the house is not included). Next, step into the past and visit the award-winning Wilderness Center, located by the edge of North Europe's largest wilderness area and a gateway to the highlands. At this authentic and peaceful hideaway, you can see how Icelanders lived in and near the wilderness in the old days. If you are lucky, you might glimpse some of the area's wild reindeer. Enjoy some free time to walk around and take in the tranquility and ambiance of the past before having a delicious lunch in the Wilderness Center's historical farmhouse. The food is locally sourced and prepared using historical family recipes.

The group has an option to go horseback riding in this beautiful area, do a bath in the bathhouse or rent a bike - all prices given separately. Also possible to hike/walk in the area with your guide. We recommend the horseback riding tour. Twelve people can go riding at a time, if more people would like to go, we would split the group up in two departures. Further details and plan TBA.

Dinner & overnight at Guesthouse Egilsstaðir

**Day 7: August 14, 2020 – Dettifoss – Lake Myvatn
(240km/149 miles)**

Breakfast at your hotel. Explore the empty vastness of the highland desert plateau Modrudalsoraefi as we head towards the Lake Myvatn area. On the way we will stop at Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall. We will reach Lake Myvatn in the afternoon after a stop at Namaskard with its boiling mud pools and vibrant colors. We'll end our day with a relaxing swim and soak in the Myvatn Nature Baths.

Dinner and overnight at the Icelandair Hotel in Myvatn.

**Day 8: August 15, 2020 – Lake Myvatn – Godafoss – Laufas – Akureyri
(140km/87 miles)**

Breakfast at your hotel. Today we will continue to explore Lake Myvatn's natural beauty including the badlands of lava pillars, and towering rocks at Dimmuorgir, the pseudo craters at Skutustadir and the Laxa Salmon River.

We will enjoy lunch at Vogafjos and in the late afternoon will head to magnificent Godafoss waterfall. Godafoss is over 39 feet high and 98 feet wide. The waterfall has interesting connections to Iceland's Viking age. After ample time at the waterfall, we may continue to the old turf farm, Laufas. Laufas has some of the finest timber buildings in the country, beautifully restored to their original glory.

Our next stop will be Akureyri at Eyjafjordur Fjord. After getting oriented, we will check in to our hotel. We will have the evening free in Akureyri.

Dinner on your own.

Overnight at the Icelandair Hotel Akureyri.

**Day 9: August 16, 2020 – Whale Watching/Sea Angling in Hauganes – Ektafiskur – Kaldi
Brewery – flight back to Reykjavik
(80km/50 miles)**

Whale Watching Hauganes is extremely proud of being the oldest whale watching company in Iceland. Northern Iceland is globally recognized as the best location to experience whales in the world. See the Humpback whales, white beaked dolphins, and minke whales.

After our 2-3 hour tour, we will visit the family owned company, Ektafiskur (Real Fish) in Hauganes,

which is one of the main producers of salted cod fish in Iceland. After an introduction to their process we are invited for lunch made with their very own product caught in the Eyjafjörður Fjord.

We will then continue to Kaldi Brewery where we will get an introduction as well as tasting of one of the most popular beers in Iceland.

Fly from Akureyri back to Reykjavik. We will be picked up at the Reykjavik domestic airport and taken to our hotel.

Dinner on your own in Reykjavik.

Overnight at the Centerhotel Midgardur.

Day 10: August 17, 2020 – Golden Circle and Raufarholshellir (250km/155 miles)

Today is the day we'll explore the Golden Circle. Combining natural and historical wonders, you'll experience Iceland's landmark attractions in one incredible day: the magnificent Gullfoss waterfall, the spouting hot springs of Geysir, and Þingvellir national park, site of the Viking parliament and over 1000 years of history. The classic tour, not to be missed.

We will start by driving to Hellisheidi power plant before stopping at Fríðheimar tomato greenhouse and horse farm. We'll have a tour of the greenhouse and lunch – all made with tomatoes!

Next stops will be Geysir, Gullfoss, and Thingvellir National Park

Farewell dinner in Reykjavik (tentative)

Overnight at the Centerhotel Midgardur

Day 11: August 18, 2020 – Reykjavik - Departure Day (50km/31 miles)

Morning at your leisure. Early afternoon we will be picked up by our guide and driver and transferred to Keflavik International airport for your flights home. You'll be departing for home with many incredible Icelandic memories.

