

## TEACHER INSPECTION TRIP

SOUTH AND WEST ICELAND    Sun 26 May – Fri 31 May 2024



Join us in May to explore the beauty of South and West Iceland on our popular Teacher Inspection Trip.

Our inspection trips provide extremely useful background knowledge of the country and a vital insight before you embark on your student visit, helping you to choose the best travel package to suit your students' needs.

Put simply – it lets us show you why more schools travel to Iceland with Discover the World Education than anyone else!

### PRICES

£549 for one teacher place.

£649 for a second teacher (which is subject to availability).

One teacher place is free or refunded in full if booking a group of 20 paying students or more to Iceland. If booking a group of 10 – 19 paying passengers there is a £200 refund.

## PACKAGE INCLUDES

- ☑ Return flights from London Stansted including taxes and 20kg checked luggage.
- ☑ Half board accommodation plus 3 lunches.
- ☑ Accommodation based on 2-4 people sharing, using shared facilities.
- ☑ All transport within Iceland.
- ☑ All activities and excursions mentioned in the itinerary below.
- ☑ Services of a Teacher Tour Leader and Discover the World Education representative.
- ☑ Peace of mind with our unique [Travel Disruption Charter](#), protecting you should the unexpected happen
- ☑ Unique no surcharge guarantee – once you have confirmed your booking there will be no price increases, regardless of what happens with sterling, world oil prices or taxes - [Click here](#) for more information.
- ☑ Financial security fully bonded with ABTA & ATOL licence.

## PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- ☒ Travel Insurance (available at a supplement).
- ☒ Travel in the UK.
- ☒ Single rooms (room supplement charge applies & subject to availability).
- ☒ Airline name change fees and excess baggage fees.

## Outline itinerary

6 days/5 nights

### Day 1: Sunday 26th May

Reykjanes Peninsula: Bridge Between Continents – 2021 Eruption: Náttthagi Valley Viewpoint – Supper at Hamburger Factory – Overnight Hotel Cabin

Join your DTWE representatives and depart from London Stansted, arriving at Keflavík airport in the early afternoon. Once you've met your coach driver, journey past lava fields and crater rows to the Bridge Between Continents, spanning a fissure comprising part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which runs through Iceland. Crossing this symbolic bridge, witness the effects of continental drift.

The eyes of the world have been on the Reykjanes peninsula in the last couple of years, with eruptive and earthquake swarm activity taking place. Savour a close encounter with a solidified lava flow from the eruption of summer 2021, in the Náttthagi valley.

Arrive in Reykjavík and check in to your hotel. Dinner will be served at Hamburger Factory, a short walk from the hotel.

Overnight at Hotel Cabin.

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### Day 2: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Western Iceland: Whale Fjord – Borgarnes – Deildartunguhver – Hraunfossar – Barnafoss – The Cave – **Grábrók Crater Walk** – Overnight Hotel Bifröst – Glanni Evening Walk

'Whale Fjord', Hvalfjörður is 30km in length and up to 5km wide. In 1998, Iceland's ringroad became 60km shorter as a road tunnel was completed beneath the fjord.

Deildartunguhver is Iceland's largest and most powerful hot spring which pumps out a staggering 180 litres of 97°C water a second. It is the highest-flow hot spring in Europe. You'll see how the water is harnessed and pumped to heat the nearby towns of Akranes and Borgarnes.

West of Hraunfossar falls is Reykholt. Home to 13<sup>th</sup> century historian and writer Snorri Sturluson, the hamlet is a place of historical significance for Icelanders. View Snorri's bath, one of Iceland's earliest known efforts to utilise geothermal water. These tumbling falls, 1km wide, spill out from out under the lava into the Hvítá River. Nearby is enchanting Barnafoss, a set of rapids squeezing through a narrow channel.

Take a guided walk into the mighty Víðgelmir lava tube cave with the aid of an access walkway. Hailed as the mightiest of Iceland's caves, its diversity and grandeur is unrivalled. Just shy of 1600 metres in length, the cave features amazing colours and lava formations that lurk in the depths of the earth.

Make the short climb to the summit of Grábrók crater from which you can view the prominent landmark of the laccolith, Baula.

Take a short walk along the well-defined path through the low-lying shrubs until you get to the edge of the Glanni waterfall where there are distinctive viewing points around the falls. Overnight stay and dinner at Hotel Bifröst.

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### Day 3: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May

Golden Circle & Southern Iceland: Thingvellir – Gullfoss – Geysir – Secret Lagoon – Overnight Hjarðarból Guesthouse

Start the day with a visit to Thingvellir National Park, where Iceland's parliament was established in 930AD – it is part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, with rift valley features clearly visible where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates pull apart at around 2cm a year. 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.

Continue on the Golden Circle route, visiting the natural wonders of Geysir and Gullfoss. First stop 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 5-7 minutes reaching a height of around 30m! Only short drive away you will find one of Iceland's most visited waterfalls, Gullfoss, a beautiful and very powerful waterfall that plunges in two stages into a rift valley.

The "Secret Lagoon" natural hot springs and bathing pool are located in the small village of Flúðir. 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 is a modest geyser, which erupts every 5 minutes, showing off while you relax in the warm waters.

Return to Hjarðarból Guesthouse for dinner and overnight stay.

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#### Day 4: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May

Southern Iceland: Seljalandsfoss – Sólheimajökull incl. glacier walk – Vík – Reynishverfi – Skógafoss – Overnight Hotel Hvolsvollur

Stop to feel the spray from Seljalandsfoss waterfall as you walk behind the water which drops 60m over a former sea cliff. From Seljalandsfoss, walk along the cliff base to Gljúfrabúi waterfall – it's hidden inside a gorge and you'll need walking boots and rainproof gear to hop over the stepping stones to enter the canyon.

Arrive at Sólheimajökull glacier which is one of several outlets from Mýrdalsjökull icecap. Located in an 8km long valley, this glacier has been retreating since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Losses this decade have varied between 10 and 80m per year; an ideal location to witness climate change and the landscapes of glacial

erosion and recession. Here you will take a glacier walk where all equipment will be provided, led by a specialist glacier guide.

Vík provides a case study of living with natural hazards. At this tiny coastal town the Katla eruption of 1918 extended Vík's coastline by 500m and you can see how the locals have responded to the threat of glacier burst floods and the planning and precautions in place for the next eruption.

Walk along the black volcanic beach to see magnificent basalt cliffs and caves. Take photos standing and sitting on the basalt columns!

A trip isn't complete without a visit to one of Iceland's most impressive waterfalls, Skógafoss. With a wide, thundering curtain of water 60m high, Skógafoss is unique as it comes directly from two glaciers, Eyjafjallajökull and Mýrdalsjökull.

Check in at Hotel Hvolsvollur for dinner and overnight stay.

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#### Day 5: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May

South West Iceland and Reykjavík: Selfoss – Hveragerði Hot Springs Hike – Hellisheidi – Reykjavík – FlyOver Iceland – Icelandic Lava Show – Supper at Olifa La Madre Pizzeria – Overnight Hotel Vellir

Selfoss town has a new urban centre, created to combine the look of the past with a forward-thinking approach to sustainability and environmental awareness. Discover the story and the people behind this regeneration, taking a guided walk in the town to encounter this innovative town planning project which provides a robust case study for changing places and sustainable settlements.

Head towards the small 'greenhouse' town of Hveragerði, a place of abundant geothermal activity, its surrounding hills dotted with hot springs. Observe the many ways in which the inhabitants utilise this natural resource as you tour the town or take a short hike to the hot springs that appeared after the Ölfus earthquake in 2008.

Hellisheiði is the world's sixth largest geothermal power plant, sited in a high temperature geothermal area. A guided tour of an exhibition in the power station explains how geothermal power is harnessed for energy production and hot water supply. The latest developments in carbon capture and storage technology are being innovated alongside Hellisheiði power station. Learn how carbon capture plans to scale up and provide a new tool to assist environmental sustainability.

Explore the centre of Reykjavik on a short, guided walking tour before venturing off for some free time. Reykjavík is a unique city, and two thirds of the country's population live in its urban area. A focus on sustainability and landscape-inspired architecture are hallmarks of the world's most northerly capital.

FlyOver Iceland, a multisensory virtual experience that whisks you off to locations across Iceland, including wilderness regions rarely visited by tourists. FlyOver Iceland utilises state-of-the-art technology to give you the feeling of flight inside a 20m spherical cinema.

This evening you will visit the Icelandic Lava Show. The show is the only one in the world where you are able to witness the sight, the sound and the heat of real flowing lava as it flows into the dark room, bubbling and shining bright onto a huge block of ice. You will feel the heat of the lava in this safe environment and begin to truly understand the impact volcanoes have had on this tiny island.

Supper at Olifa La Madre Pizzeria before your overnight stay at Hotel Vellir.

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Day 6: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Keflavík Airport – Return flight to London Stansted

An early transfer to the airport for your flight to London Stansted.

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To request a place on this Teacher Inspection Visit, or for more information:

Email: [travel@discover-education.co.uk](mailto:travel@discover-education.co.uk)

Tel: 01737 214 214