



CHAUTAQUA  
**TRAVELS**  
ICELAND



# Iceland Adventure

July 10-16, 2022

877.298.9677 | [reservations@academic-travel.com](mailto:reservations@academic-travel.com)



# Iceland Adventure

Perched on the rift between North America and Europe, Iceland is a constantly changing land of fire and ice, where molten lava has cooled and geothermal energy beneath the surface fuels hot springs and homes.

Learn how Iceland has captured this heat to become a global leader in alternative energy and used innovative technology to extend a limited growing season. Examine the effects of climate change firsthand during a glacier walk.

Explore the island nation's unique geology, with opportunities to learn about plate tectonics, volcanic activity and glacial formations. Delight in the hundreds of species of birds that nest here in the summer; the whales that swim just off the coast; and even the unique, gentle Icelandic horse.



## Trip Highlights

- Tour one of Iceland's geothermal power plants, see an innovative carbon capture project, and learn how the country runs almost entirely on renewable energy.
- Experience the benefits of Iceland's rich geothermic possibilities with bread baked beneath the earth and a relaxing soak in natural geothermal hot springs at the iconic Blue Lagoon.
- Get active with exciting activities like a hike on Solheimajokull Glacier and a morning whale watching.
- See some of Iceland's most dramatic landscapes, from gushing geysers that spout water 200 feet into the air to stunning glacier-fed waterfalls and rugged volcanic rock formations.
- Ride a ferry to the seldom-visited Westman Islands, home to the world's largest colony of puffins and – several decades ago – a volcanic eruption.



## Itinerary

### Sunday, July 10: Welcome to Iceland

Arrive at Keflavik International Airport in Reykjavik early this morning and head to breakfast at the nearby Viking World, which contains a life-sized recreation of a ninth-century Viking ship and offers beautiful views of the surrounding bay. After, drive along the winding and rugged coast of the Reykjanes Peninsula, home to the Reykjanes volcano. The landscape here is dotted with fissures, faults, lava shields and other intriguing formations. Stop along the way to enjoy a soak at the famous Blue Lagoon, situated amongst the region's dramatic lava fields. Here, you can unwind from your flight as you float in its warm, bright blue waters. Continue to Reykjavik and settle into your hotel. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner and presentation from your expert.

**Accommodations:** [Midgardur by Center Hotel](#)

**Included meal:** Breakfast, Dinner

### Monday, July 11: Powering a Nation

Start your day with a guided tour of the Hellisheiði Power Plant, one of the world's largest geothermal energy facilities and site of an innovative project to address climate change by taking carbon dioxide from the air and turning it into rock. Learn how engineers leveraged Iceland's unique location atop shifting tectonic plates and their underlying volcanic activity to capture heat from deep within the Earth. Continue to Laugarvatn, a small town in the southern part of the island, where you will enjoy a surprising benefit of Iceland's geothermal energy with an unusual snack: bread baked underground using natural geothermal heat. This dark bread is a specialty that is prepared in pots and buried in the hot sand where it steams naturally and is served hot from the earth. Continue to Gullfoss, also known as the Golden Falls. This waterfall is one of the most recognized sights in Iceland. Next, visit Geysir hot springs, a field of geysers where the appropriately named "Great Geysir" can shoot water over 200 feet into the air! Later, visit Frioheimar Tomato and Horse Farm, where you will learn how a combination of greenhouse horticulture and geothermal heating is used to extend Iceland's limited growing season.



Later, visit a vine-to-table lunch featuring farm-fresh tomatoes, along with an opportunity to see another side of Iceland's natural beauty at Fridheimar's horse show. Head inland to Hveragerdi, Iceland's hot springs capital, and check in to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

**Accommodations:** [Hotel Ork](#)

**Included meal:** Breakfast, Lunch

## **Tuesday, July 12: Land of Fire & Ice**

Depart the hotel early this morning to head southeast toward Eyjafjallajökull, the volcano that erupted in 2010, disrupting air travel to and from Europe. Arrive at the Solheimajokull Glacier and walk across the pitch-black volcanic ash and sand before putting on crampons and traversing the glacier itself. Learn how glaciers shape the landscape and how climate change is causing them to retreat at an alarming rate. After the hike, head to nearby Vik, the southernmost village in the country. The landscape is striking for its black basalt beach and cliff formations. En route, you will see some of Iceland's spectacular waterfalls, including Seljandsfoss, where you can walk behind the water in a protected cave as the water crashes down in front of you. Have lunch together at a local café in the center of the charming village. After lunch, spend time at the Skogar museum, which showcases a variety of homes, churches and farms built in the traditional Icelandic style. This evening, enjoy dinner on your own.

**Accommodations:** [Hotel Ork](#)

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch



### **Wednesday, July 13: At Home with Puffins**

Board a ferry and sail to the Westman Islands, a cluster of islands that is known for its large colony of puffins as well as the whales, seals and various seabirds that frequent the area. Tour the island with a local naturalist and visit the Eldheimar Museum, dedicated to the 1973 volcanic eruption on the island of Heimaey, the largest of the Westman Islands. The eruption buried hundreds of homes (one buried house is still visible from the museum) and earned the island the nickname “Pompeii of the North.” After time to explore the island on your own, return to the mainland for dinner as a group.

**Accommodations:** [Hotel Ork](#)

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **Thursday, July 14: Thingvellir, Where Continents Collide**

Start your day in nearby Eyrarbakki Village, where you will be welcomed into the home of a local storyteller to hear the legendary music and song of Iceland’s sagas. Your clean energy tour continues at Ljosafoss Hydropower Station, which made it possible for homes in the region to stop burning coal for cooking. Ljosafoss is one of eighteen clean and renewable power plants operated by Landsvirkjun, Iceland’s national power company. Here, you will learn about Iceland’s efforts to “power the future” through its commitment to clean and renewable energy. After, continue north to Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site along Iceland’s “Golden Circle.” Thingvellir translates to “Fields of Parliament,” in recognition of the park’s fascinating history as the site of the world’s first democratically elected parliament in 930 A.D. The park encompasses a rift valley marking the boundary between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates. Take a short hike through Thingvellir and neighboring Nesjavellir. After lunch in the countryside, continue to Reykjavik, Iceland’s capital and largest city. Check in to your hotel for a presentation by your expert and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure to explore the city.

**Accommodations:** [Midgardur by Center Hotel](#)

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### **Friday, July 15: Wondrous Whales**

This morning embark on a whale watching tour to observe some of Iceland’s diverse sealife, including minke whales, humpback whales, harbour porpoises, and white-beaked dolphins, along with the island nation’s rich and thriving bird life. Tonight, celebrate your journey together with a final farewell dinner.

**Accommodations:** [Midgardur by Center Hotel](#)

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **Saturday, July 16: Homeward Bound**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your journey home.



## Your Expert



**Mark Wenzler, Chautauqua Climate Director** | Mark Wenzler begins his service to Chautauqua Institution as Director of the Climate Change Initiative on June 14, 2021. He works primarily out of the Institution's Washington, D.C., office while also maintaining a significant presence on the grounds at Chautauqua during each Summer Assembly and otherwise as called for by Climate Change Initiative programs and experiences. Under Mark's direction, the Climate Change Initiative has three primary areas of focus: education, stewardship and justice.

Before Chautauqua, Mark served as senior vice president for conservation programs at the National Parks Conservation Association, a not-for-profit organization working since 1919 to protect and enhance America's National Park system for present and future generations. He created and managed multiple programs focused on addressing climate change, air and water pollution, landscape conservation, energy development and sustainability.

Mark also directed the climate and energy programs at the National Environmental Trust (now the Pew Charitable Trust's Environment Group). He is a lawyer who began his career as a deputy attorney general prosecuting environmental cases for the New Jersey Division of Law, Environmental Practice Group, and later joined the Public Justice legal advocacy organization to represent organizations and communities in pursuing environmental justice against polluters.

Mark volunteers as chair of the board of trustees of Experience Learning, a high-alpine wilderness-based nonprofit focusing on experiential learning adventure programs for children and adults. He also volunteers as secretary of the board of directors of Climate Ride, a non-profit that runs multiday cycling and hiking adventures around the globe, raising awareness and funds to fight climate change and advance a just and sustainable future. He previously served as volunteer chair of the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Sierra Club.

Mark earned his law degree at Syracuse University, where he also completed a master's degree in international relations at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, with a focus on economic and environmental policy. He earned his Bachelor of Arts at Providence College. A New Jersey shore native, he resides in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, D.C., with his spouse Dare, daughter Nina and dog Ranger. He is an outdoor enthusiast and enjoys backpacking, bike touring, backcountry skiing, paddling, wilderness running and adventure travel.



## WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Comprehensive educational program by professional on-site guides
- Accommodations and meals as outlined in the itinerary
- Ground transportation within the itinerary unless otherwise indicated
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as specified in the itinerary
- Gratuities to porters, drivers, and guides
- The assistance of an ATA tour manager for comprehensive logistical and customer service management on the trip
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights, or other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure information about the destination and what to expect on the trip, including a suggested reading list
- Group airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Emergency evacuation insurance
- Fully vetted program that meets Covid-19 health and safety protocols



Midgardur by Center Hotel



Hotel Ork



## About Your Hotel

**Midgardur by Center Hotel** (*left*) is ideally located in downtown Reykjavik, at the end of the city's main business district. Comfortable and stylish rooms incorporate contemporary design. The hotel features a gym and full-service spa with an open-air thermal-water hot tub. The hotel offers live music on Thursday evenings as well as several on-site bars and restaurants, including the Sky Bar with views of the Reykjavik Harbor.

**Hotel Ork** (*right*) is located in Hveragerdi, Iceland's hot spring capital, near many of the country's most scenic attractions. The property offers well-equipped facilities in beautiful surroundings. Rooms are spacious and bright with modern furnishings. The property includes an outdoor swimming pool, hot tubs, geothermal sauna, golf course, bar and game room.

## Price:

Double Occupancy: \$5,250 pp  
Single Occupancy: \$6,045 pp  
Deposit: \$500

Program limited to 25 travelers.

[Click here to read the terms and conditions online](#)



CHAUTAUQUA  
**TRAVELS**  
ICELAND