



Iceland: Geysers & Glaciers

8 days from \$7,995 | Limited to 18 guests

Take in this stunning island nation on an unforgettable journey that spans volcanic landscapes, thermal swimming pools and glacial rivers, ancient Viking sites, and cosmopolitan Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital.



A&K ADVANTAGES

- ▶ Pay a private visit to a local family farm, and savor the delicious Icelandic foods produced there
- ▶ Discover Iceland's breathtaking Nordic landscape – everything from lava caves and hot springs to waterfalls and fjords – and walk inside one of Europe's largest glaciers
- ▶ Visit a family-run greenhouse, and sit down to a lunch of freshly prepared tomato-themed dishes
- ▶ Cruise Reykjavik Harbour to spot myriad whale species

DAY 1: Arrive Reykjavik, Iceland

Arrive in Reykjavik, and transfer to your modern boutique hotel in the city center. Tonight, join fellow guests for a welcome dinner. *Canopy by Hilton Reykjavik City Centre* | Meals: D

DAY 2: Reykjavik | True Cosmopolitan Capital

Spend the day exploring both the contemporary and traditional sides of this cultured coastal capital. Start with a visit to the National Museum of Iceland, which tells the story of Iceland's founding through some 2,000 objects, including a medieval ship of the type used to settle the island. You then visit Hallgrímskirkja church, the city's most prominent landmark, before taking a private tour of the Harpa, a





Waterfalls and rocky peaks in South Iceland

cutting-edge performance center built in 2011 to stage everything from jazz quintets to operas. This award-winning structure features a striking colored glass façade designed to evoke Iceland’s basalt landscape. Proceed to the Blue Lagoon for lunch and to experience its invigorating waters. The lagoon is fed by natural runoff from a clean geothermal powerplant, emerging rich in silica that lends the water its unmistakable blue hue. The water is also high in salts and algae, giving it therapeutic benefits sworn to by visitors from all corners of the world. Relax and enjoy the soothing pools amid beautiful volcanic landscapes. Continue to the Reykjanes peninsula at the southwestern end of Iceland, a stark volcanic landscape of black lava fields and smoldering, sulfurous craters. Nearby Krysvíkurbjarg, which you visit next, is a series of cliffs known for harboring a range of birdlife, as well as an area strong in Icelandic folk tradition. Following your visit, transfer to your hotel.

Landhotel | Meals: B L D

DAY 3: Thorsmork | Forces of Nature

After breakfast, embark on a Super Jeep tour through Thorsmork (“Valley of Thor”), a vast nature reserve of snowy peaks, jade-green slopes and glacial rivers trickling through dark volcanic earth. In a land already known for scenic beauty, Thorsmork is a gem among gems, and a paradise for trekkers and photographers. Explore today with a skilled

driver-guide, who leads you along the trails and rivers while discussing the reserve’s history, geology and wildlife. After working up an appetite in the great outdoors, stop in the midst of the wild for an al fresco barbecue lunch, taking in the fresh air and striking beauty of this rugged natural setting.

Landhotel | Meals: B L D



Take to the sea for an opportunity to spot some of Iceland’s numerous seagoing species, which include minke whales, blue whales, orcas and several varieties of dolphins and porpoises.

DAY 4: South Iceland | A Stunning Coastal Drive

Along with the Amalfi Coast and Ireland’s Ring of Kerry, the shore of southern Iceland offers one of the most scenic drives in all of Europe. Enjoy a morning’s drive along this enticing coastline, stopping to explore waterfalls and black-sand beaches. Iceland is one of the world’s most seismologically active places; learn how this has shaped the island with a visit to the Lava Center, where state-of-the-art exhibits reveal the fascinating facts behind earthquakes, volcanos and other natural forces. By contrast, the Skogar Folk Museum tells a

Marvel over the impressive plumes of Strokkur Geyser



Walking inside Langjokull Glacier

more human story, depicting life in Iceland from the Viking era and beyond. **Landhotel** | Meals: B L

DAY 5: Golden Circle | Saga Sites

Thingvellir National Park is that rare locale that is significant both as a scenic wonder and a cultural treasure: a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the Vikings established the world's first democratic parliament more than 1,000 years ago. It's also one of the few places you can straddle two continents at once, as the conjunction of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates is exposed here. After exploring the park, continue to Fridheimar, a geothermally heated organic greenhouse, for a tour and freshly prepared lunch. Next, visit the regularly erupting Strokkur Geyser and stunning Gullfoss, where milky green glacial water plummets down Iceland's most famous waterfall. Your adventure continues at Deildartunguhver, the highest-flow hot spring in Europe, which provides heat to villages and towns up to 40 miles away. Relax in thermal baths fed by the hot spring's invigorating waters, then enjoy a dinner of fresh, local, farm-produced ingredients overlooking this powerful natural wonder. **Hotel Husafell** | Meals: B L D

DAY 6: Husafell & West Iceland | Langjokull Ice Cap

Enjoy a visit to the magnificent lava tube Vidgelmir Cave. The lava tube was formed around the year 900 and is the largest volcanic cave in Iceland. Don a helmet and headlamp



to explore the otherworldly interior, taking in the amazing colors and formations that lay hidden in darkness for centuries. Following your cave visit, gather at a local bistro for lunch. Then, ride in a specially equipped eight-wheeled truck on the colossal Langjokull ice cap — Europe’s second-largest glacier — which, at its highest point, sits 4,760 feet above sea level. Descend into man-made tunnels carved deep into the glacier, exploring stages of glacial formation, blue-hued dens and even a chapel. **Hotel Husafell** | Meals: B L

DAY 7: Hvalfjordur & West Iceland | Family Traditions Today, enjoy stops at Hraunfossar and fabled Barnafoss waterfall. Then, visit a local family farm in Hvalfjordur, a beautiful fjord in West Iceland. Due to the fjord’s depth, the U.S. Navy was able to keep their warships hidden during World War II. Experience the Icelandic farm life firsthand. The farm has been in the same family since 1887, and three generations are now living there together. You also taste delicious food and drink produced by the farmers, some of which are prize winners, such as the smoked blueberry-cured mutton, smoked lamb and home-brewed dandelion wine. In the afternoon, return to Reykjavik to embark on a thrilling whale-watching boat ride. About 20 species, such as blue whales, fin whales, minke and humpbacks, each with its own characteristics and behaviors, visit Icelandic waters throughout the year. Marvel as these magnificent giants surface, sometimes within a few yards of your vessel,

affording you an unforgettable, up-close wildlife encounter. Afterward, head to the city center, where you enjoy dinner at a restaurant specializing in traditional Icelandic cuisine. **Canopy by Hilton Reykjavik City Centre** | Meals: B L D

DAY 8: Depart Reykjavik

Enjoy breakfast before your flight home. Meals: B

BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS



Landhotel

Icelandic hotel sporting vibrant guest rooms, nestled within a magnificent, remote countryside.



Hotel Husafell

Near Langjokull Glacier, a modern, eco-friendly 48-room hotel set in nature with geothermal baths.



Canopy by Hilton Reykjavik City Centre

Once a historic furniture factory, now a chic hotel in an excellent central location and boasting a contemporary art collection.

DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Jun 24-Jul 1; Jul 12-19; Aug 18-25	\$7,995	\$1,795

Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements. Minimum age is 10 years. First group event: welcome briefing at 6:00 p.m. on Day 1. Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 7. Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 4 guests.

The maximum guest capacity for 2021 Connections journeys has been temporarily reduced to 18 and may revert to 24 at A&K’s discretion due to changes in COVID-19-related requirements.

See Wyllys Professional Travel for up-to-date availability and pricing information.