



HOLBROOK
TRAVEL



Myrdalsjökull glacier by Guilhem Vellut

ICELAND

Red Rocks Community College
AN EARTH SCIENCE ADVENTURE

July 12 - 20, 2018

EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS



Geology

Environmental
Science



Human Geography

Active Adventure

Iceland's rich geological history and northern latitude are an earth scientist's dream — still the most sparsely populated country in Europe, Iceland's uninhabited interior is an Arctic desert punctuated with mountains, glaciers, volcanoes, and waterfalls. This 9-day program explores Iceland's unique geology, history, and culture with visits to a variety of features including hot springs, lagoons, glaciers, and the fascinating capital city of Reykjavik.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Study Iceland's dramatic and varied geology, including towering waterfalls, bursting geysers, massive glaciers, and volcanoes.
- Stand at the convergence of two continents, where the Eurasian and North American plates meet.
- Examine the relationships between Iceland's diverse terrain, natural disasters, and society.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert naturalist guide
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Entrance fees
- In-country transportation
- Most meals & beverages



Photo by Kyle Taylor

Visit holbrook.travel/redrockscce-ic18

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JULY 12 - DEPART US

Depart the US for your overnight flight to Iceland.

JULY 13 - HVOLSVÖLLUR

Upon arrival into Reykjavík, you will be met at the airport by your guide. After breakfast, drive to the Reykjanes light tower and Gunnhver mud pools before continuing to the Bridge Between Continents. The Reykjanes Peninsula is an area of volcanic rock and lava with numerous clefts and gorges. It lies on the margin of the Eurasian and North American plates and is directly connected to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Along the shore, low cliffs alternate with sandy beaches where ocean waves sweep unhindered onto the coast. Continuing the journey arrive at the Krýsuvík Geothermal Area and stop to witness raw natural power in a moonscape of bubbling sulfuric mud pools and steam vents. Drive along the shores of Lake Kleifarvatn, which is reputedly home to a monster that is recorded in folk tales throughout the centuries. *Overnight at Árhús Cottages. (D)*

JULY 14 - HVOLSVÖLLUR

Today explore what is known as the Golden Circle, starting with a visit to Gullfoss. Translated as Golden Falls, it is one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe, with thousands of tons of icy water thundering majestically into a deep canyon. Complete your Golden Circle exploration with visits to the Geysir area, with its numerous hot springs, fumaroles and geysers, and Þingvellir, site of the world's oldest democratic parliament and the dividing fault line between two of the earth's tectonic plates. *Overnight at Árhús Cottages. (BD)*

JULY 15 - VÍK

Head east and start the day by visiting the new Lava Centre in Hvolsvöllur. Here you can explore the largest interactive and state-of-the-art educational exhibition of volcanic activity in Europe. Your next stop is at Skógafoss Waterfall, one of the country's largest waterfalls. After, brave a glacier walk on the Sólheimajökull Glacier with professional guides. During this easy to moderate glacier walk, discover the wonderland of ice sculptures, water cauldrons, ridges and deep crevasses. Later, visit the Dyrhólaey Reserve for a hike and the opportunity to see puffins. *Overnight at Vík Youth Hostel. (BD)*

JULY 16 - HÖFN

From Dyrhólaey, begin the day with a visit to Reynisdrangar Beach to see the basalt needles and Reynishverfi Beach to see the hexagonal basalt columns. Drive further east, passing Kirkjubæjarklaustur and the rivers of Skaftá that have almost all dried up after Skaftárhlaup, the glacial river flood that occurred from under Vatnajökull Glacier in 2015. The flood took a lot of land with it, leaving only sand and mud. Take care of the beautiful nature on the way east to your accommodation by picking up all trash found. Visit Skaftafell National Park, one of Iceland's most outstanding areas of natural beauty dominated by the glacier Vatnajökull, Europe's largest ice cap. *Overnight at Brunnholl. (BD)*

JULY 17 - HÖFN

Today visit Jokulsarlón Glacial Lagoon for a boat ride that allows you to get up close to the floating icebergs. The lagoon is located at the edge of the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier. It was created when the glacier started receding from the edge of the Atlantic Ocean and has been increasing in size at varying rates because of glacial melt. It recently became the deepest lake in Iceland, at over 248 meters

(814 feet). Continue along the beautiful scenery of Vatnajökull Glacier, stopping at one of the glacier tongues, before arriving to the town of Höfn before turning back to your accommodation. *Overnight at Brunnholl. (BD)*

JULY 18 - REYKJAVÍK

Today return to Reykjavík with some adventure along the way. After a visit to Seljalandsfoss waterfall, explore Thorsmörk Nature Reserve via a rugged track drive through several rivers. Thorsmörk is a deep valley consisting of glacial tongues flowing down mountainsides. This area is surrounded by the glaciers Eyjafjallajökull, Mýrdalsjökull, and Tindfjallajökull. The region is an oasis with a surprising richness of beautiful landscapes due to access difficulties and many unbridged rivers. During this off-the-beaten-track experience, you will have time to walk around in the Stakkholtsgjá gorge and the young landscape, which was formed by the glacial flood following the Eyjafjallajökull eruption in 2010. *Overnight at Bus Hostel. (BD)*

JULY 19 - REYKJAVÍK

Today visit the Blue Lagoon, with time to enjoy the thermal springs and to learn how the lagoon was formed and about the wonders of geothermal seawater. Before the Blue Lagoon or after, also take the route to Krýsuvík and Kleifarvatn, as this fits perfectly to the day. In the afternoon you have free time to explore on your own. *Overnight at Bus Hostel. (BD)*

JULY 20 - DEPARTURE

Today will be free to explore Reykjavík. Iceland's capital city is the nucleus of the country's rich culture and arts scene, with a backdrop of snow-topped mountains, churning seas, and crystal-clear air; it is a special place to explore or just relax and people-watch. In the afternoon you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. *(B)*

LAND PRICING

\$3,758 (14 participants)

\$3,378 (21 participants)

Includes accommodations in triple/quad occupancy, meals, activities and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide, and gratuities for guide and driver.

Does not include international airfare or items of a personal nature.

AIR PRICING

\$900-\$1,030

Estimated round-trip international airfare from Denver; luggage fees may apply.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on triple/quad with individual beds. Double and single rooms are available at an additional cost. A \$400 per person non-refundable deposit and enrollment form are required by April 18, 2018 to reserve your space on the trip. Payment in full is due by May 20, 2018. Deposits are non-refundable and no monies are refundable after May 20. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

TO ENROLL:

Visit holbrook.travel/redrocksc-ic18 or contact Barbra Sobhani at barbra.sobhani@rrcc.edu or (303) 914-6366

*Note: Enrollments must be received by April 18, 2018.