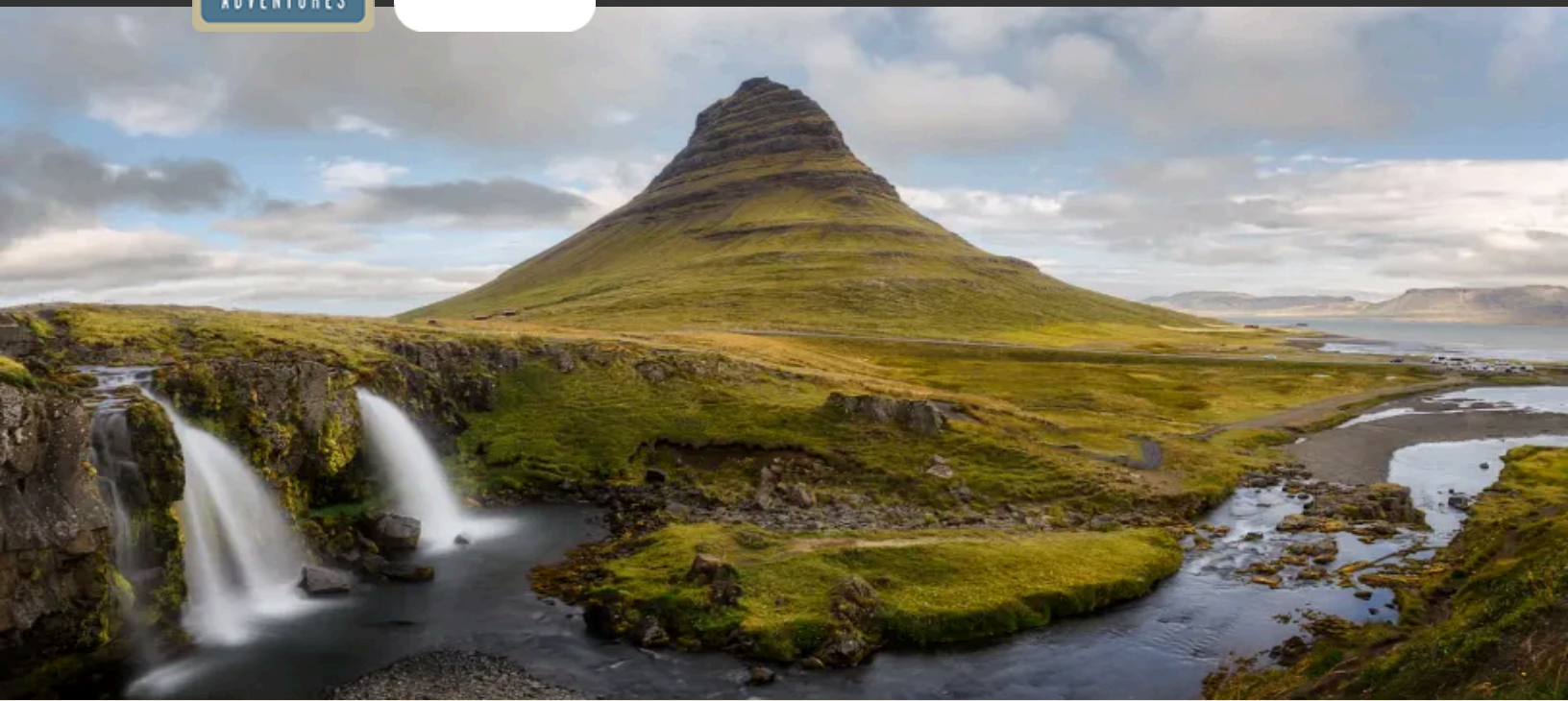




Discovering Our Planet Together



Iceland's Wild West

Explore Iceland Less-Traveled in the Remote Highlands & Snaefellsnes Peninsula



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Table of Contents:

Trip Overview	3
Trip Itinerary	4
Trip Accommodations	10
What Makes Nat Hab Different?	11
Dates & Pricing Information	13



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Trip Details:

Days

8 Days / Jul–
Aug

Price

From
\$12795

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Deep canyons draped in lime-green moss. Mighty waterfalls that plummet over basalt cliffs. Ancient volcanoes capped with glaciers, and hot springs simmering with steam. Ice fields spawning meltwater rivers. Puffins nesting in cliffside colonies above the frigid ocean where whales and seals swim. Few places on Earth can match Iceland for its vast array of natural wonders in such a compact country. And no itinerary we know of reveals so much in this compact time frame. On a rare naturalist-guided adventure into the rugged highlands and around the Snaefellsnes Peninsula—often called “Iceland in miniature”—experience an impressive sampler of all the features that make Iceland so captivating. And since we get you well away from the most crowded routes, you’ll have a more magical encounter with the fabled land of fire and ice.

Trip Highlights

Elude crowds on a compact journey to the west of Iceland, including an overland foray deep into the rugged highlands—a rare inclusion on most Iceland itineraries

Explore the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, a microcosm of Iceland with dramatic waterfalls, a glacier-covered volcano, pristine beaches, seals, whales and puffins

From hiking and horseback riding to glacier snowcat and lava cave adventures and a private puffin cruise, enjoy exhilarating encounters with Iceland's wild landscapes



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Keflavik, Iceland / Reykjavik

Day 2

Snaefellsnes Peninsula—Seal Colony / Bjarnarfoss / Horseback Riding

Day 3

Private Glacier Volcano Snowcat Tour / Svodufoss

Day 4

Kirkjufell Mountain / Private Puffin Cruise / Stykkisholmur

Day 5

Husafell—Waterfalls / Private Lava Cave Tour / Private Canyon Baths

Day 6

Kaldidalur Valley / Thingvellir National Park / Highland Base at Kerlingjarfjoll

Day 7

Hiking in the Highlands / Hot Springs Soak

Iceland's Wild West Itinerary

Explore Iceland Less-Traveled in the Remote Highlands & Snaefellsnes Peninsula

Day 1: Keflavik, Iceland / Reykjavik

Arrive at Keflavik International Airport where you are met on arrival and transferred to our hotel in Reykjavik, about a 45-minute drive. If you arrive early, you may store your bags at our conveniently located hotel while you explore this compact, walkable city on your own. This evening, join our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, with an orientation to all the adventures that lie ahead in this geological wonderland.





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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Keflavik / Depart

Day 2: Snaefellsnes Peninsula—Seal Colony / Bjarnarfoss / Horseback Riding

Leaving Reykjavik this morning, we drive northwest to reach the Snaefellsnes Peninsula. Often called “Iceland in miniature” due to the diversity of natural features found here, this prominent outthrust on Iceland's west coast holds glaciers, mountains, stratovolcanoes, lava fields, waterfalls, wild beaches and marine wildlife. We spend three nights based in the remote coastal hamlet of Budir, giving us ample time to explore the wealth of wild sights.

Ytri Tunga Beach is one of the best places in Iceland to see harbor seals, often hauled out on rocks just offshore. Once extensively hunted for their meat, fat for oil, and waterproof pelts, today they are appreciated by most Icelanders for their place in nature. Next, we make a short hike to see Bjarnarfoss, one of Iceland's most striking waterfalls. At 262 feet high, it falls in a two-tiered plume, plunging off a vertical wall of basalt columns cloaked in bright green vegetation. Tucked into a valley and backdropped by tall mountains, it makes for a photogenic scene, with white spray contrasting against the dark basalt cliff.

This afternoon, we walk between two traditional fishing villages, from Arnastapi to Hellnar, stopping for lunch along the way. The trail along the shoreline passes lava cliffs and columnar basalt formations on one side, with mountains and Snaefellsjokull Glacier on the other. Then, take a gentle horseback ride on the golden sands of Hraunlandarif Beach. This private experience is a special opportunity to get to know the famous Icelandic horse breed—unique to this island nation and fiercely protected: no horses from outside are permitted into Iceland, to keep the strain pure.



Day 3: Private Glacier Volcano Snowcat Tour / Svodufoss

Rising nearly 5,000 feet above the sea, the 700,000-year-old stratovolcano of Snaefellsjokull is an imposing sight. Identified by its conical shape, a stratovolcano is formed when layers of lava and ash from successive eruptions build up around the vent, creating steep, sloping sides. Snaefellsjokull is also known as a glacier volcano, totally covered in ice, including its 650-foot-deep summit crater. Its last eruption was in the 3rd century. We get right onto its frozen flanks on a thrilling glacier snowcat tour, first climbing from the coast on a scenic drive over a mountain pass with dramatic views of the ice-cloaked volcano before us. Once we reach the base, we transfer to a snowcat vehicle that takes us to the top. On a clear day the views are stupendous, and we may be able to see all the way to the Westfjords. Snaefellsjokull is Iceland's most famous volcano, and many believe it to be one of the world's main centers of mystical energy—it holds the title role in Jules Verne's 1864 novel *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, who posited that subterranean tubes inside the volcano led deep inside the planet.

Next, we head to Svodufoss, one of Iceland's most photogenic yet less-visited waterfalls. The broad, powerful cascade sits in front of Snaefellsjokull Glacier, and on clear days, we can see it and the ice cap together, making for striking photos. Although it's just 32 feet high, Svodufoss's clean drop over a columnar basalt cliff into the Laxa River below is a magnificent sight.



Day 4: Kirkjufell Mountain / Private Puffin Cruise / Stykkisholmur

Kirkjufell, or “Church Mountain,” is the most photographed geographic profile in Iceland, and we get here early in the morning from our nearby location, before most other visitors arrive. Standing alone and visible for great distances, Kirkjufell’s symmetrical sides rise to a rounded cone top. Though it is just 1,519 feet high, its isolation makes it appear taller, since it is the most prominent landmark for miles around. A lake at the base offers a perfect mirror image of the peak on a clear, calm day. The classic image of Kirkjufell includes multi-plumed Kirkjufellsfoss, the series of waterfalls pouring off a basalt cliff in the foreground.

Next, board a traditional Icelandic fishing boat for a private cruise to a puffin colony on Ellidaey Island. Puffins abound here, with some 2,000 mating pairs present during the peak of their migratory season, and we are able to get very close to their nesting cliffs. The charming Atlantic puffin, with its clown-like visage, is Iceland’s most famous bird, and the country is home to more than 60% of the world’s population, with 8-10 million in total. Yet seabirds of all kinds abound here, and we are also likely to see kittiwakes, cormorants, Arctic terns and white-tailed eagles. A family of lighthouse keepers lived on the island from 1922-1950, and their house, barn and the lighthouse remain. As we circumnavigate the island, view the striking basalt columns from many angles, then cruise to a spot where we often spot seals. On our return journey, keep an eye out for whales and dolphins in Breidafjörður Bay.

Ashore once more, take a walk through the fishing village of Stykkisholmur on the far northern point of the Snaefellsnes Peninsula. The picturesque town was originally a trading post in the 16th century, but its history goes back farther as one of Iceland’s earliest settlements, mentioned in the Sagas, one of the great early works of Icelandic literature.



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Day 5: Husafell—Waterfalls / Private Lava Cave Tour / Private Canyon Baths

Travel today to Husafell, an isolated community on the edge of Iceland's vast, uninhabited interior. Set in the valley carved by Langjokull, Iceland's second-largest glacier, Husafell is one of Iceland's hidden secrets—an ancient Viking settlement that today is a place to encounter fire and ice away from crowds. Nearby are two of Iceland's many stupendous waterfalls. Hraunfossar, which means "lava waterfalls," is actually a wide cataract—a collection of countless creeks and cascades streaming over a lava platform. Just above is Barnafoss, a torrent of foaming white turbulence blasting beneath a lava arch. A highlight today is Vidgelmir, Iceland's largest lava cave. On a private tour deep into its subterranean tunnels and caverns, witness firsthand the powerful geological forces that have sculpted this land. Volcanic eruptions have shaped not only the physical environment but also the culture of Iceland, and we hear myths and stories, along with science, as we explore this otherworldly terrain beneath the Earth's surface.

This afternoon, arrive at our hotel in Husafell, then meet for another experience that captures the essence of Iceland: a private tour and soak in the Canyon Baths. To reach the baths, we hike with a local guide over the black lava landscape, past the two-tiered waterfall of Langifoss. The geothermal pools enjoy a grand view of the surrounding canyon, mountains and glaciers. Constructed from locally sourced, natural materials like flagstone from the canyon floor, the baths are hot-spring fed pools designed to blend into the environment using the age-old methods that created Snorralaug, a heritage-site pool dating back to the 10th century. The bathhouse is made from salvaged timbers from the area, and even the hooks in the changing room are repurposed horseshoes from a nearby family farm. Following this relaxing escape, return to our stylish hotel and anticipate an outstanding dinner featuring local, seasonal Nordic fare.



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Day 6: Kaldidalur Valley / Thingvellir National Park / Highland Base at Kerlingjarfjoll

Today we head deep into Iceland's vast and wild interior, making our way into the Central Highlands. Our route first takes us through the Kaldidalur Valley via a remote road over Iceland's second-highest pass, cresting to an elevation of 2,385 feet. Our 4x4 van has no trouble negotiating the rugged gravel roads, which are off-limits to less capable vehicles. The drive is spectacular, with views of multiple glaciers, including Langjokull—the "long glacier"—which covers 360 square miles. We'll also see the shield volcano of Skjaldbreiður, formed around 9,000 years ago in an eruption that also created the basin of Thingvellir.

En route we stop at Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for an on-the-ground perspective on Iceland's geological and political origins. Here on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the very epicenter of where the Icelandic landscape is forming, we can actually see fissures where the earth's crust is separating. Thingvellir is also where Iceland was founded politically, when Norse settlers formed the world's first parliament in 930 AD. On this site, 30 ruling chiefs met to discuss law and order on the island and to create a government. The Althing, an open-air assembly representing the whole of Iceland, is the oldest surviving parliament in the world, though today it meets in Reykjavik. This afternoon we reach Highland Base at Kerlingjarfjoll, a remote luxury outpost that is our jumping-off point for exploring the mountain wilderness around us. Take an introductory guided walk this afternoon, surveying the rugged peaks that rise in every direction.

Day 7: Hiking in the Highlands / Hot Springs Soak

From our isolated base deep in the highlands, we have easy access to the rugged terrain around us, and there's no more intimate way to explore it than on foot. Today is devoted to hiking amid these fantastical peaks, which rise in an array of shapes, forms and colors, the rock palette tinted by rhyolite and obsidian. Green alpine moss and lichen add occasional bright accents among the jagged ridges, volcanic summits, geothermal areas, and deep valleys. At times, the stark setting is evocative of a moonscape. After a day of exploration, do as the locals do: retreat to a steaming hot spring for a rejuvenating soak in the mineral-laden waters. Then gather for a farewell dinner, reflecting on the full gamut of adventures we've enjoyed over the past week.

Day 8: Keflavik / Depart

After breakfast, return to Keflavik International Airport on a scenic half-day drive. We recommend not booking departing flights until the afternoon. For guests who wish to extend their time in Iceland on their own, we can take you on to Reykjavik after we've dropped off at Keflavik first.



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Accommodation Details:

Hotel Budir

Hotel Husafell

Highland Base Hotel

Hotel Reykjavik Saga

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/europe/iceland-highlands-snaefellsnes-tour/accommodations

Iceland's Wild West Accommodations

Explore Iceland Less-Traveled in the Remote Highlands & Snaefellsnes Peninsula



Hotel Budir

Modern farmhouse meets cabin chic at this remote hotel offering stunning views of the Snaefellsjokull Glacier, with minimalist yet cozy decor, and a renowned restaurant.



Hotel Husafell

A modern, minimalist hotel immersed in nature and powered entirely by renewable energy, with spacious rooms and heated outdoor pools and hot tubs.



Highland Base Hotel

An off-grid retreat in Iceland's central highlands offering sleek design, geothermal baths, sustainable practices, and seamless access to the dramatic landscapes of Kerlingarfjoll.



Hotel Reykjavik Saga

This elegant new 4-star hotel in the heart of Reykjavik features sleek contemporary design elements and is just steps from all the city center attractions.



The Essence of Iceland in Just Eight Days

If you're looking for an Iceland immersion that's tight on time but full of the diverse natural wonders the country is famous for, this is your trip. Here's what makes it ideal for that quest:

1 Explore Two Less-Traveled Areas in Depth

The west of Iceland sees far fewer visitors than other popular regions. Yet it's just as impressive and easily reachable. Just two hours' drive from Reykjavik lies the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, nicknamed "Iceland in Miniature" for the diversity of features it contains within a compact area. Witness powerful waterfalls, ride Icelandic horses on a wild beach, and climb to the top of a glacier-capped volcano in a special snow vehicle...then head inland to the very lightly visited Central Highlands to hike in austere multicolored mountains—so many contrasts!

2 See Icelandic Wildlife on an Itinerary Where It's Highlighted

Visit one of Iceland's largest harbor seal colonies, take a private boat trip to watch hundreds of nesting Atlantic puffins, cruise the sea in search of whales and dolphins, and look for Arctic foxes.

3 Go Farther Afield by High-End 4x4 Van

We've chartered the best possible vehicles for this itinerary: comfortable, spacious, well-appointed 4x4 vans that allow us to drive remote secondary roads deep into the Highlands, giving you a genuine encounter with Iceland's wilderness. And we never fill our vehicles to capacity: everyone gets a window seat.

4 Soak in Geothermal Hot Springs on a Private Canyon Baths Tour

Make an easy hike from a remote lodge to two secluded steaming pools in a stunning wild setting, and enjoy the rejuvenation of the mineral-laden waters just as the locals do.

5 Travel with a Small Group for an Intimate Experience

Conventional Iceland tours utilize large buses for groups of 30-40 or more, but we limit our group to just 11 guests, ensuring a quieter experience, plus the ability to get into remote places big motorcoaches can't, and allowing us to choose smaller hotels in more far-flung locations.

6 Two Guides Offer a Richer Interpretive Experience

Our trip is led by a Nat Hab Expedition Leader, plus a local Iceland guide who adds essential insider perspective. This arrangement also allows us to divide up on occasion into two smaller groups for excursions at different physical ability levels. And it means you'll get the utmost in personalized attention!



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7 Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Iceland Adventure

When you travel with Natural Habitat, you receive our exclusive guarantee, clearly stating that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. Read our important promise.

8 Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

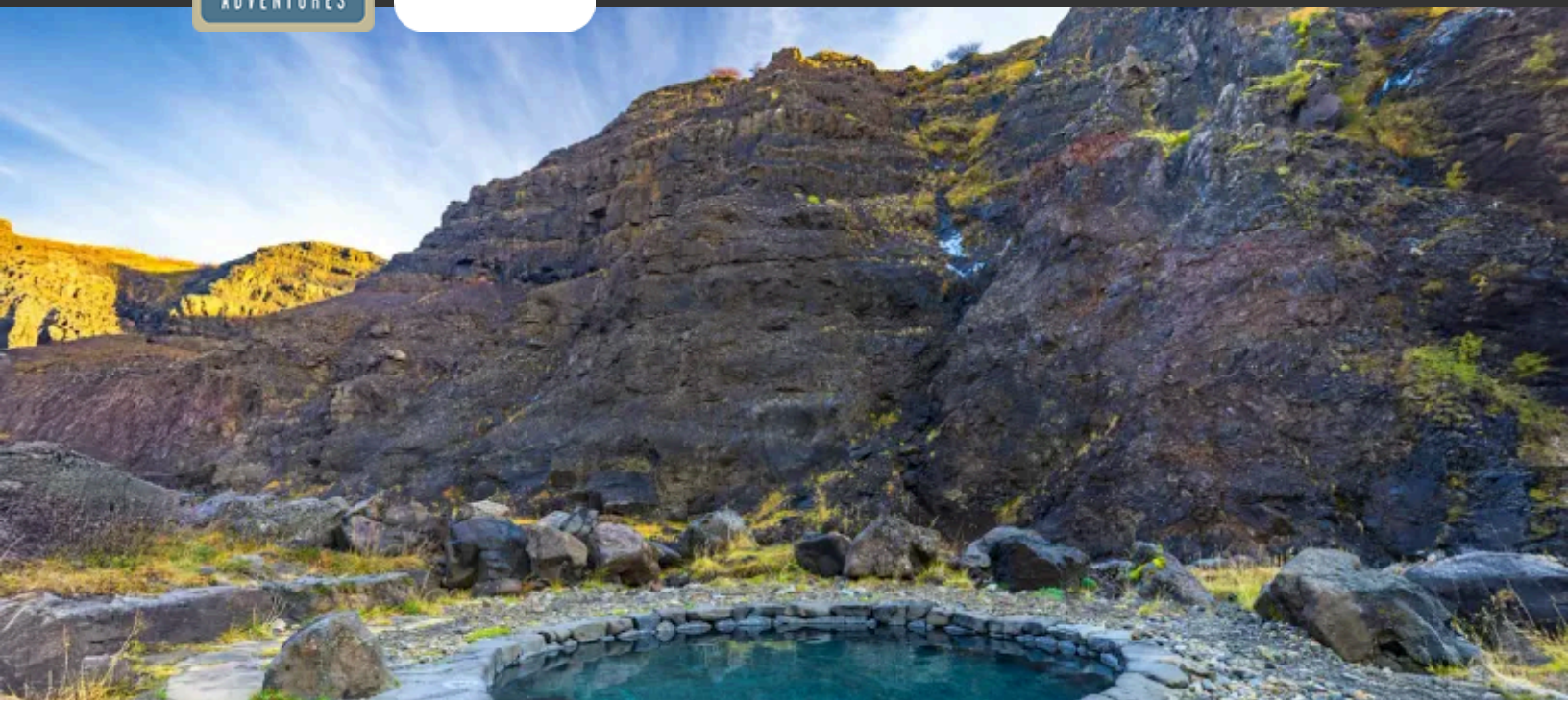
We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

9 Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our worldwide adventures, we have been chosen by World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$12795

Group Size:
Limited to 12 Travelers

Iceland's Wild West Dates, Pricing & Info

Explore Iceland Less-Traveled in the Remote Highlands & Snaefellsnes Peninsula

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jul 9, 2026	Jul 16, 2026	\$12795 USD Habitat Club Pricing Available
Jul 16, 2026	Jul 23, 2026	\$12795 USD Pair with our Iceland trip, our Greenland trip, our Iceland & Greenland trip, or our Iceland Photo trip
Jul 30, 2026	Aug 6, 2026	\$12795 USD Pair with our Iceland trip, our Greenland trip, or our Iceland & Greenland trip
Aug 5, 2026	Aug 12, 2026	\$12795 USD Eclipse Departure Pair with our Iceland trip, our Greenland trip, or our Iceland Photo trip



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$12795

Group Size:
Limited to 12
Travelers

Departure	Return	Notes
Aug 14, 2026	Aug 21, 2026	\$12795 USD Eclipse Departure Pair with our Iceland trip, our Greenland trip, or our Greenland Photo trip
Aug 19, 2026	Aug 26, 2026	\$12795 USD Pair with our Iceland trip, our Greenland trip, or our Greenland Photo trip

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jul 9, 2027	Jul 16, 2027	\$12795** USD
Jul 15, 2027	Jul 22, 2027	\$12795** USD
Jul 18, 2027	Jul 25, 2027	\$12795** USD
Jul 24, 2027	Jul 31, 2027	\$12795** USD
Jul 28, 2027	Aug 4, 2027	\$12795** USD
Aug 2, 2027	Aug 9, 2027	\$12795** USD



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Pricing

See <https://nathab.com/europe/iceland-highlands-snaefellsnes-tour/dates-fees> for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guide, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers for those arriving by air on Day 1 and departing by air on the final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

Please arrive in Reykjavik no later than 3:30 pm to be ready for a welcome dinner and briefing beginning at 5:30 pm. For those arriving by air, upon arrival at the Keflavik International Airport you will be met by our representative and transferred approximately one hour to the hotel. We recommend departing from Keflavik no earlier than 2 pm on the final day. If you prefer an earlier flight, we can help you arrange a private transfer from the hotel (at an additional cost) or drop you off at your preferred hotel in the Reykjavik city center if you would like to extend your stay.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as our staff is intimately familiar with the special requirements of our program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find better fares online.



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.