Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

Adventures in ICELAND



Led by Dani Rotstein
July 9 - 17, 2025

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as of 4/25/24

Join us on a unique adventure to the Land of Fire and Ice, along a journey of discovery and awe. Iceland is chock full of ancient glaciers and explosive volcanoes, towering waterfalls and majestic mountains, all giving way to sights & sounds so immersive that no picture can do it justice – you simply must experience it for yourself!

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DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025
DEPARTURE

- We depart on our flight to Iceland. Option to overnight in **Reykjavik** (separate cost) or fly overnight and arrive the next morning.

DAY 2

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025
WELCOME TO ICELAND!

- Upon arrival, we transfer to our centrally located hotel in downtown **Reykjavik**, founded in 1785. This is the capital of Iceland and the center of its cultural, economic and governmental activity.
- After some time to rest and refresh from our flight, we begin with a **private guided walking tour** to get acclimated to our beautiful surroundings. We visit the **Parliament building**, then stop to view **Harpa**, a concert hall and conference center. We continue to **Hallgrimskirkja**, Iceland's largest church, followed by a stop at **Lake Tjörnin** and the **City Hall**.
- Our final stops include a compelling visit to the **Settlement Exhibition** and **Saga Museum**, where we learn about Vikings and Iceland's earliest settlers, and of the key moments of the country's turbulent history.
- We gather early this evening for a group **orientation**, followed by a delicious **welcome dinner**.

Overnight in Reykjavik

DAY 3

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025
SNAEFELLSNES PENINSULA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we set out for a day trip, traveling north along the Ring Road to **Snaefellsnes Peninsula**, also known as “mini Iceland.” There is so much to see and do here! Breathtaking scenery, ice caps of the volcano, lava fields, caves, waterfalls and more will greet us in Iceland’s smallest national park.
- This morning, we offer two optional experiences:
  - » Choose to enjoy the adventure of trotting through some beautiful scenery on an **Icelandic horse ride.**
  - » A scenic trek **through nature** along the foothills of **Arnarstapi** and **Hellnar** ending at a local café loved by the locals.
- We continue to the **Búdakirkja (black church)**, to see this picturesque church, blessed with a stunningly beautiful background of both black and white sand beaches, waterfalls, glaciers and all that Iceland has to offer.
- We complete our day at the snowcapped **Snaefellsjökull Glacier**, covering a volcano and rising over 4,700 feet above sea level. This glacier was made famous in the novel *“A Journey to the Center of the Earth”*.
- This evening, we enjoy a delightful **Shabbat dinner** together, followed by a musical **Kabbalat Shabbat** led by Dani Rotstein.

Overnight in Reykjavik

DAY 4

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025
SHABBAT IN REYKJAVIK

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we offer two options:
  - » Choose to get your blood flowing on a special **off-road bicycle trek** through the **Reykjadalur Valley**. Our connection with nature becomes truly enhanced as we enter the famous **hot river** with an opportunity to take a dip.
  - » Choose to spend this time experiencing the seven-step **Icelandic Sky Ritual** while relaxing in the oceanside geothermal **Sky Lagoon**.
- We set out to explore the **Perlan Museum** situated atop **Öskjuhlíð Hill** and discover the wonders of Iceland. This architecturally unique building is composed of an immense glass dome sitting on six tanks filled with geothermal hot water. Inside, we’ll discover exhibits on the forces of nature, take part in a cinematic underwater journey and explore glaciers and ice caves.
- This evening, we enjoy a special **Havdalah service** led by Dani.
- The remainder of our evening is at leisure and dinner is on own.

Overnight in Reykjavik



DAY 5

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025
THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Reykjavik for our tour of the **Golden Circle**, comprised of three stunning locations.
- First, we visit **Thingvellir National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage site (the only one on mainland Iceland). Here, we will find sheer beauty in the dried magma fields, glacial springs and mountain peaks alongside the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. We will hear about the formation of the Icelandic nation and how it became independent.
- We stop at **Laugarvatn** to **bake bread** in the local geothermal sand. This town is also known for using its geothermal location to melt the ice and snow on the roads and sidewalks during the harsh Icelandic winters. Here, we will enjoy an included **lunch**.
- From here we continue to explore the **Geysir**, a famed hot spring, now dormant, in the geothermal area of **Haukadalur Valley**.
- We continue to adjacent **Strokkur**, the most famous hot spring in the area, shooting water up to 130 feet into the air every 10 minutes! Photo opportunities abound here.
- We proceed to **Gullfoss (Golden Falls)**, one of the country's most iconic waterfalls in the Hvita River canyon. There are two cascades approximately 36 and 69 feet dropping into the canyon and thought to have been formed by glacial outbursts.
- We stop atop **Kerid Crater**, a beautiful dormant volcanic crater that has filled with rainwater and created a picturesque scene.
- Next, we visit the **Reynisfjara Black Sand Beach**. The contrast between the white rapids and the black sand makes it a sight to behold.
- We continue to the village of **Vik**, located on the southern tip of Iceland. Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and enjoy **dinner** together.

Overnight in Vik

DAY 6

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025
VATNAJÖKULL AND BEYOND

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we explore **Vatnajökull Glacier and National Park**. Vatnajökull is the largest glacier in Europe averaging about 1,640 feet in thickness. If you have never visited a glacier before, it is often described as an experience beyond words.
- Our adventure continues at the **Jökulsárlon Lagoon**, where we depart on an exciting **Zodiac boat tour**, getting up close and personal with the glacier and icebergs.
- We complete today's journey at **Diamond Beach**, a strip of black sand where pieces of the icebergs from the Jökulsárlon Lagoon wash ashore. Nature lovers and photographers alike frequent this site, where seals often call the beach home and you're among one of the best places to see orca whales from shore.
- We return to Vik for dinner on own.

Overnight in Vik



DAY 7

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025
CHASING WATERFALLS

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we set out for **Skógafoss waterfall**, a unique waterfall coming directly from two glaciers.
- We also visit **Seljalandsfoss waterfall**, one of the most majestic and photographed features in Iceland. Here, we capture the strength of the waterfall by walking behind it and capturing the amazing views.
- Those with an adventurous side can choose to get a little wet with a visit inside the nearby **Gljufrabui waterfall,** hidden behind a concave cliff and climbable for those who wish to get some breathtaking photos.
- Iceland's hidden world rounds out our day as we visit the **Caves of Hella**. Akin to the Western Wall tunnels, access to the modern world of these ancient man-made caves is a recent discovery. Here, we will connect the spirit of Judaism with Icelandic rituals and tastes.
- Upon our return to **Reykjavik**, we take some time to learn about the **local Jewish community** and how the natural beauty of Iceland's ecology and climate is enlightened by Judaism.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Reykjavik

DAY 8

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025
REYKJANES PENINSULA
& FAREWELL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we take a guided stroll on a **Graffiti and Street Art Tour** through one of Reykjavík's thriving neighborhoods, where the prevalence of creativity and expression is on vivid display.
- Next, we head to the **Reykjavik Port**, an old harbor outside the city center with a fishing village vibe, where cruise ships and fishing boats dock.
- Our time in Iceland wouldn't be complete without experiencing the wonders of the **Blue Lagoon**, a geothermal spa located in a lava field. The shade of blue comes from the high silica content, which forms white mud on the bottom of the lake that we use as a mud mask.
- After time to freshen up, we come together for an incredible and delicious **farewell lunch** at **Lava Restaurant** built into a lava wall on the banks of the Blue Lagoon.
- Following lunch , we transfer to the airport for our international flight home.

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Itinerary subject to change

About tour leader Dani Rotstein:

A content producer, entrepreneur, and storyteller, New Jersey native Dani Rotstein spent years traveling the world. When he moved to the Spanish island of Mallorca in 2014 to produce TV commercials, he didn't expect there to be much Jewish life there. His surprising discoveries led to his work on the documentary film Xueta Island: A Hidden History, for which he is not only a director, but also a subject. He became involved with the local Jewish community, founding Limud Mallorca as well as Jewish Majorca, a company that offers educational tours of Jewish heritage sites around the island.