

ANZA-BORREGO DESERT NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS
A GUIDED TOUR OF



ICELAND



SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 4, 2025



Join Anza-Borrogo Desert Natural History Association and geologist Don Barrie on a grand tour of Iceland's natural wonders: waterfalls, glaciers, icebergs, volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, lakes, canyons, beaches, fall colors, and (hopefully) the northern lights. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to ABDNHA. Register at www.geotours.us/tour/abdnha-iceland-2025

LAND COST = \$3690 - includes lodging in a double/twin room, private tour bus, many entries and activities, Professor Don Barrie as group leader, GeoTours guide Matt Ebner, breakfasts, high-quality digital photos of the entire tour. ABDNHA members receive a \$100 discount. Become an ABDNHA member (\$35) at www.abdnha.org, or call ABDNHA at (760) 767-3052.

AIRFARE is additional, and costs approximately \$1000 round-trip from Los Angeles or San Diego to Reykjavik.

INCLUDED ENTRIES/ACTIVITIES

- Reykjavik – Hallgrímskirkja Church Tower
- Strokkur Geyser
- Gullfoss Waterfalls
- Þingvellir – Rift zone between tectonic plates
- Lava Centre – Museum of Iceland's geology
- Seljalandsfoss & Skogafoss Waterfall
- Skogar Folk Museum
- Reynisfjara - Black sand beach & volcanic cliffs
- Múlagljúfur Canyon
- Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon
- Vatnajökull National Park - Skaftafell section
- Svinafell Glacier
- Jokulsarlon - Iceberg lagoons
- Studlagil Canyon
- Dettifoss Waterfall
- Viti Crater Lake
- Hverir - Bubbling mud pits and fumaroles
- Vok Geothermal Baths
- Godafoss Waterfall



ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

- GeoTours guide and tour coordinator Matt Ebner
 - mattebner@geotours.us; 310-686-8171
- ABDNHA board member and geologist Don Barrie
 - dbarriegeo@gmail.com; 619-208-6507



TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:
GEOTOURS LLC
WWW.GEOTOURS.US
INFO@GEOTOURS.US



ABDNHA ICELAND TOUR – SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 4, 2025

Tue 9/23/25 Depart USA

Depart from USA to Reykjavik, Iceland

Wed 9/24/25 Arrive Reykjavik, Iceland

Arrive Reykjavik, capital city of Iceland. Take a short walking tour of Reykjavik and visit Hallgrimskirkja church tower, with great views over Reykjavik. One night in Reykjavik at CenterHotel Klopp, centrally located within walking distance of many restaurants and shops.

Thu 9/25/25 Golden Circle

See some of Iceland's top highlights: Pingvellir National Park where the North American plate is pulling apart from the Eurasian plate, Strokkur Geyser exploding every few minutes, and Gullfoss waterfalls. One night at Hotel South Coast in the town of Selfoss.

Fri 9/26/25 South Coast to Skogar

Visit the Lava Center with high-tech exhibits of Iceland's geology. See 2 magnificent waterfalls: Seljalandsfoss (can walk behind) & thundering Skogafoss. See traditional turf-roof houses at Skogar Folk Museum. One night at Hotel Skogafoss, next to one of Iceland's most beautiful waterfalls.

Sat 9/27/25 Skogar –Vatnajokull National Park

Stroll along a black sand beach at Reynisfjara, backed by volcanic cliffs. Short hike at colorful Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon, carved into the volcanic landscape. Optional walk to Svinafell glacier. Two nights at Hotel Skaftafell. Excellent location for the Northern Lights if the weather is clear.

Sun 9/28/25 Vatnajokull National Park

Great hiking opportunities (up to 5 miles) in Vatnajokull National Park to see glaciers and waterfalls. In the afternoon marvel at Fjallsarlón, a lagoon with icebergs in front of a massive glacier.

Mon 9/29/25 Glacier Lagoons to Vestrahorn

Morning hike to Múlagljúfur, a deep, lush canyon with tall waterfalls. Visit Jokulsarlón lagoon, with icebergs in a lagoon. Stroll along Diamond Beach, with blocks of ice on the beach. See Vestrahorn, one of the most photographed mountains in Iceland. One night in the southeast of Iceland.

Tue 9/30/25 Vestrahorn to Egilsstadir

Scenic drive in the East Fjords region of Iceland. Hike into Stuðlagil Canyon (5 miles round-trip) to see spectacular basalt columns forming a deep gorge. Afternoon soak at Vok thermal baths, on the edge of a cold lake. One night at Hotel Eyvindara in Egilsstadir.

Wed 10/1/25 Egilsstadir to Husavik

Beautiful drive through a volcanic landscape, possibly covered by snow this time of year. Hike to impressive Dettifoss, Europe's largest waterfall. Continue to the beautiful fishing town of Husavik. Stay one night at Fosshotel Husavik.

Thu 10/2/25 Husavik to Akureyri

See the geological wonders around Lake Myvatn: Viti crater with a beautiful lake, Hverir geothermal area with bubbling mud pits and fumaroles, Grjotajia cave with an aquamarine pool inside, and beautiful Godafoss waterfall. One night at Hotel Kea in Akureyri, Iceland's 2nd largest city.

Fri 10/3/25 Akureyri to Reykjavik

Visit Akureyri's Botanical Gardens with beautiful landscaping. Return to Reykjavik with time for shopping. One final night in Iceland at CenterHotel Arnarhvollin Reykjavik.

Sat 10/4/25 Depart Iceland



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GENERAL INFORMATION – ABDNHA ICELAND TOUR 2025

Tour Dates

- Depart USA, Tuesday, September 23, 2025; arrive Reykjavik in the morning, Wednesday, September 24, 2025.
- Depart Reykjavik, Saturday, October 4, 2025, arriving in the USA in the evening, Saturday, October 4, 2025.

Land Cost

- \$3690, including lodging in a twin/double room, ground transport, many entries/activities, English-speaking guide, breakfasts.
- \$50 early registration discount if registering and submitting payment by November 20, 2024.
- A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association.
- Iceland is an expensive country. This trip has all breakfasts included. Restaurant meals are expensive (\$15-50 for dinners)
- Lunches (additional cost) will usually be simple (soup, sandwiches) at snack bars, small cafeterias, or markets.

Airfare

- Additional cost (about \$1000) for round-trip to Reykjavik from the USA. GeoTours will provide flight recommendations.

Registration Procedure

- Open to all ages; it is not necessary to be a member of Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association, but registration through November 20, 2024 is only open to ABDNHA members and their roommates.
- Registration opens 9:00 AM (Pacific time) on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024.
 - The registration link can be found at: WWW.GEOTOURS.US/TOUR/ABDNHA-ICELAND-2025.
- After completing online registration submit a \$500 deposit to GeoTours LLC within 7 days (payment info in the next section).
- If there are any problems registering online then you should contact GeoTours at 310-686-8171 or info@geotours.us.

Payment Schedule

- Payments can be sent by check to GeoTours LLC, 1547 E. Puente St., Covina CA 91724, or online through Venmo or Zelle to payment@geotours.us or 310-686-8171 (GeoTours phone #).
- 1st payment of \$500 is due within 7 days of registration.
- 2nd payment of \$700 is due on January 31, 2025.
- 3rd payment of \$1000 is due on April 30, 2025.
- Final payment is due June 30, 2025. Payments made after July 15, 2025 will have a \$100 late fee.

Cancellations

To cancel your participation, you need to inform GeoTours in writing or by email. Cancellation date is the date when GeoTours receives your written notice. *Cancellation penalty is the amount shown below PLUS any non-recoverable expenses already paid on behalf of the passenger, such as nonrefundable tickets or hotel rooms.

| <u>Date of Cancellation</u> | <u>Cancellation Penalty</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| On or before November 30, 2024 | \$100* |
| December 1 – 31, 2024 | \$200* |
| January 1 – February 29, 2025 | \$300* |
| March 1 – April 30, 2025 | \$500* |
| May 1 – June 30, 2025 | \$600* |
| After July 1, 2025 | No Refund |



Leader/Guide & Group Size

- ABDNHA board member and geologist Don Barrie will lead the group.
- GeoTours guide (Matt Ebiner) will accompany, direct, and guide the tour.
- Group size will be around 15-24 people, plus Don Barrie, Matt Ebiner, and an Icelandic driver.

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Accommodation

- Price is based on double occupancy (sharing a room); if you don't have a preferred roommate, we will try to match you with a roommate of the same sex but this is not guaranteed. Single rooms are limited. A single room costs +\$900.
- Lodging is at hotels in rooms with an attached, private bathroom. Rooms in Iceland are sometimes small and simple but always clean and usually in a beautiful location. Some hotels do not have elevators nor do they have porterage service.

Transportation and Pace/Physical Effort

- Private tour bus (38 seats) with English-speaking driver.
- This trip has a moderate pace and participants should be able to walk up to 5 miles on the longest day.
- The average bus travel time is 3-4 hours per day, but a couple of days have 5-7 hours on the bus.
- The weather is cool in September (average high usually around 40-45°F) and rain is likely 3 or 4 days per week.

Safety & Travel Insurance

- Iceland is a safe, peaceful country with almost zero crime, but international travel always has inherent risks for injury, sickness, or loss. Trip participants must agree to the Terms and Conditions below.
- Travel insurance is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**. Compare different travel insurance policies at squaremouth.com.
 - Trip participants should get Travel Insurance with Trip Cancellation (including Covid-19 cancellation coverage), Trip Interruption, Medical Evacuation, Medical (for Covid or anything else), and Lost/Stolen Baggage.
 - Cancellation coverage means that travel insurance will reimburse nonrefundable trip costs if you cancel for a covered reason, like getting COVID before or during the trip. Cancellation coverage only works if you purchase the insurance BEFORE a sickness or injury forces you to cancel, and an insurance claim requires a physician's written advice that you should cancel your trip due to your illness or injury.
 - **Trawick Safe Travels Explorer** (found on www.squaremouth.com/) costs \$260 for a 65-year old, \$4700 trip cost (GeoTours price + airfare), destination Iceland, September 23 – October 4, 2025. The cost depends on age, costing more for older travelers.

HEALTH & COVID POLICY

- Iceland does not have any Covid vaccination or testing requirements.
- ABDNHA and GeoTours recommend that trip participants are fully Covid-vaccinated with a recent booster shot/vaccine.
- Group travel in an airplane & tour bus carries the risk of contagious transmission of viruses: common cold, RSV, or Covid.
 - Trip members who become ill should mask themselves on the bus and other enclosed spaces, to prevent infecting others.
 - It is recommended that travelers carry well-fitting N-95 or KN-95 masks in their luggage along with Covid test kits.
- Trip participants who test positive for Covid during the tour will not be required to leave the group. They will decide their best course of action, in consultation with the trip leaders. Such actions might include leaving the group or continuing the trip with caution and responsibility: wearing masks, social distancing, and skipping group meals/activities.
- It is recommended that the group mask up if anyone in the group tests positive for Covid or has respiratory illness symptoms.
- If travelers test positive for Covid shortly before the trip, they should consider skipping the trip and seek reimbursement through their travel insurance. An insurance claim requires a physician's written advice that you should cancel your trip due to your illness.
- While traveling to Iceland and during the trip, travelers should consider wearing a mask in crowded or poorly ventilated indoor areas, on public transportation (e.g., on the airplane) and in transportation hubs (e.g., airports).
- Neither ABDNHA nor GeoTours will reimburse trip participants for Covid-related costs, and there will be no refund to participants who miss any activity or portion of the trip due to Covid or any other reason.
- Participants should seek reimbursement from their travel insurance for any Covid-related costs, trip cancellation, or trip interruption.

Terms and Conditions

The program participant agrees that GeoTours LLC and Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (ABDNHA) assume no liability whatsoever for loss of property, injury, accident, illness, death, irregularity, and delays during the duration of the tour. In addition, the program participant agrees to hold GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA harmless for damage, delay, or cancellation due to equipment problems, quarantine, pandemic, declared or undeclared war and insurrection, terrorist and criminal activity, revolt, civil disturbance, hostility, military action, strikes, labor unrest, any "act of God" or nature and for any act of any third party. The participant, by registering for this tour, agrees that GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA are not responsible for delay, rerouting, omission, and additional expense resulting from the passenger's improper travel documents such as passport, visa, and health document. Any losses and expenses related to such circumstances are within the responsibility of the program participants and not of GeoTours LLC or ABDNHA. GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA are not responsible for acts of any government authority. GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA reserve the right to adjust itinerary and contents and to substitute accommodation providers as deemed necessary. GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a program participant as well as to refuse to retain any participant's membership in the program. Participants that do not participate in an activity or entry, or who leave the tour early or arrive late, will not be entitled to any refund. By registering for this tour, the participant agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Travel arrangements by GeoTours LLC, CST # 2099683-40
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Website: www.geotours.us