

Iceland 2026



Iceland 2026

- ▶ Tuesday 7th April 2026 (early morning) - Sunday 12th April 2026 (very early hours)

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- ▶ There are a number of important things that you need to be aware of before going on the trip.
- ▶ All of this information is going to be available via the school group directories (G drive) in the Geography folder (then Iceland 2026).



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- ▶ Before we begin, please bear in mind that none of us are Iceland experts so there will be things that are a bit new for all of us!!
- ▶ I will answer any questions as well as I possibly can, though I may need to refer some questions to our travel company and get back to you.
- ▶ It is 3 years since we have run a trip to Iceland and 8 years since I last went so some of the figures may be a little out of date. I have tried to update things as much as possible.

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- ▶ Some of the things we'll see/do include:
- ▶ The Golden Circle tour including Geysir, Gullfoss, Thingvellir & the Blue Lagoon.
- ▶ The South Shore tour which includes Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss Waterfalls and if road conditions allow a trip to the tongue of the Sólheimajökull Glacier and an organised glacier walk.
- ▶ Reykjanes peninsula.

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- ▶ The most important thing is to be aware of what you are responsible for in terms of equipment.
- ▶ I've attached a kit list (see later slide).
- ▶ You **MUST** make sure that you have your own passport.
- ▶ If you are travelling on a non UK passport please make sure that you have checked any entry/visa requirements. This isn't something that I can do/be responsible for. Any visa confirmation you have received from a relevant embassy please have in writing/on an email.

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- Kit suggestions

- Money, passport, European/Global Health Insurance Card (EHIC/GHIC) if you have one. Some discussion on emails regarding this and whether you need it/is it accepted. I've read some conflicting information. Better to have it and not need it. We do have travel insurance too.
- One manageable size suitcase or rucksack (students will be responsible for carrying their own baggage around).
- A carry on bag for flight hand luggage (ideally a small rucksack that can be used for day trips in Iceland).
- Camera/phone

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- Good, strong walking/outdoor shoes/boots (with suitable socks for warmth & comfort). Trainers can lack grip.
- Warm, waterproof coat. If you have a fleece or down jacket you will want a waterproof to go over the top in wet weather.
- Warm, waterproof trousers would be very useful (or waterproofs as over trousers). Jeans alone can get very wet & cold and can remain so all day. It is likely to be pretty cold whilst we are there!

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- Warm jumper/fleece top.
- Hat (very important), gloves & scarf. I have taken disposable hand warmers (these are available from outdoor shops such as Go Outdoors for about £2 each). Rechargeable handwarmers are available on ebay for approx. £10.
- Sunglasses (protect against glare from ice/snow), though try to avoid bringing expensive glasses – think about a glasses case to protect your sunglasses.
- Wash kit, swim towel.

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- Books/magazines to read.
- Playing cards (uno etc), small games, phone (please note that anything of value is brought at the students own risk).
- As a bit of an upgrade to our initial booking a packed lunch is provided on the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday in Iceland but you may want to bring pringles, dried fruit, cereal bars, biscuits etc so that you minimise what you need to buy.

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- Swimming gear for Secret Lagoon & outdoor heated pool in Reykjavik (see next slide).
- Personal medication (staff are not permitted to dispense any medication, including paracetamol).
- Please ensure that any medical notes and medication are noted on the medical form.



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- ▶ Swimming in Iceland.....
- ▶ If you do some research you'll see this is a much talked about topic.
- ▶ Basically the requirement at **ALL** Icelandic swimming pools is to shower properly (naked with soap) **BEFORE** putting your swimming gear on. Icelandic pools use water with very few chemicals in it so they are very strict on people following these rules.
- ▶ It is very 'normal' in Iceland but something that you should know about before we go. If this is likely to be an issue for you let us know - the Blue Lagoon and possibly the swimming evening are paid for as part of the trip but you don't have to go in if you don't want to. The lagoon and swimming area have shower cubicles for individual use but be aware that other people may shower naked in the communal shower areas.
- ▶ <https://www.getlocal.is/blog/the-icelandic-swimming-pool-rules>

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- Plug adapter for hair dryer, phone charger etc.
- Re-sealable drinks bottle for daily use.
- ▶ Camera/phone - Take lots of pictures!! If you are taking a camera make sure you have plenty of memory card space - equipment such as this is expensive in Iceland. Make sure you have a suitable camera case.
- ▶ I'll be on the lookout to see if there is an IT enthusiast who is willing to put together a souvenir presentation for us from our photos so if that's you let me know.

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- To minimise some of the things you need to take perhaps you would like to arrange for one person to bring one thing eg adapter and someone else to bring playing cards etc. To reduce your checked in luggage weight you might want to wear your big, heavy coat on the way to the airport and just carry it through security onto the plane.
- We cannot be responsible for any excess baggage charges.
- Please check the limitations on hand baggage size & contents eg any make up, gels, fluids etc need to be in a clear re-sealable bag eg a food bag. 100ml per container limit for gels/liquids.
- Check the Heathrow airport website [Hand baggage and liquids | Heathrow](#) - and [Baggage on Icelandair flights | Icelandair GB](#)

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- ▶ Hold baggage weight limit – 1 bag, 23KG max.
- ▶ Hand baggage – 1 piece per passenger weighing no more than 10KG. I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING ON THE ICELANDAIR WEBSITE REGARDING DIMENSIONS BUT WOULD ASSUME THE SAME SIZE REGULATIONS AS SOMEONE SUCH AS RYANAIR.



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- ▶ **The Heathrow website suggests a change in recent policy towards liquids and states:**
- ▶ Liquids in containers up to 2 litres can remain in cabin bags and be taken through security in all terminals (T2, T3, T4 and T5).
- ▶ Remember refillable metal or double walled containers must be emptied but these can be refilled once through security.

Return flight liquid rules

- ▶ However Keflavik airport has different rules regarding liquids - [Security check at Keflavik airport](#).
- ▶ Basically 100ml max container. All liquids to be removed and placed in transparent zipable plastic bag.
- ▶ Liquids include gels, creams, ointments and aerosols, whether in bottles, pressure containers, tubes or other packaging. Common items that passengers take with them and which are classified as liquids include: Soft drinks, alcohol, perfumes, moisturisers, toothpaste, lip gloss, hairspray, shampoo, soaps, suntan lotions, soft cheeses such as Camembert and other cheeses.

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- ▶ MONEY
- ▶ Bit of 'best guess' work involved in this I'm afraid.
- ▶ We've usually recommended £15-£20 per day as a guide.
- ▶ The only things students have to buy is any snacks/drinks in addition to meal time allowances. As we will be travelling around lunchtime on day 1 perhaps students might want to bring sandwiches or buy a Boots meal deal at the airport? I find this the best option. Don't bank on lots of time at the airport to have a sit down, leisurely meal or even a McDonalds!

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- ▶ Icelandair is a cashless airline so whilst snacks can be bought on board they can only be paid for by card.
 - ▶ Day 5 – time in Iceland then late afternoon travel home. Potential small UK costs **IF** the coach stops.
 - ▶ Other costs are optional eg postcards, souvenirs etc.

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- ▶ Lunch is provided to take away from the hotel. We haven't done this before so I can't vouch for its contents. Based on the food at the hotel it should be pretty decent.
 - ▶ Coffee around £3.50.

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- ▶ Money
- ▶ From past experiences I'd say that the Post Office have always been a good source for me.
- ▶ You usually need to give a couple of days notice – it's not like the Euro when you can just pick it up.
- ▶ Possibly group together to minimise fees?
- ▶ Don't leave it to the airport – rubbish rates.
- ▶ Stick your money together when you get back to sell your Krona back to the Post Office/bank. Get rid of small notes and coins. 1000 Krona = 6 pounds.

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- ▶ Students may want to bring cereal bars, dried fruit, biscuits etc. It's up to you. I take some dried fruit and boiled sweets and biscuits/cereal bars.

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- ▶ TIMINGS
- ▶ We will be departing school early on Tuesday 7th April. I would ask for a 05:30 meeting at school. The coach is schedule to depart at 06:00. Driver hours permitting getting gone a little earlier is always preferable.
- ▶ If you happen to arrive before the coach could I ask that a **large** space be left for the coach to get into – across the top of the main drive/gates. There'll be plenty of space for short term parking both sides of the road with it being so early.



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- TIMINGS
- On Saturday 11th April we have our last excursion - Fly over Iceland – a simulator flight ride, followed by time in Reykjavik.
- Our flight back is 16:10.
- Our itinerary has us down as leaving Heathrow at 21:30 and arriving back at school at 01:30 on the Sunday morning (12th April.) I suggest that people phone parents from the coach to inform them of a more accurate arrival time. Could I ask that you make suitable arrangements to collect your child from school, possibly sharing lifts where appropriate.

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- ▶ ROOMINGS
- ▶ We will finalise this with students one lunchtime as soon as possible. I'm still awaiting final roomings from the travel company.
- ▶ Rooms are multi bedded, en-suite with towels provided.
- ▶ From past experience most of the rooms given to us are twin rooms.
- ▶ I can't guarantee when we will receive the room allocations. I know room allocations are important and we will sort as soon as we can. Please keep an eye on student emails.

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- LIGHTS OUT (ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ!!!)
- We will arrange a suitable time upon arrival in Reykjavik, though we will probably expect lights out by around 10:30pm. We have very early mornings with breakfast around 7:00am -8am and a totally full day with arrival at the hotel not expected until just before our evening meal, or in fact not until after our evening meal.

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- ▶ With such hectic days everyone will need their sleep (especially staff!!) so we will insist on high standards of behaviour with no noise or movement between rooms after 'lights out' time. This will help maximise everybody's enjoyment of the trip.
- ▶ Needless to say no mixing of boys and girls in rooms.
- ▶ All students stick to your own rooms please, not congregating as larger groups than the room is designed for.
- ▶ Please be aware that we are staying in a VERY popular hotel with lots of other guests so it's not a running around, banging doors type of place!!

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- ▶ Punctuality is very important. As we've seen we will have very busy days and prompt starts in the morning so all those people out there who are not morning people (not sure which staff this applies to) need to be up and sorted ready to head off for the day!
- ▶ We will insist on seeing everyone at breakfast each morning please so no skipping breakfast.



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- CONTACTING HOME
- As you will have noticed, Iceland is an expensive country. Students are way smarter than me at looking at best ways to use their phones whilst away. Wifi should be available in the hotel.
- If you intend on using your mobile, please look into the costs associated with it before you go.

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- ▶ Current weather. The BBC website provides good, accurate, up-to-date information.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/3413829>
- ▶ Weather over the next couple of weeks is cold (2-5C and below zero overnight) with some snow but your trip is a month away so keep an eye out.
- ▶ There can also be a strong breeze and from experience of being cold in Iceland in March/April and September I can tell you this is what makes the difference. Wrap up!!! The wind chill must be understood.
- ▶ The last time I went in 2018 saw a lot of snow on the day we travelled followed by 5 days of wall to wall sunshine – definitely a need for shades to protect your eyes.
- ▶ Basically, come equipped for everything!



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Flight details



Icelandair from Heathrow to Keflavik

- ▶ Outbound flight 07/04/26 @ 13:05 (FI 451). Arrive 15:15
- ▶ Return flight 11/04/26 @ 16:10 (FI 454). Arrive 20:20
- ▶ Iceland is 1 hour behind the UK in April.

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- ▶ <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/iceland> may provide useful reading material.
- ▶ The main things you'll want to read about are the South Shore tour, the Golden Circle, the Secret Lagoon, Reykjanes peninsula and possibly the Northern Lights (though please don't get your hopes up!!!!!!!)

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- ▶ Our trip is booked through Rayburn Tours .
- ▶ We'll be staying at Hotel Cabin in Reykjavik
- ▶ Borgartun 32
- ▶ REYKJAVIK
- ▶ ICELAND
- ▶ Tel: 00354 511 6030
- ▶ In an extreme emergency contact the hotel – everyone speaks amazing English (apologies for the typically British attitude).
- ▶ We will have a school trip mobile for use in EMERGENCY. I will get this number to you closer to the time.

Hoodie link – password
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