



ICELAND GEOLOGY TOURS

Active Exploration with Enthusiastic Geologists

www.icelandgeologytours.com

Your Guides:

Dr. Tamie Jovanelly

Co-Founder and Author
*Iceland: Tectonics,
Volcanism, and
Glacial Features*

Mr. Joseph Cook

Co-Founder

“
You will
not find
a better
guided
tour
”

“Dr. Tamie Jovanelly knows the island like the back of her hand, and she is highly knowledgeable of Icelandic geology as well as geology in general. She maximized our time while we were there without making the trip feel rushed or too crammed.”

-5 Star TripAdvisor Testimonial”

When you choose Iceland Geology Tours, we will take you to all the famous “selfie spots” that you’ve seen on Facebook, but unlike your friends who visited, you will walk away with a deeper appreciation of nature through the geologically-focused lectures and daily interpretation.

Additionally, our tour offers many more active experiences than the big-box competition with visits to museums, geothermal power plants, lava caves, boat tours, glacial hikes, and geothermal spas, like the popular Blue Lagoon. Plus, as an added bonus, the charismatic company owners are a heck of a lot of fun! “Active exploration with enthusiastic geologists” is our company mantra. Consider joining our trip as a solo-traveler, couple, family, or group and let’s learn some geology!

Geologist and author, Dr. Tamie J. Jovanelly has been exploring the geological complexities of the Icelandic landscape for more than a decade. The recently published monograph, “Iceland: Tectonics, Volcanics, and Glacial Features” (Wiley, 2019) provides a detailed overview of the island’s geology, along with a background introduction that offers the reader information on foundational concepts.



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THE LAND OF FIRE & ICE

The island of Iceland is positioned halfway between Greenland and Europe and sits near the Arctic Circle whereby providing tourists with approximately 22 hours of daylight from mid-May to August. Remarkably, the island is considered geologically young as the oldest basement rocks began to solidify as the separation of tectonic plates allowed for a magma hot spot to form at 60 Mya. Today, the hot spot resides under Iceland’s largest glacier, Vatnajökull, and continues to be the heartbeat of volcanic activity on the island. In areas of the country nearest to the hot spot, the intense geothermal heat is harnessed to provide Icelander’s with a sustainable energy source. Culturally, having year-round access to ample hot water provides the country with the ability to leisurely soak in natural or man-made hot-pots, to enjoy the steam in the form of saunas, or to create community-centers based around swimming pools. This rare country, where fire and ice truly meet, provides pristine and stunning tectonic, volcanic, and glacial landscapes with such great diversity that it is awe-inspiring.

ABOUT THE TOURS

No doubt, Iceland is a country rooted in geologic wonder. As an example, this island that is about the size of Virginia currently has 32 active volcanoes, hosts the largest glacier in Europe, and is currently spreading apart at about 2 cm/year. Taking a guided tour of the country with a geologist will not only help you to capture the island’s natural beauty, but increasingly enhance it through detailed descriptions linking the relationships between structure, process, and time to the island’s evolution.

These tours are intended for people who are interested in learning about the formation of the many unique landscapes found on the island. Please note that a background in geology is not necessary to be a trip participant. Instead, prior to trip departure Dr. Jovanelly will provide you with introductory-level reading materials that will highlight relevant geological concepts (e.g. plate tectonics, rock cycle, glacial dynamics, volcanics). This background material will build your foundational knowledge in geology so that you will be prepared to engage in more advanced content as presented during the trip.

Also, please know that the content of the trip can be altered for school or university groups who are interested in learning advanced concepts.

“Ideal for the adventurer, the scientist, the photographer, and the list goes on and on. Perfect for those that like to be active but can still kick it for a day in the famous Blue Lagoon Spa. Every facet of the trip was taken care of and curated so that we could fully focus on our experience. 10 out of 10 would recommend this trip, I would do it again in a heartbeat!” -5 Star TripAdvisor Testimonial

For the cost of the trip you will receive:

- 12-night accommodation w/breakfast
 - All in-country transportation
 - Five lectures on Iceland Geology by a professional geologist
 - Geology interpretation at field-sites
 - Signed copy of “Iceland: Tectonics, Volcanics, and Glacial Features”
 - Three group dinners
 - Daily snack and lunch items provided
 - Two social receptions with beverages and hors d’oeuvres
 - Paid admission to: Blue Lagoon Geothermal Spa, 3-hour guided hike on Vatnajökull glacier (includes crampon & ice axe rental), Hellisheidi Power Plant, Fjallsarlón glacial lagoon boat tour, Lofthellir Lava cave tour, Stykkishólmur Volcano Museum
- *per double occupancy; airfare not included

SAMPLE ITINERARY

- Day 1** Arrive at Keflavik International Airport. You will have free time in Reykjavik until late afternoon when we convene for a group dinner.
- Day 2** Start the day with an exciting morning lecture that provides an introduction to the geology of Iceland. An interpretive drive to the popular Blue Lagoon geothermal spa.
- Day 3** The day will consist of a series of short hikes (1 mile or less) with stops along the Reykjanes Peninsula to include the Mid Ocean Ridge, Kleifarvatn (Reykjanes Peninsula’s largest lake), Graenvatn crater lake, Seltun geothermal area, and Hellisheidi Power Station tour.
- Day 4** Visit “The Golden Triangle” which highlights three of Iceland’s most popular destinations: Thingvillir, Geysir, and Gulfoss.
- Day 5** Morning will bring a lecture about “The Queen” volcano, Hekla, which will be the focus of the day.
- Day 6** We will begin to learn about Iceland’s glaciers through our morning talk. We will visit Skaftafell National Park before departing on a 3-hour guided glacial walk using crampons and ice axes.
- Day 7** Another visit to Skaftafell National Park looking at glacial moraines, etc. In the afternoon we will take a boat tour on Fjallsarlón Glacial Lagoon and visit Jokulsarlón Glacial lagoon.
- Day 8** This morning’s lecture will be on the geology of the Northern Volcanic Zone. We will depart for Detifoss waterfall, Raujolar craters, and other stops.
- Day 9** Leisurely morning. Stop at Myvtan craters as we drive around the lake. Short, hikes at Hverfell and Dimmubugir. We will also stop at the impressive Godafoss waterfall on the way to Akureyri.
- Day 10** FREE DAY in the charming town of Akureyri. Relax, shop, or book one of the many excursions offered in the city (e.g. whale and puffin watching, kayaking, and more).
- Day 11** Early morning departure for the Snaefellsnes Peninsula with stops at the Volcano Museum (included) in Stykkishólmur.
- Day 12** Lecture on the geology of the Snaefellsnes Peninsula. We will hike along the beautiful coastline in the national park. In the late afternoon we will tour the Vatnshellir Lava cave.
- Day 13** Morning wrap up session. Afternoon departures.