



## Mountaineering in Iceland: the Climb for Hope Expedition



Fumoraes and volcanos, glaciers and lagoons, puffins and whales: Iceland is every bit as exotic as you've heard. And now, with a collapsed banking system, this mini and remote piece of Europe really feels cast adrift. Sounds like the perfect place and time to head there for the adventure of a life-time.

We'll be exploring the Eastern Coast, climbing three peaks, including Iceland's tallest. Thrusting high above the nearby ocean, this glaciated mountain range comprises the backbone of Europe's largest national park. We've chosen three very different peaks in hopes of getting the real flavor of Icelandic mountaineering. None of the routes are "extreme" but all the team members need to have current outdoor rock climbing skills (this could be a day spent on an Introduction to Outdoor Rock Climbing course with Earth Treks). We will be reviewing glacier travel technique "on the fly."



We are working with guides from Iceland, who Chris Warner climbed side by side with in the past. Chris will be leading the trip.

We will spice up our climbing trip with plenty of site seeing and a night in the city of Reykjavik (and a soak in the world famous Blue Lagoon). Iceland is known for its natural beauty and our plan involves total immersion into the "climbing bum-back packer" lifestyle. We'll be car camping for all but the last night. June is a good time to climb in Iceland, but be prepared for cold wet weather. While the trip isn't extreme, it is definitely demanding.

### Logistical Details:

Included in the price:

Earth Treks and Icelandic mountain guides, camping accommodation, camping and cooking equipment, food during trip except in Reykjavik, entrance to Blue Lagoon, glacier equipment, transportation, hotel accommodation in Reykjavik.

Not included in the price:

Food in Reykjavik except for breakfast, showers on camping places (500ISK per shower), any other entrance fees, anything not mentioned above.

**Itinerary:** Depart the USA on June 19 and return on June 27, 2009.



## 2009 Iceland Expedition

●● *Introductory: No experience necessary; good physical fitness a must.*

### Daily Itinerary

**Day 1 Friday, June 19** Depart the USA and travel to Iceland

**Day 2 Saturday** Arrival early morning, transfer via Þingvellir National Park. Gullfoss, Geysir, overnight in Hella. (an easy sightseeing day allowing us to adjust a bit to the time zone leap and to prep for the next day's climb).



**Day 3 Sunday** Climb Eyjafjallajökull. We will climb across a small glacier to the summit at 1666m (5,475 feet). This is a long and strenuous climb, starting near sea level. Mount E. is considered harder than Hvannadalshnúkur (Iceland's tallest peak) although it is more straight forward. The climb will take about 12 hours. Accommodation in Skógar or Vík.



**Day 4 Monday** Sightseeing day with short easy walks to waterfalls, black coast and cliffs, see puffins, drive to Skaftafell (part of Vatnajökull National Park), overnight in Skaftafell.



**Day 5 Tuesday** The ascent of the highest peak in Iceland, Hvannadalshnúkur (2110 m / 6900 feet) is a once in a lifetime must. This is an unforgettable climb with breathtaking panoramic views stretching over the rugged outlet glaciers of Vatnajökull glacier or over the vast sandy plains of the glaciated rivers that drain off that great glacier. This is a technical climb, requiring crampons, ice axes and roped teams. The climb takes about 14 hours.

**Day 6 Wednesday** An easier day spent exploring some remote lagoons.

**Day 7 Thursday** Climb Þverártindsegg; technically not a difficult peak but very steep, very "Alp-like", requiring ropes, etc.

**Day 8 Friday** Easy sightseeing day to glacial lagoon with huge icebergs and walk to round up the trip. Drive back to Reykjavik (4 -5 hours drive).

**Day 9 Saturday (half day)** Transfer to Keflavik airport via the blue lagoon for a final bath in natural hot water.