

ETONBURY ACADEMY

# ICELAND

2025

## Geography Trip to Iceland!

MR TAYLOR - HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY



An unforgettable journey through some of the most breathtaking landscapes the country has to offer. Each day was full of new discoveries, steeped in both natural beauty and fascinating history. Some of our year 9 and 10 pupils got to experience the beautiful wonders of Iceland. Experiencing geothermal wonders, bridging continents and coastal glaciers.



### Gunnhver Hot Springs

Gunnhver, located on the Reykjanes Peninsula, is an active geothermal area featuring mud pools and steam vents, including Iceland's largest mud pool at 20 metres wide. Steam generated from a geothermal reservoir mixes with surface water, creating acidic conditions due to volcanic gases. Uniquely and Gunnhver's groundwater is entirely seawater. The area is named after Gudrun (or Gunna), a female ghost trapped in the hot springs by a priest 400 years ago.



Bridge between the continents

The Reykjanes Peninsula, located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates, features fractures as the plates diverge. The "Leif the Lucky Bridge," an 18m footbridge spanning a 6m deep fissure, symbolizes the connection between Europe and North America. It is named after explorer Leifur Eiriksson, the first European to reach America, 500 years before Columbus.



Reynisfjara Beach

A stunning black sand beach is framed by cliffs of basalt columns and powerful Atlantic waves. Legend states that the Reynisdrangar needles, rising 66 meters above sea level. Visible from the village of Vík, were formed when trolls turned to stone while trying to drag a ship ashore.

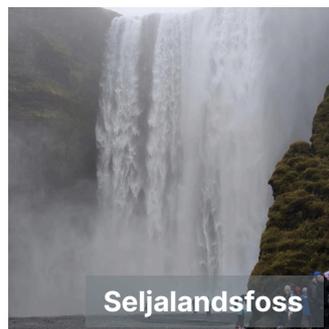


Glacier Walk on Solheimajökull



The Reykjanes Peninsula

The outlet glacier from the Myrdalsjökull ice cap features dramatic ice formations, moraines, and kettle hole lakes. Its lower snout area is marked by dirt cones, and signs of climate change are visibly impacting the glacier's ever-changing landscape.



Seljalandsfoss

Seljalandsfoss is a 65-meter waterfall on the Seljalandsá River, formed by isostatic rebound. Unique for allowing visitors to walk behind it, it features a thin cascade and a footpath leading to the rear of the falls.



## Vik

Vik in Mýrdalur is Iceland's southernmost settlement with 645 residents. It is a vital stop for travellers and offers amenities such as a service station, gift shop, supermarket, café, and restaurant. Although it lacks a harbour, residents fish using amphibious boats, and the Reynisdrangar stacks can be seen from the beach.



## Skógafoss

The impressive waterfall at Skógafoss is 60 metres high and 25 metres wide. As the waters thunder down into the plunge pool below, huge amounts of spray interact with the sunlight to create a myriad of rainbows. At the side of the waterfall there are over 500 steps leading to the top of the cliff for a view of the falls from above.



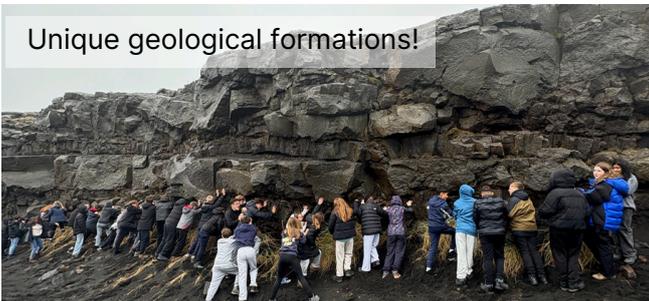
At the brink of the glacier



Solheimajökull Glacier

Students exploring the Solheimajökull glacier delve into its icy terrain, navigating the fascinating landscape. The glacier offers a unique learning experience, combining adventure with education as they observe the intricate formations and dynamic environment.

This hands-on experience not only enriches their understanding of geography, climate and science but also instils a profound appreciation for the natural world.



Unique geological formations!



Our Team

The group of teachers who accompanied the students on their adventures in Iceland included Mr. Jones, Mrs. Hume, Mr. Craddock, and Miss Kay.

Such a memorable experience.



Reykjavik

