

Solar Eclipse in Iceland: Geothermal Wonders & Celestial Spectacles

with Michael Wyssession

August 9–13, 2026



Never stop learning.



Call today 1-855-476-5080



August 9–13, 2026
From: \$7,495 per person

Solar Eclipse in Iceland: Geothermal Wonders & Celestial Spectacles

with Michael Wyssession



Embark on an unforgettable journey through Iceland's dynamic landscapes, guided by the scientific expertise of renowned geophysicist Dr. Michael Wyssession. This immersive itinerary blends natural wonder with intellectual discovery, offering travelers a rare opportunity to explore the forces that shape our planet—from geothermal energy and glacial movement to volcanic activity and tectonic drift—and culminates with one of the most striking planetary events: a solar eclipse.

Each day features hands-on experiences and in-depth commentary from Professor Wyssession, whose engaging storytelling brings Iceland's unique geology and climate science to life. Experience a once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse, viewed from a remote lava field along the path of totality. With a reception at the Aurora Basecamp and a pre-eclipse lecture by Professor Wyssession, you'll gain a deeper understanding of celestial mechanics and the cosmic choreography behind this awe-inspiring event. Whether you're a curious traveler or a lifelong learner, this expedition promises both inspiration and illumination beneath Iceland's ever-changing skies.

Your Journey Expert



Michael Wyssession is a Professor of Geophysics and the Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Washington University in St. Louis. Wyssession is a world leader in seismology, using earthquake seismic waves to create three-dimensional images of Earth's interior, and a leader in geoscience literacy and education. He has coauthored more than 100 research papers and 35 textbooks, grade school to graduate school. Wyssession chaired NSF's *Earth Science Literacy Initiative*, as well as the Earth and Space science for both the National Academy of Science report *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* and the *K-12 Next Generation Science Standards*, adopted by 45 US states. He has been an editor of five geophysical journals and is currently editor-in-chief of the journal *Perspectives of Earth and Space Scientists*. An authority and frequent lecturer on critical Earth-related issues, Wyssession has produced three popular series with The Great Courses: *How the Earth Works*, *The World's Greatest Geological Wonders*, and *The Science of Energy: Resources and Power Explained*, and he has contributed lectures to *Polar Explorations*.

Highlights

- Experience a total solar eclipse during a private viewing event at a lava-field basecamp, perfectly situated in the zone of totality. Enjoy expert commentary, live music, and a celebratory dinner reception.
- Discover geothermal innovation at Hellisheiði Power Plant, home to the groundbreaking CarbFix project that turns carbon into stone. Learn how Iceland harnesses Earth's heat and runs almost entirely on renewable energy. Then, experience Iceland's geothermal wonders with bread baked beneath the earth.
- Traverse a lave tube and explore Iceland's dramatic South Coast, featuring stunning glacier-fed waterfalls and rugged volcanic rock formations.



Questions? Call 1-855-476-5080

Discover More

Solar Eclipse in Iceland: Geothermal Wonders & Celestial Spectacles

with Michael Wyssession

Itinerary



Day 1: Reykjavik Roots

Welcome to Iceland! Upon arrival at Keflavík International Airport, transfer to Reykjavik, a city where Nordic charm meets cutting-edge sustainability and modern innovation. This afternoon, you'll explore the capital on a guided walking tour, visiting iconic sites like Hallgrímskirkja Church and the Harpa Concert Hall. As you stroll through the city, begin to uncover the geological and cultural forces that have shaped this island nation. In the evening, gather for a welcome dinner featuring seasonal Icelandic cuisine. Your Great Courses Journeys expert, Professor Michael Wyssession, a renowned geophysicist and science communicator, will share insights about Iceland's volcanic origins, tectonic activity, and astronomical significance—laying the foundation for the days ahead.

Accommodations: Fosshotel Reykjavik

Included Meal: Dinner

Day 2: Geothermal Wonders and the Golden Circle

Your day begins at the Hellisheiði Power Plant, where Iceland's geothermal energy is harnessed to power homes and industries. Learn about the innovative CarbFix project, which turns carbon emissions into stone—an environmental breakthrough Professor Wyssession will place in the context of global climate solutions. Continue to Laugarvatn to sample rye bread baked beneath the earth. Then visit Friðheimar Farm, where tomatoes thrive in greenhouses heated by volcanic warmth. After that, enjoy a fresh, greenhouse-to-table lunch featuring fresh tomatoes at a nearby farm. In the afternoon, explore the Golden Circle's geological marvels, including the erupting geysers at Geysir and the tectonic rift at Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As



you stand on the dividing line of two continental plates, Professor Wyssession will explain the dynamic forces at play beneath your feet, bringing Iceland's seismic story vividly to life.

Accommodations: Fosshotel Reykjavik
Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

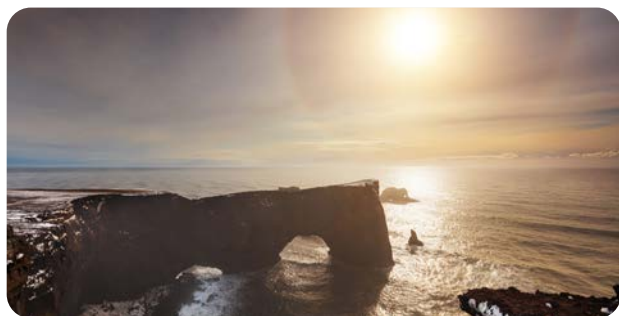
Day 3: Shifting Ice of the South Shore

Travel along Iceland's dramatic South Shore today, where waterfalls, volcanoes, and glaciers define the landscape. Begin at Seljalandsfoss, a waterfall you can walk behind, then continue past the Eyjafjallajökull volcano to Sólheimajökull Glacier. Here, gear up for a guided glacier walk across ice-carved terrain. As you explore, learn how glaciers form, move, and melt—linking your experience to the broader story of climate change and Earth's evolving systems. After a group lunch near the stunning Skógafoss waterfall, return to Reykjavik for an evening at leisure. Throughout the day, Professor Wyssession's commentary will deepen your understanding of Iceland's ever-changing landscape and the geological forces that shape it.

Accommodations: Fosshotel Reykjavik
Included Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: Subterranean Secrets and Celestial Shadows

Begin the day with a visit to Raufarholshellir, a vast lava tunnel formed by ancient eruptions. Walk through this subterranean world where lava once flowed as Professor Wyssession explains the volcanic processes that created it. After a midday break, continue to the Aurora Basecamp, a remote lava field along the eclipse's path of totality. Enjoy a reception with live music and refreshments.



Before the eclipse, Professor Wyssession and other experts will share a wealth of scientific background about solar eclipses, celestial mechanics, and Iceland's unique vantage point for viewing this rare event. Then, witness the total solar eclipse—from 4:47 to 6:47 p.m. GMT, with 2 minutes and 18 seconds of totality at 6:08 p.m. Celebrate with a farewell dinner under Iceland's twilight sky.

Note: Eclipse visibility is weather-dependent. While the Aurora Basecamp is located along the path of totality, viewing cannot be guaranteed.

Accommodations: Fosshotel Reykjavik

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner, Reception

Day 5: Farewell Fjords

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. As you depart, reflect on Iceland's unforgettable landscapes, scientific insights, and celestial wonders.

Included Meal: Breakfast

Accommodations



Fosshotel Reykjavik

Iceland

Ideally situated in the heart of Reykjavik's business district, Fosshotel Reykjavik offers four-star comfort just steps from the lively Laugavegur shopping street and within easy walking distance of the city's top cultural and historical attractions. This modern hotel serves as a perfect home base for exploring the capital's striking architecture, rich history, and vibrant arts scene. Many of the well-appointed guest rooms offer sweeping views of the city skyline and Faxaflói Bay. On-site amenities include two restaurants and a fully equipped fitness center. **(5 nights)**



Pricing:

Departure:

August 9–13, 2026

Double Occupancy:

\$7,495

Single Occupancy:

\$8,670

Deposit:

\$500

[**BOOK NOW**](#)

What's Included:

- All accommodations for the duration of the tour
- Meals, as noted in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and visits as noted in each itinerary
- Expertise of The Great Courses Expert, travel director and local guides throughout the tour
- All gratuities for on-tour guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff as part of the group program
- All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- Group airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Quietvox listening devices to facilitate audibility and social distancing on tour
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list
- Emergency evacuation insurance

[Click here to view terms and conditions online.](#)