

REVISED

ICELAND

9 DAYS – FLY TO AND FROM REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Discover Iceland, a land and culture forged by fire and ice.



Geothermal Myvatn Nature Baths.

Steaming lava fields reflect a volcanic nature. Massive glaciers sculpt mountains and valleys, leaving thundering waterfalls and plunging fjords.

DAY

1 **HOME CITIES to REYKJAVIK, ICELAND:** (Overnight Flight) Begin your *Exciting Holiday* with an overnight flight to Reykjavik.

2 **REYKJAVIK:** (2 nights) Your tour begins in Reykjavik, where you will enjoy a walking tour of the city's old section that features HALLGRIMSKIRKJA church, CITY HALL, the harbour and Reykjavik's oldest building, home of the KRAUM ICELANDIC design center. This evening join your fellow travelers for a special WELCOME DINNER of gourmet Icelandic cuisine. *Meals Include: Dinner.*

3 **REYKJAVIK:** Travel the GOLDEN CIRCLE, a route that surrounds many of Iceland's most well-known natural wonders. Continue to THINGVELLIR NATIONAL PARK, the country's most historic area. In AD 930 the Icelanders gathered here and established what is considered to be one of the world's first parliaments. Find yourself standing upon one of the globe's most geologically significant landscapes, Thingvellir's rugged rift valley, a



UNESCO World Heritage Site that marks the crest of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the point where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. Be awed at the beauty of the GULLFOSS waterfall, a stunning 100-foot double cascade. Stop at the famous thermal area of Geysir to admire the hot spring Strokkur's explosive vertical spout that reaches a height of up to 90 feet. Your day concludes with a visit to Friðheimar greenhouse cultivation centre to learn how the locals grow delicious, pesticide-free tomatoes and cucumbers with the aid of Iceland's geothermal energy. *Meals Include: Breakfast.*

4 **REYKJAVIK to STYKKISHOLMUR:** Journey to the SNAEFELLSNES PENINSULA and take in the dramatic landscapes of black and white sand beaches, stunning cliffs, mountains peaks, volcanic craters, soaring waterfalls, rocky coastlines, intimate fishing villages, and its remarkable Snæfellsjökull glacier. This afternoon you may choose to take a guided Vatnshellir Cave tour** and descend 100 feet below ground to an 8,000-year-old lava tube or perhaps you'd prefer to walk the lava field and put your camera to work snapping photos of nature's artwork of varying textures, colours and arrangements of this dramatic landscape. Continue on and pause at KIRKJUFELL, acclaimed to be the most photographed mountain in Iceland. Your day concludes with a nature cruise in BREIDAFJORDUR BAY. Experience countless birds like puffins*, cormorants, kittiwakes and the majestic white tailed eagle soaring amongst basalt rock columns. While cruising, try delicious fresh scallops and sea urchin roe straight from the ocean. *Meals Include: Breakfast, Dinner.*

5 **STYKKISHOLMUR to VIK:** (3 nights) Experience a true Icelandic cultural adventure as you spend time with a family that keeps alive a 400 year old tradition of catching and preserving Greenland Shark. View the fishing



The Geyser Strokkur on the Golden Circle.

DEPARTURE DATES 2017
9 Days: May 14 June 11
July 16 August 20 September 24
 LAND PORTION ONLY. Airfare and tax are not included. Call for best available airfare. Air ticketing is not advised until tour is guaranteed.
PRICES STARTING AT
\$3,889⁰⁰ twin
 Additional dates available

SPECIALTY TOUR OFFERED WITH "CHANGE OF MIND" CANCELLATION POLICY. CALL 1-800-562-9999 FOR MORE INFORMATION

FREE DOOR-TO-DOOR AIRPORT TRANSFER WITHIN 100 KM.

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WORLDWIDE

boat used by their grandfather; the tiny farmer's church; and explore the museum to learn more about Iceland's deep relationship with this trade. Before leaving, taste HAKARE, cured shark meat. Continue to Iceland's south coast and learn about geothermal renewable energy with a visit to HELLISJEOI, the largest power station in Iceland and the second largest geothermal power station in the world. Make a picture stop at WATERFALL SELJALANDSFOSS, one of few waterfalls providing you with a walkway for views from the inside out. Arrive in Vík, Iceland's most southerly village and one of the most visited sites in Iceland. **Meals Include: Breakfast, Dinner.**

6 VÍK: Drive along the scenic south shore to the Visitor Centre for the EYJAFJALLAJOKULL VOLCANO whose dramatic 2010 explosion brought European flights to a halt. Visit SKOGAR MUSEUM which has an outstanding collection showing all aspects of Icelandic life including farm and domestic artifacts, as well as turf-built houses. Nearby is SKOGAFOSS WATERFALL, one of the largest in Iceland. Then view REYNISFJARA a black volcanic sand beach surrounded by basalt columns and cliffs scattered with caves and rich bird life. Later see the unique natural rock formations at DYRHOLAËY. **Meals Include: Breakfast, Dinner.**

7 VÍK: Today sail among the huge icebergs in the picturesque scenery of JOKULSARLÓN GLACIAL LAGOON. Taste the 1,000-year-old ice and possibly see some seals. Later stop at SKAFTAFELL, gateway to VATNAJOKULL NATIONAL PARK, the largest national park in Europe. View Iceland's highest mountains and the Vatnajökull glacier, Europe's largest. **Meals Include: Breakfast, Dinner.**

8 VÍK to REYKJAVIK: Choose how to enjoy your last day in Iceland! Drive to the REYKANES PENINSULA, known for its rugged landscape, lava fields, numerous hot springs, and home to the BLUE LAGOON. Take a dip in the pleasantly warm, mineral-rich waters of the geothermal pool, located in the middle of a dramatic lava field. Or maybe you'd prefer to further explore the wonders of Iceland's waters during an informative WHALE WATCHING adventure in the bay of Faxaflói. Later gather with your fellow travellers for a local dining experience and share stories of your days in Iceland. **Meals Include: Breakfast, Dinner.**

9 REYKJAVIK to HOME: Your tour ends leaving you with many pleasant memories of a wonderful holiday. **Meals Include: Breakfast.**



Seljalandsfoss waterfall.



Reykjavik City Hall.



Iceland waterfall at sunrise.

DAY YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- 1 Overnight flight
- 2, 3 Reykjavik: Centerhotel Plaza
- 4 Stykkishólmur: Hotel Stykkishólmur
- 5 - 7 Vík: Hotel Katla Hofdabrekka
- 8 Reykjavik: Centerhotel Plaza

On some dates alternate hotels may be used

HIGHLIGHTS

- 13 Meals: 7 Breakfasts and 6 Dinners
- Reykjavik City Tour
- Thingvellir National Park
- Kirkjufell
- Waterfall Seljalandsfoss
- Golden Circle
- Snaefellsnes Peninsula
- Breidafjörður Bay Cruise
- Blue Lagoon/Whale Watching

IMPORTANT TRAVELLERS INFORMATION

* Puffin can be viewed between mid-May through late August. During the other seasons, a cruise featuring a talk on fishing in the region will be included.

** To truly experience the program and destination, you need to be able to participate in physical activities such as longer walking tours, walking over uneven terrain, climbing stairs and periods of standing. Some of the touring days may be longer, with select included activities later in the evening.

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