

## Sky & Telescope Iceland Trip – September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Fri, Sep-27

### DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you travel to start your vacation.

Sat, Sep-28

### REYKJAVIK ARRIVAL

After landing at Reykjavik Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Your tour director will welcome you to Iceland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. Stop to have breakfast with your group at the Viking World Museum. Then, travel along the Reykanes Peninsula en route to Gunnuhver Hot Springs, which is named after a ghost named Gudrun whose spirit was supposedly trapped in the spring over 400 years ago by a priest. The haunting atmosphere along with the ground water being one hundred percent seawater make Gunnuhver an intriguing geothermal destination. Next, head to the Bridge Between the Continents, a footbridge over the rift between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. After, continue your drive to the Blue Lagoon, a unique geothermal spa situated in west Iceland. You may choose to walk through the lava fields, bathe in the steamy blue-green waters, relax in a geothermal steam bath or release some stress under a soothing waterfall. Transfer to your hotel in Selfoss, check in and settle into your room. In the evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant including one glass of beer, wine or soft drink per person.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: GRIMSBORGIR HOTEL, SELFOSS

Sun, Sep-29

### THINGVELLIR NATIONAL PARK

This morning, visit Thingvellir National Park, a place of extraordinary natural beauty and steeped in Iceland's past. Thingvellir is the original site of the oldest existing parliament in the world. Stop to visit the Geysir geothermal area before continuing to Fridheimar Tomato Farm to enjoy a tasty light lunch with your fellow travelers. Next, travel to view Gullfoss Waterfall, one of the most popular tourist attractions in all of Iceland with two separate drops and the largest falls in all of Europe in terms of water volume. Then, visit the nearby Kerið Crater, a volcanic crater lake with red slopes. Head back to your hotel in time to meet your fellow travelers in a reserved private room to enjoy a Group Presentation as arranged by your group leader. After, you might like to relax or freshen up before having dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: GRIMSBORGIR HOTEL, SELFOSS

Mon, Sep-30

### **SELJALANDSFOSS WATERFALL**

Leaving Selfoss, journey to Dyrholaey, a massive arch that the sea has eroded from the headland and is also the southernmost point in Iceland. Then, travel to view the picturesque Seljalandsfoss Waterfall, which has a pathway leading behind it, giving visitors a chance to view the falls from within. Next, discover Reynisfjara's black-sand beach and rock formations along the magical legend of its history. The basalt columns are similar to the Giant's Causeway in Ireland. After, drive into Vík for a look around the seafloor village before heading to a local venue to enjoy a traditional lunch with your group. Continue on to experience a Lava show, which recreates a volcano eruption. You will have the opportunity to safely see red-hot lava up close. Afterwards, travel to Fjaðrárgljúfur, a stunning serpentine canyon, which was created by progressive erosion by flowing water from glaciers over a long period of time. Transfer to your hotel in Kirkjubæjarklaustur, check in and settle into your room. Tonight, meet your group in the hotel restaurant for a delicious meal.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: LAKI HOTEL, KIRKJUBÆJARKLAUSTUR

Tue, Oct-01

### **JOKULSARLON GLACIER LAGOON**

Today, set off to discover Vatnajökull National Park, an area made up of massive glaciers, ice caves, active geothermal areas and snowy mountain peaks. Stop at a local venue to enjoy an authentic Icelandic lunch with your group. Then, travel to visit Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon, a crystal-blue glacial lake dotted with icebergs. Upon arrival, set off on a boat tour along the lake and marvel as you witness small icebergs flowing into the Atlantic or onto the black-sand beach. Next, visit Skógafoss, one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Iceland. Due to the amount of spray the waterfall consistently produces, a single or double rainbow is normally visible on sunny days. After, visit the nearby Skogar Folk Museum to explore Iceland's cultural heritage and learn about the lives of Iceland's early settlers. Continue your journey into Ranga, check into your hotel and enjoy some free time before dining with your group in the hotel restaurant. After dinner, you might like to head up to Ranga Hotel's Observatory, which opens at 5pm depending on viewing conditions.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: RANGA HOTEL, RANGA

Wed, Oct-02

### **ISLAND OF HEIMAÆY**

After breakfast, drive into Landeyjahöfn and set off on a ferry ride to the fascinating island of Heimaey, the largest of the Westman Islands and the only one that is inhabited. Upon arrival, embark on an orientation tour to see the highlights of the Island. Stop to visit the Eldheimar Museum, which tells the history of one of Iceland's biggest natural disasters, the 1973 eruption that forced all residence to evacuate the island. The island is nicknamed "Pompeii of the North" as the eruption buried approximately four-hundred houses under ash. After, head to a local venue to enjoy lunch with your fellow travelers before returning to the mainland by boat. Return to your hotel in Ranga in time to dine in the hotel restaurant with your fellow travelers.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: RANGA HOTEL, RANGA

Thu, Oct-03

### **HELLISHEDI GEOTHERMAL POWER STATION**

Departing Ranga, travel to visit the Hellishedi Geothermal Power Station, the second largest of its kind in the entire world. The power station provides electricity to nearby Reykjavik. Continue your journey into Reykjavik, check into your hotel and spend the rest of the afternoon free for individual pursuits and dining.

After an independent dinner, escape the bustling city of Reykjavik for a couple of hours and head to a location that is optimal for viewing the Northern Lights (subject to weather conditions). It is recommended that you wear layers, including headwear and gloves along with having sturdy footwear. Also, don't forget to bring your camera as there will be plenty of opportunities for photos.

OVERNIGHT: BORG HOTEL, REYKJAVIK

Fri, Oct-04

## REYKJAVIK SIGHTSEEING

This morning, set off on a sightseeing tour around Reykjavik, which is a city full of life and culture. While on your tour, see the vibrant city centre, wonderful monuments and the popular waterfront area that offers amazing view of Mt. Esja. Stop to visit Hallgrimskirkja Church, a tall and modern tribute in design to the natural wonders known as the Black Falls. There is also a statue of Leifur Eiriksson, the famed Icelandic explorer. Then, continue on to visit the Perlan Observation Deck, which offers magnificent 360° views of Reykjavik. See mountain, glacier, and volcano vistas on the horizon. After, visit the nearby National Museum, which provides a comprehensive picture of the past 1,200 years of Iceland's cultural history. Return to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon free to rest or explore the city independently. Later in the day, you might like to freshen up before heading to a local venue to enjoy a wonderful farewell dinner with your group including one glass of beer, wine or soft drink per person.

OVERNIGHT: BORG HOTEL, REYKJAVIK

Sat, Oct-05

## RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

All too soon, your vacation has come to its final day. Transfer to Reykjavik Airport in good time to check in for your flight. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty free stores before boarding your aircraft and flying back to the United States.

Notes:

**Short Overview** - The driver is available for up to eight hours a day for touring. Gratuity is not included (driver and/or tour director). For a more detailed look at our **Terms and Conditions**, please see **Page 4** of your contract.

### **Hotels** (or similar)

Grimsborgir Hotel, Selfoss	2 nights
Laki Hotel, Kirkjubæjarklaustur	1 night
Ranga Hotel, Ranga	2 nights
Borg Hotel, Reykjavik	2 nights

### **Visits**

All visits are outlined on the above itinerary and included in the cost unless otherwise stated.

To make a booking and to check pricing click [HERE](#)

Contact us:

[groups@spearstravel.com](mailto:groups@spearstravel.com)

You may also call us during office hours at Spears Travel

- Phone (918-336-2360)

(Hours are 9:00am – 5:00pm M-F) Local – 918-336-2360 (Central time zone)