

## **DISCOVERING ICELAND – OPTION C (5 DAYS, 4 NIGHTS)**

### **DAY 1      FLY FROM LONDON HEATHROW WITH ICELANDAIR TO KEFLAVIK – TRANSFER TO ACCOMMODATION**

- **Morning Departure from London Heathrow with Iceland Air:** fly to Keflavik airport, Iceland.
- **Iceland Bank:** First thing we will go to an Iceland bank to exchange money (on weekdays).
- **Reykjavik:** City walking tour with your guide.
- **Reykjavik:** Transfer to your accommodation and check in.
- **Swimming Pool:** This afternoon you will be able to use a local swimming pool.
- **Reykjavik:** Dinner and Overnight in Reykjavik

### **DAY 2      THE GOLDEN CIRCLE - GEOTHERMAL ACTIVITY - GEOTHERMAL POWER**

- **Thingvellir:** Original site of the Icelandic Parliament, founded in AD 930, and situated along the mid-Atlantic ridge. There are excellent walking opportunities here, and many spectacular views over Thingvallavatn Lake.
- **Mid Atlantic Ridge:** Almost completely covered with Lava flows, you will see lava cones of different sizes and shapes as well as the tectonic plates.
- **Geysir:** The original and most famous hot spring geyser.
- **Strokkur:** See Strokkur spout water every few minutes.
- **Gullfoss:** Without doubt the most beautiful of Iceland's many waterfalls.
- **Hvolsvollur Area:** Evening supper and overnight stay, today's discussion and tomorrow's schedule of events.

### **DAY 3      SOUTH COAST – GEOTHERMAL ENERGY, GLACIERS AND COASTAL ENERGY**

- **Eyjafjallajokull:** Icecap viewing and observation.
- **Solheimajokull glacier:** Exploration and viewing of glacier and snout. Here you will have a challenging Hike.
- **Skogar Folk Museum:** Striking examples of Iceland's history.
- **Skogar waterfall:** A spectacular waterfall with cliffs surrounding this location.
- **Reynisdrangar:** Rock formations and unusual coastal pinnacles and columns (time permitting).
- **Seljalandfoss:** A spectacular waterfall that allows you to walk behind on a path.
- **Swimming Pool:** This afternoon you will be able to use a local swimming pool (time permitting).
- **Hvolsvollur Area:** Evening supper and overnight stay, and today's discussion and tomorrow's schedule of events.

#### **DAY 4 THORSMORK & MYRDALSJOKUL – GLACIAL AND FLUVIOGLACIAL LANDSCAPES - REYKJAVIK**

- **Thorsmork:** A rugged yet very beautiful area with spectacular glacial scenery, which offers excellent exploration of **Eyjafjallajokull** Glacier and icecap, and the **Markaflljot** glacial rivers.
- This afternoon you will be able to use the local **swimming pool**.
- Return to **Reykjavik** for dinner, overnight and discussion of day's events.

#### **DAY 5 BLUE LAGOON – REYKJANES PENINSULA - RETURN FLIGHT HOME**

- **The Blue Lagoon:** World famous bright blue mineral-rich swimming pool, with geothermally heated water in the middle of a large lava field.
- **Reykjanes peninsula:** Almost completely covered with lava flows, you will see lava cones and craters of different sizes and shapes as well as the tectonic plates.
- **Keflavik:** Transfer to Keflavik for your return flight home to the United Kingdom.

*The itinerary may change according to the final flight schedule, which is not yet confirmed, but all of the excursions and entry fees would be adjusted and included.*

#### **HEIMAHEY, THE WESTMAN ISLANDS - OPTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL OR ALTERNATIVE DAY**

The Westman Islands are a group of some 15 islands and 30 skerries and rock pillars about 10 km off the south coast of Iceland. Heimaey, the largest island and the only inhabited one, is home to some 5,000 people and millions of birds, especially sea birds. On Heimaey, sights to see include the volcanic crater formed during the 1973 eruption. We hear the story of the eruption and the consequences that this natural catastrophe had on the community and the island's environment. Heimaey had previously been 13.4 square kms but grew to 14.5 square kms after the eruption.

#### **Sightseeing:**

- **Heimaey Boat Tour (summer):** An unforgettable boat tour around the island.
- **Heimaey Bus Tour:** An interesting tour around the island.
- **Puffin Birds:** See tens of thousands of these beautiful birds.
- **Volcanic crater:** Hike where the ground is still hot and we can feel the volcanic heat rising from the "hot spots" close by.
- **Lava Fields:** See the dramatic ruins of houses and other buildings that were crushed by 1.5 million tons of lava.

#### **Transfer options:**

- Return Flights by 7-seater hopper planes from Keflavik or Baki, to Heimaey.
- Ferry (summer), crossing takes 2.5 hours each way.
- Flights one way, ferry return (or vice versa).

#### **Price Projections depending on group size and time of year:**

- 1) **Day trip instead of South Coast Day 3 or 4 above:** by hopper plane and bus or boat tour with guided hike, additional £75 - £95 per student.
- 2) **Additional Day and Night in Hvolsvollur:** from £185 - £225 per student including plane transfers, bus or boat tour and guided hike, accommodation on full board basis.
- 3) **Additional Day and Night on Heimaey:** from £195 - £235 per student including plane transfers, bus or boat tour and guided hike, hotel accommodation on full board basis on Heimaey. (Maximum Group size of 30)