



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

Grand Countryside



Snæfellsjokull, Snæfellsnes Peninsula

DAY 1 - Arrive Keflavik. Drive to Reykjavík.

On arrival at Keflavik Airport take the shuttle bus (not included) to the Reykjavík Bus terminal where you will be met and taken to your hotel.

DAY 2 - Reykjavík to Borgarfjörður.

Your Iceland holiday begins with a drive to the famous **Gullfoss waterfall** and the geothermal hot springs at **Geysir**. You will also visit the beautiful church of Skálholt and the **Þingvellir National Park**, site of the Viking Parliament, before continuing to Reykholt, home of the 13th century poet, Snorri Sturluson. Stay in the Borgarfjörður region for the next two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 3 - Snæfellsnes, Stykkishólmur.

Today you drive around the **Snæfellsnes Peninsula**, which is dominated by the glacier where, according to Jules Verne's book, the entrance to the 'Centre of the Earth' can be found. Visit small fishing towns and drive through interesting lava fields and on to the town of **Stykkishólmur** where you will take a boat trip around the islands of Breiðafjörður, home to puffins and the white tailed eagle.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 4 - Eyjafjörður, Húsavík.

Stop at the beautiful waterfalls of Hraunfossar before heading for Skagafjörður to visit the immaculately-preserved historical farm at **Glaumbær**, with its traditional wood-fronted turf-dwellings. Continue to **Akureyri**, the principal town on the north coast of Iceland, for a sightseeing tour before driving on to your accommodation in the Húsavík area for the next three nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 5 - Húsavík whale-watching.

Weather-permitting, you will start the day with a 3 hour whale-watching cruise. The waters around Húsavík contain large numbers of dolphins, porpoises and minke whales, and if you are lucky you should also see humpback whales, renowned for their spectacular 'breaching' leaps out of the water. Blue whales, and orcas (killer whales) are also a possibility, and you will also see a variety of seabirds, including puffins. The afternoon is at leisure to wander around the town. There are some interesting museums, including the excellent **Whale Museum** and the somewhat more esoteric **Icelandic Phallogological Museum!**

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 6 - Goðafoss, Lake Mývatn.

Visit the **Goðafoss** waterfall en route to **Lake Mývatn**. There is lush vegetation here and many different species of birds, some of which are not found anywhere else in Europe. You will visit the lava field at Dimmuborgir and climb up to the rim of the Hverfjall ash crater before heading back to your accommodation.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 7 - Dettifoss, Egilsstaðir.

After breakfast leave Húsavík and travel around the Tjörnes Peninsula, where you will visit the magnificent 45-metre high **Dettifoss**, the most powerful waterfall in Europe. For the next three nights you will stay in the neighbourhood of Egilsstaðir.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 8 - Lake Lögurinn, Seyðisfjörður.

This morning you will tour around **Lake Lögurinn**, passing through Skriðuklaustur with its distinctive stone house built in the 1930s by the author Gunnar Gunnarsson. If the weather is fine, you will have the opportunity to walk up to **Hengifoss**, one of the highest waterfalls in Iceland. You will also visit the fishing town of Seyðisfjörður.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 9 - Borgarfjörður Eystri.

Borgarfjörður Eystri is a wide fjord and grassy fertile valley with a charming fishing village of the same name, situated north-east of Egilsstaðir. Magnificent colourful mountains and numerous beautiful rocks and rare stones are to be found here.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 10 - Vatnajökull, Skaftafell.

Vatnajökull, Europe's biggest glacier, dominates the landscape with its glacial tongues calving into a glacial lagoon. Take a fascinating boat trip on the lagoon among the icebergs, an experience you will never forget. For the next two nights, you will stay in the neighbourhood of

Skaftafell National Park, an area of more than 1700 square kilometres, with highland slopes carpeted in wildflowers, dramatic mountain ridges and glaciers.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 11 - Skaftafell National Park.

Skaftafell is one of Iceland's premier hiking centres. The whole day is spent relaxing, or walking; the park's main hiking trails are well marked and not especially demanding. In good weather the views are superb.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner.

DAY 12 -: Skaftafell, Reykjavík. Depart for UK.

Return to Reykjavík through fertile meadows and the sandy desert of the south coast, overlooked by mountainous cliffs and glaciers. There are several beautiful waterfalls on the way and you may spot puffins and even some seals. In the afternoon transfer to Keflavik Airport for your homeward flight.

Meals included: Breakfast.