

ITINERARY

Ring of Beauty, Fire & Ice: Sacred Journey of Iceland

June 9-20th 2019

Iceland is a land of great beauty, natural powers & mythology. Although the land is millions of years old, its historical tales – the sagas – begin with the Viking invasion in the late ninth century, bringing their language, religion and customs to the land. Many of their slaves came from Norway, Ireland and Scotland who also made this island their home. But nobody can claim to tame this land, with over 130 volcanoes, many of which are still active today. And then there are the ‘little people.’ Despite some skeptics, most Icelandic people believe in the existence of trolls, elves and fairies and will certainly talk of ways to keep on their good side!

As we travel through these remarkable lands during a time when the sun hardly sets, we’ll be marinated in history, beauty and otherworldliness. There will be plenty of opportunities to share experiences with the group while also enjoying thermals pools, good food and drink and Icelandic hospitality.

DAY 1: JUNE 9th

Arrive at KEF airport, Iceland
Hotel shuttle bus from airport to hotel

Optional extra: Take a coach from the airport or hotel to the city of **Reykjavik** for sightseeing.



Hotel: close to Keflavik airport

DAY 2: JUNE 10th

Travel north to tour the **Snaefellsnes Peninsula**, often viewed as the hidden gem of Iceland
We'll stop at the **Borgarnes Historical Museum** with its fascinating insights into the history of Iceland

As we travel north, we'll see the first of many magnificent waterfalls, beautiful beaches and rock formations

Lunch will be at the romantic **Hotel Buðir** with its picturesque little church

We'll stop & climb into **Rauðafeldsgjá**, a stunning mysterious gorge.



From there we'll journey to the amazing rock formations of **Arnarstapi** with an optional opportunity for a cliff walk to **Hellnar**.



Hotel: Hellnar area

DAY 3: JUNE 11th

Leaving the hotel we'll see our first glacier – **Snaefellsnes** – and visit the singing cave of **Vatnshellir**.

Then we'll travel along the northern coast of the peninsula, walking on the black beach of **Djupalonssandur** and standing under the most photographed beautiful mountain of **Kirkjufell**.



After lunch we will visit the town of **Stykkisholmur** and drive to our hotel.

Hotel: Laugarbakki area

DAY 4: JUNE 12th

Today, we'll travel eastwards across amazing plains with snow topped mountains in the distance towards Akureyri. We'll pass through the towns of **Hvammstangi**, **Hvitserkur**, **Blondus** and **Varmahlid** with a stop of lunch. Arriving late afternoon in **Akureyri**, there will be time to enjoy the town's thermal swimming pool, wander the streets of this delightful town and try out some of Iceland's more exotic meat dishes in one of the many restaurants.

Hotel: in Akureyri

DAY 5: JUNE 13th

We'll enjoy a day in the Akureyri area with an optional opportunity to go whale watching.

<https://www.northiceland.is/en/other/index/recreation/whale-watching/whale-watching-akureyri>

Hotel: in Akureyri

DAY 6: JUNE 14th

Leaving Akureyri, we'll journey to the glorious waterfall of **Godafoss** and then on to the geothermal center of Iceland **Myvatn**. Here we'll see many volcanic calderas and hot bubbling streams. After lunch, there's the option to enjoy the natural hot water outdoor pools as we look across the amazing scenery.

Hotel: Myvatn



DAY 7: JUNE 15th

After breakfast, we'll travel to **Dettifoss**, the most powerful waterfall in Europe. Feel the power!



Then we drive eastwards to Fjord land via **Egilsstadir** and then to **Neskaupstadur** a beautiful town out on the fjord.

Hotel: Neskaupstadur

DAY 8: JUNE 16th

Rest day with options to soak in the thermal swimming pool, walk along the seashore, visit local shops and museums or do nothing at all!



Hotel: Neskaupstadur

DAY 9: JUNE 17th

After breakfast, we will make our way south along the fjords towards the largest of the glaciers, **Vatnajökull**. We will fingers of the glacier stretch beyond the road and towards the sea. At the end of the day, there is the fun of seeing large ice bergs which have broken away from the glacier and we will take an amphibian boat tour to get up close to these giants.

Hotel: Jokulsalon area

DAY 10: JUNE 18th

We'll leave our hotel and spend much of the day on the glacier, hopefully getting the chance to enter an ice cave; weather permitting. If this is not possible, we will arrange for a different glacier adventure. Both these trips are not included in the price. The journey will continue to **Hvolsvollur** where we will stop for the night.

Hotel: Hvolsvollur

DAY 11: JUNE 19th

Our final touring day, is a busy day. After breakfast, we'll be off to the **Lava Center** which is a wonderful interactive center dedicated to the science of volcanoes and earthquakes. From there we will visit the popular Golden Circle with **its Geysir, Gullfoss** waterfall and the **Pingvellir** National Park. Finally, we will end the tour in Keflavik and our final evening together.

Hotel: Keflavik area (near airport)

DAY 12: JUNE 20th

Flights home after breakfast allowing 2 and a half hour for check in.

DETAILS

Price includes:

- ❖ Guidance and meditations from Christine throughout the tour
- ❖ Shared Lodging in 3* hotels (single supplement available)
- ❖ Travel around ring road in luxury coach
- ❖ Local driver tour guide
- ❖ Full Icelandic breakfasts each day
- ❖ 2 course lunches on tour days
- ❖ Admission fees to Borgarnes Museum, Vatnshellir Cave, Amphibian Boat Tour and Lava Center

Not included:

- ❖ Airfare to and from Iceland
- ❖ Shuttle to and from airport
- ❖ Personal expenses; drinks, insurance and tips etc.
- ❖ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ❖ Optional extras for side tours such as whale watching or sightseeing in Reykjavik

Cost: \$4800 for shared accommodation plus meals as above. **Single supplement** \$1100