

# ICELAND PANORAMA

AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> 2019

From steamy hot springs to top-notch spas, spectacular scenery to magnificent art museums, this unique land is the perfect place to relax, recharge, and explore. Legends say that the ancient gods themselves guided Iceland's first settler, Ingolfur Arnarson, to make his home in Reykjavik ("Smoky Bay"), named after the geothermal steam he saw. Today this geothermal energy heats homes and outdoor swimming pools throughout the city – a pollution-free energy source that leaves the air outstandingly fresh, clean and clear.

Renowned for its spellbinding beauty and stunning landscape, Iceland is the only place on Earth where you can stand on top of the Atlantic Ocean's submarine mountain chain - for the island is the only place where the chain peaks up above sea level! From this perch, we can walk from North America to Europe.



We'll journey through the north, south, and west of the island, enjoying the long evening twilight of the northern summer and visit a wondrous variety of small settlements, good-size towns and amazing natural landscapes. This captivating geological wonderland offers the opportunity to explore dramatic phenomena: colossal glaciers, active volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, glacial rivers, cascading waterfalls, moss-covered lava fields, and glacial lagoons.

We'll dine on Icelandic specialties, including seafood, ocean-fresh from the morning's catch; highland lamb; and unusual varieties of game. It's purely natural food imaginatively served.

Join a Case Western faculty host and specially selected local guide, Svanur Thorkelsson on an amazing adventure this summer to the Land of Fire and Ice.



THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

BOSTON, NEW YORK DEPARTURE or Cleveland **\$4899**  
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 980**

*Airfares are available from many U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.*

**The following services are included:**

- HOTELS:** 6 nights accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges included
- AIRFARE:** Roundtrip air on Iceland Air from BOS/JFK/CLE to Reykjavik.  
One way domestic flight from Reykjavik to Akureyri
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour director throughout
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- TIPPING:** Tips to all drivers and guides are included

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>** - Evening departure from Boston or New York on Iceland Air's direct flight to Reykjavik. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>** - Early morning arrival in Iceland; we will be met at the airport and escorted to our hotel in Reykjavik, where a sumptuous breakfast buffet awaits us. This morning we tour Reykjavik for a wonderful introduction to Europe's smallest capital city! The tour covers the Old Town, the shopping districts, the Parliament, Hofdi House, Hallgrim's church and much more! Most hotels know that Americans arrive early and will do everything possible to help us check in upon arrival. However, this may not always be possible and if the rooms are not ready, we will store our luggage and go off on our city tour. When we return after lunch, we will be able to go to our rooms and relax before we gather for a Tufts hosted reception followed by dinner in the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>** - Our excursion today takes us along the south coast of the island. At Vik, we'll make a stop at the black volcanic beach south of the village - from here we can view the rock formations Dyrhólaey and Reynisdrangar. We'll include visits to the fairytale-like Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where you can experience walking right behind the misty cascade, and the gorgeous 60-metre high Skógafoss waterfall, where we'll have lunch (nearby). We'll also make a stop at the stunning Fjaðrárgljúfur canyon. On our return to Reykjavik we'll stop and have a special "Lobster Feast" in the village of Stokkseyri. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning after breakfast we board the short internal flight to Akureyri. Known as the capital of Northern Iceland, Akureyri topped The Lonely Planet's 2015 list of the ten best places to visit in Europe! We'll spend the afternoon visiting the Akureyri Botanical Garden, the most northerly Botanical Garden in the world. One of Akureyri's gems, it is known far and wide for its beautiful walking paths and luxuriant flora. It was founded in 1912, and contains nearly every type of plant found in Iceland (around 450) and nearly 7,000 foreign species. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: AKUREYRI**



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup>** - An excursion from Akureyri this morning takes us to the Mývatn Lake region and over the curiously-coloured Námaskarð pass, past the Krafla volcano. We'll return to Akureyri where the rest of the afternoon is free for personal exploration (the city has a wonderful art museum). The evening is also free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: AKUREYRI**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>** - After breakfast this morning we head out on Route 1, the circular road around the island, to our next destination, Hvalfjörður (literally whale-fjord). First we'll take a brief detour to Tröllaskagi ("The Peninsula of the Trolls"), where we can enjoy fantastic scenery of beautiful mountains, cliffs and fjords before stopping for lunch in Sauðárkrúkur (included) where we'll also pay a visit to the Skagafjörður folk museum. This afternoon we'll stop at the beautiful Þingeyrarkirkja church and then visit the living museum at Eiríksstaðir, home of famous Viking Erik the Red. From here we continue around Route 1 to Hvalfjörður arriving at our hotel in time to relax and freshen up before dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: HVALFJÖRÐUR**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup>** - We spend the day today on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, home to the Snæfellsnes National Park and the Snæfellsnes Glacier. We'll experience the amazing birdlife, the lush valleys and lava fields that make up this area of unique natural beauty. We'll drive around the peninsula, exploring Dritvík Cove, Lóndrangar Cliffs as well as Hellnar and Arnarstapi Cliffs with its bursting bird-life, and the small villages on the coast. We'll stop in Stykkishólmur, a picture-perfect fishing village overlooking Breiðafjörður Bay. Here, we can take a walk up the small hill overlooking the harbour, Súgandisey, for a wonderful panoramic view of the town, sea and surrounding mountains. Try the strength test at the stones of the black volcanic beach of Djúpálónssandur like the seamen in past times. We'll return to our hotel for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: HVALFJÖRÐUR**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we drive past Reykjavik and on to the exotic, moonlike Reykjanes peninsula. Our destination is the famous Blue Lagoon, an azure pool of mineral-rich warm water amid a lava field. There are wonderful facilities to shower and change at the site before we continue to nearby Keflavik Airport for our return flight to the US. **(B)**

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, D - dinner*

