

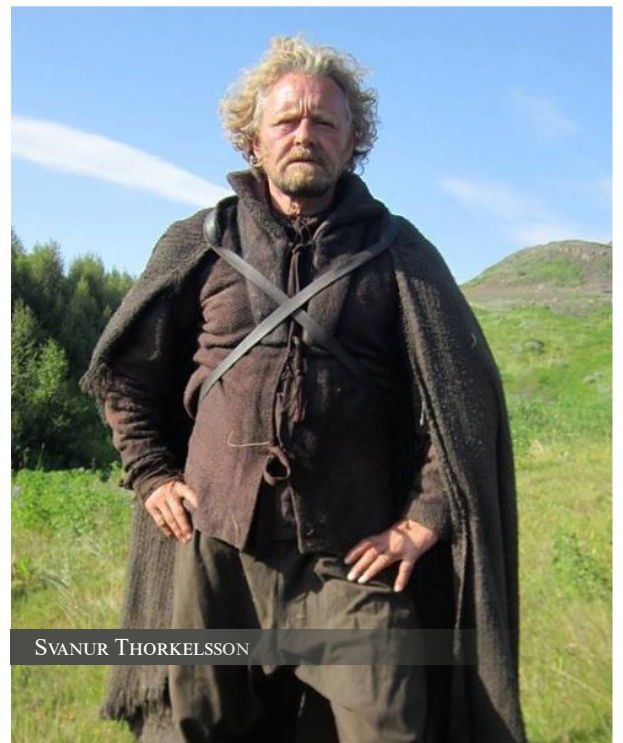
THE GAME OF THRONES IN ICELAND APRIL 20TH - 25TH 2017

Legends say that the ancient gods themselves guided Iceland's first settler, Ingólfur 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.

Small wonder that this "Land of Fire and Ice" was chosen as the location for much of the filming of the spectacularly successful TV series Game of Thrones. Our tour will introduce you to the island and its culture and history as well as taking you to some of the breathtaking film locations used in the show. And you will be guided throughout your stay by Discover Europe's representative in Iceland, Svanur Thorkelsson – he will regale you with stories and legends from Iceland's past and, probably, with some from his time as an extra in the show (that's his picture on the right!)

You'll dine on Icelandic specialties, including delicious seafood, ocean-fresh from the morning's catch; highland lamb; and unusual varieties of game. It's purely natural food imaginatively served to delight the most discerning of diners. Reykjavik is also renowned as one of Europe's hottest nightspots, where the action in the friendly pub and club scene lasts right through the long winter nights. And you can also take advantage of an array of optional tours for both traditional and offbeat attractions – including elf-spotting tours, Viking feasts, whale watching, horseback riding, lava fields, and a variety of sports and leisure activities.

Join us this spring for our tribute to the highly acclaimed show, led by someone who was actually in it!



SVANUR THORKELSSON



SVARTIFOSS WATERFALL

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:
BOSTON OR NEW YORK DEPARTURE: \$2890
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 480

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- AIRFARE:** Round trip airfare from Boston or New York, including all customs fees and airport taxes
- HOTELS:** 4 nights accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Buffet breakfast daily, 3 dinners
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe guide Svanur Thorkelsson throughout

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.*



THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH - Evening departure from your chosen gateway city, where you board your direct Iceland Air service to Iceland. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST - Early morning arrival in Iceland; you will be met at the airport and escorted to our hotel in Reykjavik, where a sumptuous breakfast buffet awaits us. After breakfast 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, the Harpa concert hall and much more! When we return to the hotel after lunch, we will be able to

go to our rooms and take a short nap before we gather for drinks in the bar this evening. For dinner this evening we take a "foodie walking tour" of downtown Reykjavik, visiting 6 different restaurants all specialising in different Icelandic delicacies! **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK**

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND - A free day in the city. Explore the galleries and museums, enjoy the tax-free shopping or pamper yourself in one of the many local spas. Or perhaps you may like to descend into the bowels of the earth! You can take a tour of Iceland's most spectacular lava tube caves and craters - these beautiful, natural phenomena were created when the surface lava solidified but magma continued to flow in tunnels. There will also be a variety of other optional activities available; from taking a snowmobile safari to the top of a glacier, to riding an Icelandic pony. **(B) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK**



ÞINGVELLIR

SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD - Leaving Reykjavik, we first head north to the shores of the Hvalfjörður (literally the Whale Fjord). Turning inland, we follow the course of one of Iceland's largest Salmon rivers, the Laxa í Kjós, and stop to view the spectacular waterfall, the Þórufoss. It was here that Drago burned the goats and their keeper. From here we go to Hengill and have a fantastic view over the tectonic rift valley. This is where the fight scene between the Hound and Brienne took place. Next we visit Þingvellir, the home of the Arryns and the moon gate. We walk into the gorge from the east side, to the waterfall where Arya was seen leaving on horseback after she left the Hound for dead. Close by is the gorge where the wildlings meet up with the cannibals, after Jon Snow escaped. This is all located in Þingvellir National Park, site of the world's first parliament and from here we can walk from America to Europe! After a stop for lunch, we'll visit the church at Skálholt, and stop to peer into the icy depths of Keri volcanic crater. We'll arrive at our hotel near Selfoss with time to enjoy the facilities before we gather for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SELFOSS**

MONDAY, APRIL 24TH - This morning we drive to Þjórsárdalur and visit the "Þjóðveldisbær," the 11th-century Viking lodge that served as a location for the massacre of the people of the hamlet (4th season, 3rd episode) and we are introduced to Olly. The valley is wonderful by itself and very important historically. We include admission into the Viking lodge, although no scenes were actually shot inside. From here we drive into the Gjá, a natural "Rivendell" and one of the most beautiful spots in Iceland, on the edge of the highlands. In this naturally-formed hidden gorge some of the conversation between the Hound and Aria was filmed. From here we drive down to the south coast to Sólheimajökull where some of the winter scenes north of the wall, seen in the second season, were filmed. There will be the opportunity here to actually go on to the glacier. We will also visit the Black Beach and Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss, two beautiful waterfalls that are on our route. This evening we'll enjoy a traditional Icelandic lobster feast at a local restaurant in Stokkseyri before returning to our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SELFOSS**



HALLGRIM'S CHURCH

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH - Today we head back toward Reykjavik and drive down the exotic, moonlike Reykjanes peninsula. Then we spend the rest of the morning at the renowned 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 the airport for our return flights to Boston or New York. **(B)**

OVERNIGHT: HOME

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