



ICELAND PANORAMA

AUGUST 1ST - 8TH 2021

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.

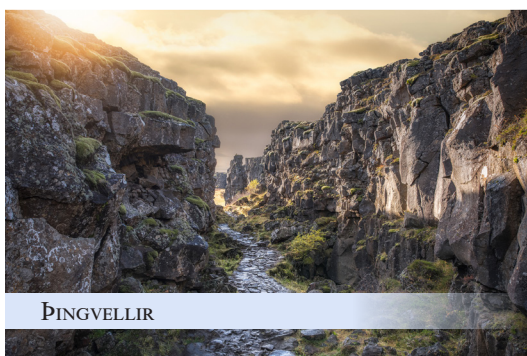
We'll journey through the north, south, and west of the island, enjoying the long evening twilight of the northern summer and visit a wondrous variety of small settlements, good-size towns and amazing natural landscapes. This captivating geological wonderland offers the opportunity to explore dramatic natural phenomena, many not found together elsewhere on the planet: 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 Discover Europe and specialist local guide, Svanur Thorkelsson, on an amazing adventure this summer to the *Land of Fire and Ice*.



SNAEFELLSNESS PENINSULA



PINGVELLIR

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

BOSTON OR NEW YORK DEPARTURE	\$5490
LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED)	\$4690
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 890

Airfares are available from many U.S. 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
- AIRFARE:** Round trip economy class airfare from Boston or New York. One way domestic flight from Akureyri to Reykjavik (included in land only price)
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

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





SUNDAY, AUGUST 1ST - Evening departure from your chosen gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

MONDAY, AUGUST 2ND - Your early morning arrival in Iceland will be met at the airport and escorted to our hotel in Reykjavik where a full breakfast buffet awaits us. This morning we tour Reykjavik by motor coach for an introduction to Europe's smallest capital city! The excursion 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 (on our own), we will be able to go to our rooms and take a short rest before we meet for a welcome reception followed by dinner in the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3RD - Our full day excursion today takes us along the south coast of the island. At Vík, 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 we can experience walking right behind the misty cascade, and the gorgeous 60-metre high Skógafoss waterfall, just a short drive down the road. Lunch today is on our own. We'll also make a stop at the stunning Fjaðrárgljúfur canyon. On our return to Reykjavik we'll have a special "Lobster Feast" in the village of Stokkseyri **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4TH - Leaving Reykjavik, we first head to Þingvellir National Park, site of the world's first parliament. Here you can walk from America to Europe! We'll stop for lunch at the natural hot springs at Laugarvatn. Turning north, we follow the course of one of Iceland's largest salmon rivers, the Láxa í Kjós, and stop to view the spectacular waterfall, the Þórufoss. We drive around the shores of the Hvalfjörður (literally the Whale Fjord) and then continue up the west coast to our hotel. After checking in, there will be time to relax and freshen up before dinner, included at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BORGARNES**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5TH - 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 panoramic view of the town, sea, and surrounding mountains. Try and test 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: BORGARNES**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6TH - Our first stop today is to the living museum at Eiríksstaðir, home of famous Viking Erik the Red. Our next stop is the historic church of Þingeyrarkirkja and then 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 in Sauðárkrókur where we'll have lunch and pay a visit to the Skagafjörður folk museum. From here we continue around Route 1 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! On arrival we'll visit the Akureyri Botanical Garden, the most northerly Botanical Garden in the world. Akureyri's gem, the botanical garden is known far and wide for its 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. The evening is free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: AKUREYRI**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7TH - 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 lunch is on our own, and the rest of the afternoon is free for personal exploration (the city has a wonderful art museum) or strolling through the town. Tonight, our farewell dinner is included at a local restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: AKUREYRI**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 8TH - This morning we board the short internal flight back to Reykjavik. We will be met and then taken 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 you continue to nearby Keflavik Airport for your return flights to the US. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE BOOKING YOUR OWN FLIGHTS, PLEASE DO NOT BOOK A FLIGHT ON AUGUST 8TH THAT DEPARTS PRIOR TO 4:30PM.

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

