



LOUDOUN COUNTY SENIOR TRIPS PROGRAM



Aurora Exploration in Majestic Iceland

8 Nights – 9 Days

February 1 – 9, 2020

Join us for an amazing adventure to this beautiful land of rugged mountains, waterfalls, fjords, black lava beaches, glaciers, icebergs and the blue lagoon. We're in search of the Northern Lights but it's not guaranteed. This is an active tour with extensive walking, on uneven terrain.

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Meet the motor coach at **Cascades Senior Center** and depart for Dulles Airport. Arrive at **Dulles Airport** and board flight departing for **Reykjavík, Iceland**.

Sunday, February 2, 2020

Arrive at **Reykjavik Airport** and transfer by coach from **Keflavík International Airport** to **Reykjavík** to spend the night at **Hotel Klettur**.

Monday, February 3, 2020

Meet a tour **GUIDE** who shows the group the highlights of Iceland's exciting **capital**. Then head west to Borgarfjörður, known as the **Saga Valley** because of its many important historical events. Get a chance to climb the **Grábrók volcano** crater and get warmed up at **Deildartunguhver**, Europe's most powerful **hot spring** which produces 180 liters per second of nearly boiling water— that is 97° Celsius. **Hraunfossar** is a series of waterfalls pouring from beneath a wide lava field. **Barnafoss** – the Children's falls, is nearby with its own tragic tale. Spend two nights in **Borgarnes**, West Iceland at **Icelandair Hotel Hamar**. The afternoon includes a lecture about the Northern Lights. After dinner, step into the **hotel garden** in search of the **Northern Lights** followed by a cup of hot chocolate or tea. (Meals B, D)

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

The **Snæfellsnes Peninsula** "the peninsula of the snowy mountains," juts out from Iceland's west coast like a long arm with a clenched fist at its tip, and is in many ways a microcosm of the whole island. Travel to the charming fishing town of **Stykkishólmur** for a **cruise** on the **Breiðafjörður fjord**. After a **light lunch** a uniquely Icelandic "treat" awaits at **Bjarnarhöfn**, where they make **Hákarl** – the fermented shark. Depending on road and weather conditions, visit the fishing village of **Grundarfjörður**, a place with an impressive coastline, beautiful mountains, lakes and waterfalls are all behind the village. Jutting out into the bay rises one of the most photographed mountains in Iceland, **Mt. Kirkjufel**. On the way back to **Borgarnes** the **GUIDE** gives some practical tips for how to photograph the Auroras as part of the **Northern Lights Academy program**. Naturally, once darkness falls go out in the **Icelandair Hotel Hamar's** garden to chase the **Northern Lights** and to soak in the hotel's **outdoor hot tubs**. (Meals: B, L, D)

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Travel along the **Hvalfjörður fjord**. The first stop is at an **Icelandic wool outlet store**, to see what they do with all those sheep! Continue inland to **Þingvellir National Park**, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. Travel the **Golden Circle route** and see steam rising from the **Geysir geothermal fields** upon arrival. The original geyser is now dormant but has been replaced by **Strokkur**, “the Churn”, which erupts every 5-10 minutes. The chef of the Restaurant makes **freshly baked hot spring bread** served with **Icelandic butter, geothermally boiled eggs** and **herring** to taste. It is best served with a small glass of **Geysir Schnapps**, very cold – nearly freezing. On we travel to **Gullfoss**, a double waterfall that tumbles 34 meters into the **Hvítá River** and attracts tourists and travelers in summer and winter. In the afternoon, visit **Friðheimar horse farm** and **geothermal greenhouses**. Tonight, step into the darkness and search for the elusive **Northern Lights**, while best enjoyed from a **hot tub** in the garden of the **Hotel Elhestar**, amidst the peace and stillness of **rural Iceland**. (Meals: B, D)

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Travel along the South coast and visit one of Iceland’s finest **folk museums**. This museum contains an outstanding collection of **farm and domestic artifacts** from Iceland’s past and several **turf-built houses**. Nearby is **Skógofoss waterfall** which is 60 meters high and one of the most impressive waterfalls in the country. In the afternoon take a **stroll on the black lava beach** and along **bird cliffs** at **Reynisfjara** in South Iceland. Spend two nights near **Kirkjubæjarklaustur** at **Icelandair hotel Klaustur** in the **Vatnajökull National Park** region, **located in complete darkness** and **ideal for a Northern Lights** search. (Meals B, D)

Friday, February 7, 2020

Today learn all **about glaciers, ice and icebergs**. Travel to **Jökulsárlón**, a **glacial lagoon** filled with floating icebergs, and explore the extraordinary site while trying to get a glimpse of seals swimming in the arctic waters. Walk along the **black sand beaches** where large icebergs get stranded. In the afternoon, visit the tiny **turf church** at **Hof** and spend time at **Europe’s largest national park**, which has **Iceland’s highest mountains**, an alpine environment, and **Europe’s largest glacier**. In the evening enjoy a **film presentation** about the Northern Lights as part of the **Northern Lights Academy program**. Be careful not to go to bed too soon in this remote and quiet location or the Northern Lights might be missed while staying at **Icelandair hotel Klaustur**. (Meals B, D)

Saturday, February 8, 2020

From **Kirkjubæjarklaustur** head across the **Eldhraun lava fields** to the village of **Vik**, to make a photo stop. The **black lava beach** with high **bird cliffs** and pounding waves is picturesque. Further west, reach the high but narrow **Seljalandsfoss waterfall** which plunges from the mountain. There is a **trail that goes behind the falling water and offers interesting views, if you are prepared to get wet!** In the afternoon return to **Reykjavík** and have about two hours of **leisure time** to explore Iceland’s **capital, visit museums**, do some **shopping** or simply **rest** after all this touring. In the evening, **soak in the famous Blue lagoon**, followed by an Icelandic **dinner** at a local restaurant and one last nocturnal tour to seek more **Northern Lights**. Around midnight, reach Reykjavík’s **Hotel Klettur** for one last night. (Meals B, D)

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Check out of the hotel and get a private transfer by bus from the hotel in Reykjavík to **Keflavík Airport**. Depart from Iceland for **Dulles Airport**. Upon arrival, transfer via motorcoach to **Cascades Senior Center**. (Meals: B)

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: \$3700 Member / \$3745 Non-Member

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$4300 Member \$ 4345 Non-Member

Tour Includes:

- **Round Trip Air Fare**
- Round trip luxury motorcoach transportation
- Hotel Accommodations for Eight (8) Nights
- Seven (7) Breakfasts, One (1) Lunch, and Six (6) Dinners
- Baggage Handling, admissions, and guide services as stated in the Itinerary
- Payable in 5 equal installments. Insurance not included but recommended

Contact: 571 258-3050 or 571 258-3051