

PROPOSED SAGT TOUR

To the WEST, NORTH & NORTH EAST of ICELAND

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS: SUNDAY 2ND – SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST, 2015

In 2009 SAGT took their first Members' Tour to Iceland. It proved to be a most enjoyable and highly regarded experience for all participants; many very happy memories linger yet.

But in Iceland there is still **so** much more to see! The proposed 2015 itinerary covers a quite different combination of locations in the West, the North and the North East of Iceland.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrival Day: Tour arrangements begin on arrival in to Keflavik Airport. Transfer to accommodation in Keflavik, a fishing town. Scottish participants have the option of flying in with easyJet from Edinburgh or from Glasgow with Icelandair.

Day 2: WEST ICELAND: To Hvalfjordur, Whale Fiord, an area of very grand, post-glacial landscapes. Across the mountain pass to Reykholt and visit Hraunfoss & Barnafoss (with a backdrop of Langjokull); walk amongst lava flows, ropey lavas, gaping fissures. On to Deiltartunga Hot Springs, the largest in Iceland and then to Borganes area for overnight.

Day 3: SNAEFELLSNESS: This is a very special peninsula with Snaefellsjokull volcano of "Journey to the Centre of the Earth" fame. Many options of places to visit including Eldborg Crater, Arnarstapi (with an easy coastal walk to Hellnar) and then on to Malarif, the Neshraun Craters, Skardsvik (a golden beach, rare in Iceland), the colourful coastal communities of Hellisandur, Riff, Olafsvik and Grundafjordur. Overnight in Stykkisholmur/area.

Day 4: NORTH ICELAND: Possibly taking a stop at Eriksstadir, reputed home of Leifur Eriksson, Eric the Red's son, discoverer of North America, drive along the northern edge of Iceland though post glacial landscapes via Blondos (on Hunafloi fiord), to Varmalid and through many mountain passes and on to Akureyri, Iceland's second city. Overnight Akureyri/area.

Day 5: NORTH EAST ICELAND: A combination of very wonderful visits, including Lake Myvatn, Namaskard (a lively solfatara area on the Mid Atlantic Ridge) and wander over the 1984 Krafla lavas, craters and fumeroles. Also view Dettifoss, much mightier than even Gullfoss! Then bathe in the "Blue Lagoon" of the North, the Myvtn Nature Baths. Overnight Akureyri/area.

Day 6: RETURN TO WEST ICELAND: Where possible, alternative routings will be taken for a "magical mystery tour" to return to the area of Borganes for overnight accommodation.

Day 7: THINGVELLIR N.P. & REYKJAVIK: To Thingvellir N.P. via the Hvalfjordur Tunnel to view the Mid Atlantic Ridge and perhaps explore some of its walking trails. Move on to Reykjavik for some time in the city before transferring out along the Reykjanes Peninsula to Keflavik for overnight.

Day 8: Departure Day. Tour arrangements end after breakfast on this day (transfer from hotel to Keflavik Airport included). **NOTE: Presently**, Icelandair flights depart at breakfast time whilst easyJet departs in the evening. For "easyJetters", an option could be to hire a car for a day (*at own cost*) and to explore the Reykjanes Peninsula. Ian Hardie can readily advise of places to visit (and may indeed offer to escort people on this day).

Continued OVER >>>

INCLUDED:

All ground transportation in Iceland throughout the tour with **GT Travel and Coaching** (an Icelandic Company, based in Selfoss; it's the "Green Coach" Company as used in 2009)

Ian Hardie as accompanying Geographer and Guide

Half board accommodation throughout in en suite rooms (7 nights with dinner, bed and breakfast) in **3** and **4** star level of accommodation

Packed lunches on days 2 to 6 inclusive

A widely varied daily itinerary with much time amongst the nature of Iceland

Erikstadur entry on Day 4

Myvatn Nature Baths entry on Day 5

NOT INCLUDED:

Flights: *Book your own flights.*

NOTE: Present Scottish options are Icelandair from Glasgow and easyJet from Edinburgh. By booking own flights, participants would also be able to extend their stay before/after the SAGT Tour should they so wish.

NOTE: *No-one should book their flights until the viability of the tour is confirmed and places have been offered.*

Personal insurance

Personal spending money

Drinks (other than water)

Lunch on Day 7

BASED ON 25 PAYING PERSONS:

In a twin room, 245,392 ISK per person; in a single room, 321,028 ISK.

BASED ON 35 PAYING PERSONS:

In a twin room, 232,677 ISK per person; in a single room, 308,313 ISK.

At the moment the exchange rate is about 185 ISK for £1 (but, of course, this can fluctuate).

WHAT NEXT?: Laura Gauld, an SAGT member, has kindly offered to act as "coordinator of tour communications" to participants of the 2015 Tour to Iceland. If you are interested in being a participant on this tour, please pass your name and all contact details to Laura at lauragauld@hotmail.com as promptly as possible; **by Monday September 22nd at the latest**. Please indicate too if you would wish to have a **single room** or would wish to share in a **twin room**. This will allow the viability of the proposed tour to be gauged. If viable, participants will receive much follow-on information as the months advance towards departure day.

NOTE: Although primarily aimed at SAGT members, of course, family and friends (and other geographers) will be welcome on this tour for adults to Iceland, places permitting.