

#wpg 2isl!



Cultural Expeditions from Winnipeg to Iceland!



Not just a bunch of tourists... We are professionals; Graphic Designers, Photographers, Architects, City Planners, Engineers, movers and shakers in the Festival, Gallery and Museum world, and we are out to meet similar people, and take lots of notes.

This is a cultural expedition to find differences and

similarities between Winnipeg, Manitoba and those people over the horizon. Ignite your adventurous spirit as we explore Reykjavik and the western fjords!

This 10 day journey begins in Reykjavik where you will be spending 3 days visiting design centres, museums, galleries and Volcanic Hot Tubs or Laugs (pronounced Loygs). We'll then hit the road and venture North to the Snæfellsnes peninsula to see volcanoes and lava fields. Then cruise on intertwining roads through the western fjords continuing north to Ísafjörður with a few stops along the way in quaint villages and to stop and explore the beautiful terrain.

Wpg.global: Iceland 2015

Dates: August 31 – September 10, 2015 – 10 nights / 11 days

Destination: Reykjavik & western fjord region

Flight Options for Departure:

- Depart Winnipeg on August 31 at 3:40pm via Toronto – Arrive in Reykjavik at 6:20am on September 1st.
- Or Depart Winnipeg on August 31 at 4:30pm via Edmonton – Arrive in Reykjavik at 6:40am on September 1st.

Flight Options for Return:

- Depart Reykjavik on September 10th, at 10:30am via Toronto – Arrive in Winnipeg at 6:29pm on September 10th.
- Depart Reykjavik on September 10th at 5:00pm via Toronto – Arrive in Winnipeg at 12:14am on September 11th.

Total Price: \$3,499 per person / based on double occupancy

Price includes:

- International flight from Winnipeg
- Transportation to and from airport in Reykjavik (shuttle)
- Accommodations in 2/3* guesthouses, hotels, or B&Bs based on double occupancy
- Meals specified in the itinerary - excluding alcoholic beverages
- Winnipeg Tour Leaders (3)
- Cultural Exchange opportunities with Icelandic photographers, designers, architects, and other specified delegates
- 6 Day Road Trip throughout the Western Fjords
- Domestic transportation during our 6 day excursion

Price does not include:

- Additional activities
- Meals not stated in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel and medical insurance



Top things to do in Reykjavik:

- Harpa Conference & Concert Centre – award winning building
- City Walking Tours (coffee and street photography!)
- Hallgrímskirkja, the most photographed building in Reykjavik
- Solfar (Sun Voyager) Sculpture
- National Museum of Iceland
- Iceland Horizon – Golden Circle Bus Tour to Gullfoss, Thingvellir and the Geysirs. (day trip)
- Open Air Folk Museum – Arbaejarsafn
- Reykjavik 871 +/-2 The Settlement Exhibition
- Micro Bar
- Icelandic Opera (Íslenska Operan)
- Einar Jonsson Museum (Listasafn Einars Jonssonar)
- Grotta Lighthouse
- The Pearl (Perlan) overlooking the city.
- Volcano House

Here's a few more - <http://visitreykjavik.is/places-interest>



The Itinerary is Set! (but flexible...)

Unstructured itinerary - Please note that the itinerary is subject to change based on local realities, weather conditions, and sporadic events that may happen if an opportunity arises. These are the joys and adventures of travel and it is best to keep an open mind and go with the flow – you never know what will be around the corner.

Depart from Winnipeg on August 31, 2015

Day 1 (Sept. 1): Arrive early morning at Keflavik International Airport and take the Flybus to Reykjavik. Relax, unpack and receive a brief welcome & orientation from the group leaders. Meet for a group lunch followed by a light walking tour of the city. Dinner not included on this day.

Stay 3 nights at Icelandair - <http://www.icelandairhotels.com/en/hotels/natura/about-reykjavik-natura/about-the-hotel>

Day 2 (Sept. 2): Reykjavik – Cultural Programming and free day to explore the city. Breakfast included.

Day 3 (Sept. 3):

Reykjavik – Cultural Programming and free day to explore the city. Breakfast included.

Day 4 (Sept. 4):

Road Trip Begins! – Drive to The Geothermal Energy Exhibition in Hellisheiðarvirkjun, then head to Hveragerði to see the town entirely running on steam power from the Earth. They cook bread by burying it in the ground. If time permits, continue on the Golden Circle Route to explore waterfalls and the geysers. Stop for a picnic lunch.



Then drive to Borgarnes. Buzzy Borgarnes and its broad Borgarfjörður were the landing zone for several famous Icelandic settlers. Inland, up the river-twined valley, you'll find fecund farms leading to powerful stone-strewn lava tubes and highlands, the gateway to ice caps beyond.

Unassuming Borgarnes has got it going on. For such a tiny place, it bubbles with local life. One of the original settlement areas for the first Icelanders, it's loaded with history, and sits on a scenic promontory along the broad waters of Borgarfjörður. Zip past the busy petrol stations and go into the old quarter to encounter the fun small-town vibe and one of Iceland's best museums.

Spend the night at Borgarnes Bed & Breakfast - <http://borgarnesbb.is/groups/>

Total Drive time – ~2 hours & 43 mins (210 km)

Day 5 (Sept. 5): Pack a picnic lunch & drive from Borgarnes to Djupalonssandur (134 km) with stops at the thermal springs and the Gerðuberg basalt columns. Then venture to the Snæfellsnes Peninsula.

Sparkling fjords, dramatic volcanic peaks, sheer sea cliffs, sweeping golden beaches and crunchy lava flows make up the diverse and fascinating landscape of the 100km-long Snæfellsnes Peninsula. The area is crowned by the glistening ice cap Snæfellsjökull, immortalised in Jules Verne's Journey to the Centre of the Earth. Good roads and regular buses mean that it's an easy road trip, offering a cross section of the best Iceland has to offer in a very compact region.

Stykkishólmur, on the populated northern coast, is the region's largest town and a logical base. Moving west along the northern coast, you'll pass smaller townships. On the western part of the peninsula, Snæfellsjökull National Park



encompasses not only its glacier but bird sanctuaries and lava fields. The quiet southern coast has several good horse farms beneath towering crags.

Drive throughout the Park stopping at a Black Sand Lava Beach, a volcanic crater, and other scenic areas. Find a beautiful spot to have your picnic lunch. Today, the park is

criss-crossed with hiking trails, and during proper weather it is possible to visit the glacier with a tour or guide. Hellnar is home to the National Park Visitor Centre, and area tourist offices sell maps and give advice, too. The park's online map is also excellent. Rangers have an active summer program of free park guided tours; check online or email.

Points of Interest in Snæfellsjökull National Park:

Vatnshellir - This 8000-year old lava tube with multiple caverns lies 32m below the earth's surface, 1km north of [Malariff](#). The pull-out is visible from Rte 574, and the tube can only be visited by guided tour.

Dritvík & Djúpalón - On the southwest coast, Rte 572 leads off of Rte 574 to the wild black-sand beach Djúpalónssandur. It's a dramatic place to walk with rock formations (an elf church! and kerling, a troll woman), two brackish pools (for which the beach was named), and the rock-arch Gatklettur. An asphalt car park and public toilets allow tour bus access, and crowds. Down on the beach you can still see four lifting stones where fishing-boat crews would test the strength of aspiring fishermen. The smallest stone is Amloði (Bungler) at 23kg, followed by Hálfdrættingur (Weak) at 54kg, Hálfsterkur (Half-Strong) at 100kg, and the largest, Fullsterker (Fully Strong), at 154kg.

Hálfdrættingur marked the frontier of wimphood, and any man who couldn't heft it was deemed unsuitable for a life at sea. Alongside, the black sands are covered in pieces of rusted metal from the English trawler Eding, which was shipwrecked here in 1948.

A series of rocky sea stacks, some of which are thought to be a troll church, emerge from the ocean up the coast, as you tramp north over the craggy headland to reach the black-sand beach at Dritvík. From the 16th to the 19th century Dritvík was the largest fishing station in [Iceland](#), with up to 60 fishing boats, but now there are only ruins near the edge of the lava field.

Öndverðarnes - At the westernmost tip of Snæfellsnes, Rte 574 cuts south, while Rte 579, a tiny gravel and occasionally surfaced track, heads further west across an ancient lava flow to the tip of the Öndverðarnes peninsula, which is great for whale watching.

As the road winds through charcoal lava cliffs you'll pass Skarðsvík, a golden beach with basalt cubes alongside. A Viking grave was discovered here in the 1960s and it's easy to understand why this stunning spot would have been a favoured final resting place.

After Skarðsvík the track gets much bumpier (still manageable for a 2WD). Park at the turn-off (left side) to walk through craggy lava flows to the imposing volcanic crater Vatnsborg, or continue driving straight on until you reach a T-intersection. To the left lie the dramatic Svörtuloft bird cliffs (Saxhólsbjarg) and a tall, orange lighthouse. To the right, the bumpy track runs parallel to the sea to a squat, orange lighthouse. From its parking area, you can walk to the very tip of the peninsula, for whale watching, or walk 200m northeast to Fálki, an ancient stone well which was thought to have three waters: fresh, holy and ale!

Other nearby points of interest:

Arnarstapi - Linked to [Hellnar](#) by both the main road and a wonderful coastal hike, this hamlet of summer cottages is nestled between the churning Arctic waters and the gnarled pillars of two neighbouring lava fields. A monument pays tribute to Jules Verne and a comical signpost measures distances to major cities via the earth's core. A second, enormous troll-like monument stands as a tribute to Bárður, the region's guardian spirit, and the leading character in a local saga.

Arnarstapi is the best place to organise an ascent to the Snæfellsjökull glacial crown, though some tour companies come in from Reykjavík (such as Arctic Adventures).

After a late lunch drive to Kirkjufell to see the large mountain and photographs at sunset. Kirkjufell (463m), guardian of Grundarfjörður's northern vista, is said to be one of the most photographed spots in Iceland. You'll see Ben Stiller skateboarding past in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013). Ask the Saga Centre if you want to climb it (around €40 for a guide). Two spots involving a rope climb make it dangerous to scale when wet or without local knowledge. Kirkjufell is backed by the roaring waterfalls, Kirkjufellsfoss ; more camera fodder.

Before or after check out Bjarnarhöfn Farm and sample fermented shark meat.

Stay in Sundabakki Guesthouse in Stykkisholmur - <http://www.sundabakki.is>

Total Driving time 3 hours & 13 mins (232km)



Day 6 (Sept. 6): Drive to Patreskjordur, stops along the way may include a ship wreck near Stykkisholmur, Drangnes Hot Tubs, the Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft, Holmavik. Stop for lunch in Holmavik.

After lunch stop in Nauteyrarlaug, Wild Hot Springs, and see the Litlibær, Cute Icelandic Cottage.

Total drive time 3 hours & 50 mins (324 km)

Spend the night at Guesthouse Stekkaból - <http://stekkabol.is>

Day 7 (Sept. 7): Drive to Isafjordur, a quaint fishing village on Highway 61.

Hub of Westfjords adventure tours, and by far the region's largest town, Ísafjörður (www.isafjordur.is) is a pleasant and prosperous place and an excellent base for travellers. The town is set on an arcing spit that extends out into Skutulsfjörður, and is hemmed in on all sides by towering peaks and the dark waters of the fjord.

The centre of Ísafjörður is a charming grid of old timber and tin-clad buildings, many unchanged since the 18th century, when the harbour was full of tall ships and Norwegian whaling crews. Today it is a surprisingly cosmopolitan place, and after some time spent travelling in the [Westfjords](#), it'll feel like a bustling metropolis with its tempting cafes and fine choice of restaurants. There's hiking in the hills around the town, skiing in winter, and regular summer boats ferry hikers across to the remote Hornstrandir Peninsula.

Stay at Einarshus in Bolungarvik - <http://www.einarshusid.is>

Total drive time 3 hours & 8 mins (176 km)

Day 8 (Sept. 8): Drive from Isafjordur to Hotel Edda Laugar Saelingsdal or nearby Guesthouse on the Highway 61 or 68 (time and weather permitting). Pack a picnic lunch and enjoy the fabulous scenery of the coastlines.

Spend the night at Hraunsnef Country Hotel - <http://en.hraunsnef.is/>

Total Drive time 3 hours & 25 mins (286km)

Day 9 (Sept. 9): Drive from either Hotel Edda Laugar Saelingsdal or nearby Guesthouse to Reykjavik. Stop at Eiriksstadir, the home of Erik the Red on route to the interesting Lava Fields near Bifrost University.

Spend the night in Reykjavik at 4th Floors or Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura.

Total drive time 2 hours 15 mins (172km)

Spend the night in Reykjavik at the 4th Floor Hotel - <http://www.4thfloorhotel.is>

Day 10 (Sept. 10): Depart for home.



About your Tour Leaders:

Leif Norman - Self taught Winnipeg photographer who specializes in events, art, dance, theatre and architecture. Finding the need for a bigger venue for local photographers he founded FLASH, the annual Winnipeg Festival held every October in numerous locations all around the city. He also is a big nerd who is studying the history of Silver Nitrate based photographic processes and just might put it all into a book one day.

Ian McCausland - For over 25 years Ian has been providing award

winning images for a variety of local national and international clients. A life long Winniegegger who's passionate about this city and it's creative community, Ian is an avid traveller, photographing all over North America, Europe Asia and the Indian Subcontinent .He looks forward to visiting Iceland and with his love of connecting with people in person and through social media, hopes to create some lasting memories.



Evan Kuz - A Winnipeg graphic designer with a love of typography, photography, movies young and old, books, running, cycling, skiing, summer beaches, and family. But some days it seems that travel trumps all of that with his love of planning and traveling to distant places in search of cultural, gastronomical, and visual experiences all while scoring that

ultimate corner hotel room with a spectacular view!

“Framlag” is Icelandic for Contribution or Share.

As we are learning about how things work differently in Iceland, with its different styles, methods and cultural nuances, the Icelanders will likely want to know about what work is like in Winnipeg and Manitoba, so this Cultural Expedition is beneficial to everyone.

Since all the people on this expedition will be creative people, it is assumed they will create something intelligent about their time in Iceland and share it with Winnipeg.

Sharing what we have learned is one of the main purposes for this trip.

There will be many photo opportunities, but the expedition is also concerned with talking to the locals and learning about their work. Even though we know of many fun destinations ahead of time, there is no telling what we may find when we get there, and that really is the purpose of the trip; to find people and places we didn't know even existed.

After bouncing around on some rough roads for six days we will return to Reykjavik for one last day, and by then people might be brave enough to go into the Penis Museum. Oh the stories you will tell when you get back to Winnipeg!

Important Dates:

Early Bird Registration – Book by May 31st and receive \$200 off!

Deadline to Register: June 30, 2015

Booking Details:

Book through Travel Roots by contacting Amanda at Amanda@travelroots.org or call 204-996-9030. A \$500 deposit is required at the time of booking to secure your spot. Space is limited so secure your spot today!