

NICHE WOMEN'S TOURS



Explore Iceland The Land of Fire and Ice

With Master Photographer Frances Litman*
May 23 to 31, 2017



Iceland is one of the only places on earth where you will find volcanic activity, hot geothermal soaking pools, and ice blue glaciers set amidst a moon-like landscape. Rolling green pastures, picturesque and colorful painted seaside towns, and landscapes to make even the most novice photographer drool. Iceland is stunningly beautiful and unique. Experience the famous Blue Lagoon, Fontana steam baths, and the Lake Mývatn area where we view the “Waterfall of the Gods”. We will travel the Golden Circle, home to many of Iceland’s natural wonders such as Gullfoss, Geysir and Thingvellir National Park. We will create traditional Icelandic cuisine during a hands on cooking class, enjoy delicious fresh bread baked in an incredible underground geothermal bakery. We see the world renowned Icelandic horse a UNESCO world heritage site and spend our evenings gazing at the night sky in search of the dazzling Northern Lights!more! We hope you will join Frances on this amazing tour!

Your package includes:

- Accommodation and meals as per the itinerary
- Transfers and sightseeing as per itinerary by private air conditioned motor coach
- Entrance fees to museums and sites mentioned in itinerary
- Activities and classes as mentioned in itinerary
- Group arrival and departure transfers



Price per person land only \$4,999.00 based on two sharing and minimum of 10 passengers. (Limited to a maximum of 12) Not included: personal expenses, international airfare and taxes, meals not specified, tipping. Single supplement \$899.00 Private transfers are available at an additional cost for those not arriving at the same time as the group. Hold your space with a \$600 non-refundable deposit.

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BOUTIQUE TOURS THAT INSPIRE

NICHE TRAVEL

Itinerary:

May 23 - Arrival via Blue Lagoon

(B)

Your guide will be waiting in the arrival hall to take you to your private coach.

First stop will be for breakfast at a local restaurant in a nearby village.

On the way to Reykjavík you'll stop at the Blue Lagoon for an hour visit. Whatever the weather, bathing in the electric-blue geothermal waters, surrounded by lava fields, is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Overnight stay in Reykjavík.

May 24 - Reykjavik City Sightseeing incl cultural walk–Cooking class

(B, L, D)

This morning we enjoy a sightseeing tour which is the perfect introduction to the many sights of Iceland's wonderful capital city. We will take in all the city's major attractions, including: the old town centre, the Parliament, the cathedral, the harbour, the national museum, the Laugadalur swimming pool, the Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture museum, the Pearl, Höfði house (site of the 1986 summit) and the city's main landmark, Hallgrímskirkja. Next we will enjoy a traditional Icelandic cuisine at the famous Café Loki.



Our afternoon will feature a cultural and design walking tour that will cover charming street Skólavörðustígur. We will visit a selection of exciting boutiques and design studios in the area. The most famous hot dog stand in Reykjavik will be visited as well as it is a must while staying in Iceland. The tour will either end in the oldest house in Reykjavik where there is a wide selection of Icelandic design!

Tonight we will enjoy a cooking class -A Nordic Culinary Quest

We will enjoy a fun and creative hands-on cooking experience, with fresh local ingredients under the supervision of skilled instructors. Icelandic fish and lamb will take centre stage as we learn to cook Scandinavian style.

Overnight stay in Reykjavík.

May 25 - Þingvellir -Geysir –Gullfoss –South Iceland

(B,D)

This morning we will head from Reykjavik to Þingvellir national park, site of the Viking parliament and over 1000 years of history. We will drive to Laugarvatn to Fontana steam baths for a wonderful spa experience on the edge of beautiful Lake Laugarvatn. We will experience the magic of a geothermal bakery where Icelandic rye bread is baked below the ground using geothermal energy!

We will continue on to explore Gullfoss, the "Golden Waterfall", and the nearby Geysir hot spring area to see the famous Geysir and Strokkur, and numerous other hot springs and boiling mud pools. Continue along the south shore and stop to admire the waterfalls Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss before continuing to Dyrhólaey* nature reserve. We will finish our day off with an overnight stay in the village of Vik.



May 26 - Vik –Skaftafell National Park –Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon –Hofn

(B)

Cross Eldhraun, the largest mass of lava ever to flow on the face of the earth, before reaching the small town Kirkjubæjarklaustur, a former site of a 12th-century Catholic convent. The tour continues over Skeidararsandur sands to Skaftafell National Park. Continue to the stunning Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon to see the birthplace of icebergs. Throughout the day we are afforded magnificent views of the mighty Vatnajokull Glacier.

Dinner and overnight stay in the Hofn area.



May 27 - Hofn –East Fjords –Egilsstadir

(B,D)

Today we drive from Hofn through Almannaskard pass and along the majestic coastline. We will continue to the towering mountains plunging vertically into the sea that form the magnificent East Fjords and explore Petra's renowned collection of local stones and minerals.

Upon arrival at Egilsstadir, we will drive to Fljótisdalur Valley, with rich green forests bordering a legendary lake called Lagarfljót. According to local folklore, similar to those



of Loch Ness in Scotland, the lake is the home to a giant aquatic serpent. Next we will drive to Skriðuklaustur monastery, one of the most recognized and renowned buildings of the Eastfjords where we will enjoy refreshments, and learn about the culture and history of the place.

In the late afternoon, we will take a step into the past and visit the Wilderness Centre, located by the edge of North Europe's largest wilderness area and a gateway to the highlands. If we are lucky, during the tour the Icelandic reindeer that only live in the eastern part of Iceland will be roaming by the road or in the hills and mountains surrounding us.

We will have free time to explore and take in the tranquility and cultural traces from the past before having a delicious dinner made from local ingredients sourced in the region.

May 28 - Lake Myvatn Area

(B,D)

Today we explore the empty vastness of the highland desert plateau Modrudalsoraefi, heading to the Lake Myvatn area. On the way, a stop at Dettifoss, which is Europe's most powerful waterfall! Onwards to Namaskard pass with its boiling mud pools and vibrant colors. We explore the natural beauty of the Lake Myvatn area, including incredible lava formations and pseudo craters seen nowhere else! One of Myvatn area's claims to fame is that it is home to more species of ducks than any other place on Earth, with very diverse birdlife in general. Dinner and overnight stay in the Myvatn area.



May 29 - Lake Myvatn Area –Akureyri

(B)

Today we start the day by exploring the peculiar lava formations at Dimmuborgir. We then continue to the bustling northern port of Akureyri making a stop at the magnificent Godafoss waterfall and the old turf farm Laufas. Akureyri has some of the finest timber buildings in the country, beautifully restored to their original glory. Overnight stay in the Akureyri area (DINNER EXCLUDED)



May 30 - Skagafjordur –Borgarnes –Reykjavík

(B)

Today we journey through majestic mountains and narrow passes to Skagafjordur for an introduction of the unique Icelandic horse that has a special fifth gait -the tolt. Towards the village of Blonduos built on both sides of the river Blanda with Hrutey Island a protected nature reserve located in this popular salmon river.



We next stop in the fishing village of Hvammstangi, where we will find an interesting gallery with local art and crafts.

Next we cross the Holtavorduheidi plateau through Borgarfjordur to the beautiful old town of Borgarnes where we will discover hidden gems. In the house of Skúlagata 13 we will find a flower and a gift shop and a beautiful café/bar Café Kyrrð (Café Tranquility) which offers quality coffee, light meals and traditional Icelandic cakes. We will have a e afternoon arrival in Reykjavik where we will spend the night.

May 31 - Departure day

(B)

Today we leave via private coach will collect us approx. 3.5 hours before our flight departure from the Keflavik International Airport.

*Frances is a Master photographer (MPA) with 25 years of experience, an accredited international photography judge, speaker and former newspaper journalist. Her unbridled enthusiasm, love for people, photography and art guarantees an uplifting experience for all. Frances's passion for photography expanded into a passion for the natural world and grew to include founding and organizing North America's largest non-profit sustainability showcase and Earth Week festival (www.creativelyunited.org) which launched in 2012 with thousands of people attending annually.