



**5-DAY ICELAND PROVISIONAL ITINERARY**  
**Full Board / Bed Linen + Towels / Guide on days 2 to 4**

*Please note that your itinerary may be subject to change according to weather conditions and other time constraints.*

**Please take time to check and read through your itinerary carefully**

<b>Day 1</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>26 October 2016</b>	
	Group making own arrangements for transportation to and from the UK airport.
<b>Flight Information</b>	09:30 Check in at London Gatwick Airport, South Terminal 12:05 Depart on WOW Air flight WW811 14:15 Arrive Keflavik International  Please ensure your group checks in a minimum of two and a half hours before departure. <b>Please note:</b> seat numbers will be allocated at check-in.  Snacks and drinks are not provided but are available to purchase on board.
<b>Transfer</b>	After clearing customs and immigration, please proceed to the exit of the terminal building where your coach driver (who will be holding up a sign with your group name) will be waiting for you.  <b>Gray Line Iceland coach department: +354 540 1311</b>
<b>1530 Blue Lagoon</b>	One of Iceland's most popular visitor attractions, the Blue Lagoon is a spacious bathing pool set in a moody landscape of mossy lava. Averaging a temperature of 30-40°C, its silica-rich geothermal seawater is drawn from a 2,000m deep borehole. Bring a swimsuit and towel and enjoy one of the most unusual hot baths on offer!  Additional facilities include a restaurant, café, souvenir shop and toilets.  Tel +3544208825
<b>Accommodation</b>  <b>1930 Supper</b>	<u>Hotel Ork, Breidumork 1c, Hveragerdi</u> Tel: + 354 483 4700  At hotel  Please check with reception whether your group will be making up their own packed lunches or having them prepared by the hotel.  Discuss with your guide and the hotel a suitable time for dinner tomorrow and subsequent evenings.
<b>Evening</b>	Own arrangements

<b>Day 2</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>27 October 2016</b>	
<b>Breakfast</b>	To be taken from 08:00 (collect packed lunch) then depart at 09:00.
<b>08:30 guide consultation</b>	The group leaders should aim to meet the guide in the hotel lobby 30 minutes prior to departure. This is an excellent opportunity for you to speak with the guide, to ensure a full understanding of your specific requirements and expectations, allowing them to tailor their presentation and tour to meet your needs.
<b>Ljosafoss Hydro-Electric Power Station</b>  <b>Optional - free</b>	The oldest power station in the River Sog is located near Ljosafoss by Lake Úlfjótstvatn's outflow. The station is located on the river bank east of the waterfall, and the water runs through pipes to the station's turbines and from there into the river below the waterfall.  <b>+354 515 9000</b>
<b>Kerið</b>  <b>(pay locally)</b>	A dramatic volcanic crater lake, originally believed to have formed in an explosive eruption. More thorough studies show that Kerið was a cone volcano, which erupted and emptied its magma reserve, causing the roof of the magma chamber to subside.  <i>There is now a charge of approximately £2 (kr. 350) to visit Kerid. Although many groups enjoy this site, Kerið is an <b>optional</b> stop and is not a main highlight. Please speak with your guide if you wish to include this visit today. This is payable locally either with local currency or credit/debit card.</i>
<b>Gullfoss</b>	These double falls drop around 33m then plunge into a mile-long gorge – one of Iceland's most photographed waterfalls. Café, souvenir shop and toilets can be found here.
<b>Geysir</b>	Visit the site of Geysir, a spouting hot spring that gave its name to all the world's geysers. Although it doesn't often spout nowadays, its neighbour 'Strokkur' erupts every 10-15 minutes reaching a height of around 30m. One of the trio of natural wonders on the Golden Circle route. Café, souvenir shop and toilets are available. Free entry to the Geo Centre geological exhibition at Geysir. Tel: +354 480 6800
<b>Efstidalur dairy farm</b>  (Optional stop for home-made ice-cream).	Visit a working dairy farm where the barn has been converted into a restaurant, with windows into the cow shed, where you can watch the cows and calves in their daily environment. The farm makes its own milk products such as ice-cream, skyr, feta cheese and more. (Small home-made soft ice from – ISK 380 or one scoop ISK 450, payable locally).  Tel: +354 4861186 or +354 8621626 (Please ask your guide to call ahead if you wish to visit)
<b>Pingvellir (Thingvellir)</b>	This National Park is where Iceland's parliament was established in 930AD. The site straddles the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, its rift valley forming where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates pull apart at an average of 3cm a year. From the Hakið Visitor Centre enjoy an overview of the site and its geology. Then, walk among the rifts and see ropy pahoehoe lava from a shield volcano eruption, as you learn of the events that shaped Iceland's early history. As you gaze into the water-filled fissure Peningagjá, note how clear the water is, having been filtered through lava before it enters the lake. Facilities include café, Visitor Centre and toilets - payable.
	<b>OR – please choose</b>
<b>Pingvellir (Thingvellir) –</b>  An alternative approach, walking boots recommended	Begin your visit from the Óxará car park on road 36 (close to the Hakið Visitor Centre). Walk down into Stekkjargjá canyon past the split cliff, Gálgaklettur, which means gallows rock. In the Middle Ages, men who had committed a serious crime were hung from a pole that was put up in the gap. Reach the waterfall Óxarárfoss, where the canyon changes its name to Almannagjá. Then walk along the rift past the parliament site to the viewpoint at the Hakið Visitor Centre.
<b>Accommodation</b>	<u>Hotel Ork, Breidumork 1c, Hveragerði</u> Tel: + 354 483 4700
<b>Supper</b>	At hotel
<b>Evening</b>	Own arrangements

<b>Day 3</b> <b>Friday</b> <b>28 October 2016</b>	<u><b>Westman islands</b></u>
<b>Breakfast</b>	To be taken from 08:00 (collect packed lunch). Own time in Hveragerdi.
<b>1030</b>	Depart from Hotel Ork
<b>Vestmannaeyjar</b> <b>(Westman Islands)</b>  <b>1200 Check -in</b> <b>1230 Dep Mainland</b> <b>1300 Arr Heimaey</b>  <b>1800 Check-in</b> <b>1830 Dep Heimaey</b> <b>1900 Arr Mainland</b>  <b>*times to be confirmed</b>	<p>Take a 30-minute ferry ride to the Westman Islands (weather permitting), a group of 15 volcanic islands off the south coast. Hiking boots and wind and rainproof gear are essential.</p> <p>On arrival you'll tour the island of Heimaey, which surprisingly for such a tiny island has a town of 4,000 inhabitants. Hear how changing sea temperatures are affecting the breeding success of the island's puffin colony and how puffins have been a harvested resource for the islanders since settlement days.</p> <p>Hike to the site of the 1973 eruption that created the Eldfell crater and caused ash and lava to engulf one third of the houses on the island of Heimaey. Discuss efforts by the local people to halt the lava that threatened to block the fishing port and the controversial decision to excavate some of the homes buried by ash, to create a tourist attraction.</p> <p>Learn about attempts, starting in 1998, to reintroduce the captive orca Keiko into the wild. Star of the 1993 Free Willy film, Keiko was taken from his family in the wild off Iceland in 1979.</p> <p>If time permits, visit the local geothermally heated swimming pool, which offers a 25m indoor pool, 3 hot tubs, sauna and slides. Pay locally a few hundred Krona (£3 approx).  <a href="http://www.swimminginiceland.com/south-of-iceland/128-vestmannaeyjar-westman-islands">http://www.swimminginiceland.com/south-of-iceland/128-vestmannaeyjar-westman-islands</a>            Tel: +354 488 2400</p> <p>Then take the return ferry to the mainland and continue towards your accommodation.</p> <p><b><i>The ferry timetable sometimes changes at short notice so please liaise with your guide to re-arrange your itinerary if necessary.</i></b></p> <p>Ferry Company Emskip +354 481-2800.  <a href="http://eimskip.is/EN/iceland_domestic/herjolfur/Siglinga%20a1%20a6tlun.html">http://eimskip.is/EN/iceland_domestic/herjolfur/Siglinga%20a1%20a6tlun.html</a></p> <p>If for any reason the ferry does not operate, you will receive either a refund for the trip to Heimaey, or alternatively you may choose to use the funds as <b>part payment</b> for another activity (e.g. Thjorsardalur Valley) should we be able to arrange it for you at short notice.</p>
<b>Eldheimar Exhibition</b>  <b>(Optional activity at an extra cost)</b>	<p>Optional visit to Eldheimar, a new interactive exhibition, which focuses on the 1973 volcanic eruption and how it affected the community. Eldheimar includes an exhibition on Surtsey, the volcanic island that emerged from the ocean in 1963 and now serves as a living laboratory on plant and animal colonisation.</p> <p>Must be booked in advance. For more information visit: <a href="http://www.eldheimar.is">www.eldheimar.is</a>            Tel: <b>+354 488 2700</b></p> <p>*Please ask your guide to call the centre to re-confirm the time of the visit or if your trip to Heimaey is cancelled. The centre sometimes opens especially for your group</p>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<u>Hotel Ork, Breidumork 1c, Hveragerdi</u> Tel: + 354 483 4700
<b>Supper</b>	At hotel
<b>Evening</b>	Own arrangements

<b>Day 4 Saturday 29 October 2016</b>	
<b>Breakfast</b>	To be taken from 08:00 (collect packed lunch) then depart at 09:00.
<b>Seljalandsfoss</b>	This waterfall's plume spills 60m over a former sea cliff, now sited far inland due to isostatic rebound. In the summer months it is possible to walk behind the waterfall. W.C.
<b>Skógafoss</b>	Another of Iceland's most impressive waterfalls – with a wide, thundering curtain of water 60m high. See farms evacuated during the Eyjafjallajökull eruption, as they were cloaked with ash from the volcano. W.C.
<b>Vík</b>	At this tiny coastal town, walk down to the black sand beach and view the remarkable sea stacks – Reynisdrangar. Whilst geologists talk of volcanic plugs, folklore tells a different version of how this spectacular natural monument was formed. Debris from the Katla eruption of 1918 extended Vík's coastline by 500m and you can see how the locals have responded to the threat of 'jokulhlaup' at different stages in the village's history. Just west of the town, observe the dyke built to protect the settlement from future flooding. Facilities include a souvenir shop, café and toilets.
<b>Reynishverfi</b>	Walk along the black volcanic beach to see magnificent basalt cliffs and caves. Take photos standing and sitting on the basalt columns!  Black Beach café (call 659-7141 to check if open) and separate toilets (payable if not using the café)
<b>Dyrhólaey</b>	The name means 'door hill island' – with its 120m high natural rock arch this prominent headland is likely to have been formed in a submarine eruption similar to that of Surtsey Island in 1963. On a clear day, enjoy spectacular views of the volcano Eyjafjallajökull and icecap Mýrdalsjökull.
<b>1400 Glacier Walk</b>	This very popular trip takes you on an exploration of the frozen glacier tongue of Solheimajokull. A wonderland of ice sculptures, ridges and deep crevasses await your discovery. The experienced glacier guide will teach you how to use basic ice equipment, crampons and ice axes.  Sturdy comfortable walking boots are required and they should be firm at the front to ensure the crampons fit securely. Please make sure you have energy bars or chocolate and a drink with you.  You will have approximately 1-1.5 hours on the ice, depending on the group size and ability.  Operated by Asgard – Beyond Tel. <a href="tel:+3547796000">+354 779 6000</a> or +354 867-5456  *Please note, depending on the route used it can now take approximately 30-45 minutes to walk to the glacier. No W.C.  <u>Suggestion</u> Arcanum Glacier Café - They serve soup and bread, hot drinks and cakes. Tel: 354-487 1500 Ask your guide to call ahead to check availability. Please note that this is not a toilet stop only. Seating up to 50.
<b>Accommodation</b>	<u>Hotel Ork, Breidumork 1c, Hveragerdi</u> Tel: + 354 483 4700
<b>Supper</b>	At hotel
<b>Evening</b>	Own arrangements

<b>Day 5</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>30 October 2016</b>	<u><b>No guide today</b></u>
<b>Breakfast</b>	To be taken from 08:00 (collect packed lunch) then depart at 09:00.
<b>Reykjavik – no guide</b>	<p>Free time in Reykjavik for sightseeing or urban studies in the historic centre of Iceland’s compact capital, population 120,000 – visit the old port, central lake (Tjörninn), Hallgrímskirkja Church (pay locally to visit the top of the observation tower). Shops open weekdays at 10am or 11 and some are open on Sundays. A few souvenir shops open at 9am.</p> <p>Leave Reykjavik at <b>1030</b> if you want to allow 30 minutes at the bridge and at Gunnuhver. If you decide to spend the whole time in Reykjavik or longer at the peninsula, please discuss your departure time from Reykjavik with your driver.</p>
<b>Reykjanes Peninsula</b>	<p><b>Gunnuhver</b> Take a walk amongst mud pools and steam vents and view the vigorously bubbling Gunnuhver, Iceland’s largest mud pool with a diameter of 20m. These form where steam generated from a geothermal reservoir emanates and condenses, mixing with surface water. Accompanying gases such as carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide make the water acidic, which causes alteration of the lava to clay. Nearby, see the Reykjanes geothermal power plant (exterior viewing only) and observe how the ocean shapes Iceland’s coastal landscapes.</p> <p><b>Bridge between Continents</b> Drive past lava fields and crater rows to the Bridge between Continents, spanning a fissure acknowledged to be the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which runs through Iceland. Crossing this symbolic bridge, witness the effects of continental drift.</p>
<b>Transfer</b>	Transfer to Keflavík Airport
<b>Flight Information</b>	<p>13:25 Check in at Keflavik Airport 15:25 Depart on WOW Air flight WW814 18:40 Arrive at London Gatwick Airport, South Terminal</p> <p><u><b>Wow Air</b></u></p> <p><b>Please note:</b> seat numbers will be allocated at check-in.</p> <p>Snacks and drinks are not provided but are available to purchase on board.</p>

### Additional Information

1. A guide will accompany the group on all but the first and last day in Iceland. (A guide can be provided on the other days if required at extra cost)
2. Your breakfast and evening meal are provided every day.
3. Packed lunches are provided every day. Please remember to pick up all of the packed lunches including vegetarian options from your accommodation.
4. Dietary requirements, as listed on your confirmation, will be passed to our suppliers. However we do recommend that you check with the hotels or restaurants on arrival to make sure that appropriate arrangements have been made.
5. Liaise with your driver and guide on a daily basis to arrange lunch stops
6. Blue Lagoon – Remember your swimming costume and towel (pack in hand luggage if visiting at the beginning or end of your trip).
7. Swimming in Icelandic pools – Please note for reasons of hygiene, it is compulsory to shower, without a costume, before entering the swimming pool. Please remember to bring your own towels.
8. Once out of Reykjavik evening options are more limited. Some accommodation has DVD facilities; in general, after a long day out in fresh air, most groups are simply glad to relax or write up/prepare for the next day. Some groups compile quizzes as the days go by. Some bring their own DVDs or devise their own evening activities. Occasionally other groups may be staying at your accommodation, especially during school holidays.
9. WCs - Restaurants and service stations are still free. Some WCs in the countryside e.g. waterfalls have a donation box. Thingvellir currently charges 200 ISK and has a turnstile. Payment in coins or by credit/debit card.
10. **ICELANDIC BEACHES** - Please ensure you keep well away from the water's edge; the local recommendation is at least 20 meters, but we suggest you err on the side of caution. Freak waves can occur with very little warning and potentially fatal consequences.

Your invoice is based upon the itinerary included in this document. Should any of the following circumstances change, the costing would have to be recalculated.

- Changes in dates, student or staff numbers
- Change to the itinerary content and route
- Whilst in Iceland, should you request a visit to an additional site, which extends **your** journey, you must arrange to pay for this directly to the bus company **before leaving Iceland.** **We are unable to invoice you for this upon your return to the UK. Thank you for your cooperation.**

Emergency contacts will be advised at a later date.  
Discover the World contact number: +44 1737 218 800.