

...Travellin' Round



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Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice

I was very fortunate to take a G Adventures tour to Iceland last fall. Iceland is the land of volcanos, geysers, hot springs, waterfalls, lava fields and massive glaciers. Let's not forget about the elves, puffins, Icelandic horses and the sheep which outnumber humans 2 to1, and of course the unforgettable Northern Lights. Iceland just moved into the top 10 places in the world to visit, so let me introduce you to this beautiful destination!

We had 2 enjoyable nights in Reykjavik at the Skuggi Hotel, which is very centrally located and includes breakfast. We walked everywhere and visited the Hallgrímskirkja, the Modern Cathedral with striking tower. We strolled down Laugavegur Street with all the shops; we also walked down by the water and visited the Solfar Sculpture, the Harpa Reykjavik Concert Hall as well as the Saga museum. You must make a stop at the harbour side hotdog stand; it is the most popular place in Reykjavik boasting "Bæjarins Beztu Pylsur" which translates to "best hot dogs in town".

Our first stop was in Akureyri, which is located in the north. We did a Whale Watching Tour and then I tried my hand at fishing. A short drive out of Akureyri is the impressive Godafoss Waterfall, also known as the Waterfalls of the Gods. Still in northern Iceland is Lake Myvatn it is a geothermal area with beautiful scenery and a haven for birds.

The next stop is Dimmuborgir



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which are large lava fields that consists of are huge lava rock formations which make you feel like you stepped into another world, an amazing place to take some great pictures. Namas-kard is one of the largest sulfur fields in Iceland, it is a high-temperature geothermal area with fumaroles and

mud pots, the smell is awful but to see this is very interesting. Dettifoss it is a waterfall in Vatnajökull National Park in Northeast Iceland, and is the most powerful waterfall in Europe!

Our stop this evening was at Álfheimar Hotel it is situated on a farm in the fishing village of



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(Continued)

Borgarfjörður. Located in the north east, here in the summer months you will find cute Puffins. The costal drive from Borgarfjörður to Hofn is beautiful and majestic thru the eastern fjords. We stayed overnight near Hofn which is located in the southeast of Iceland. After leaving Hofn, the next must see is Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon. This ice lagoon has become one of Iceland's most popular attractions due to its immense beauty. Nearby is the black beach or Diamond Beach, as the ice chunks lying on it resemble diamonds glistening in the sun.

Next up was the Skaftafell National Park for a glacier hike. On the hike you will also learn the basics of using an ice axe and walking with crampons (spiked shoes). Take your camera as the pictures are amazing. On the south of Iceland, we stopped at Reynisfjara beach, with its black pebbles, and features an amazing cliffs. It is regarded as the most impressive black-sand beach in Iceland. Then on to Seljalandsfoss - one of the best-known waterfalls in Iceland. It is 65 meters high and it is possible to walk behind the waterfall so bring your raincoat. It is just overwhelming standing next to it. Gullfoss is actually two separate waterfalls, the upper one has a drop of 11 metres and the lower one 21 metres. It is worth the walk up to top!

A favourite and another unique spot is the Geysir Hot Spring area as it is one of the oldest geysers in the world. It erupts a spray of boiling hot water straight up in the air about every 10 minutes.

I cannot forget to mention the famous Blue Lagoon! This popular man-made geothermal spa of crystal clear water is the only site on earth you can swim in 40 degree centigrade water year round, and yet be encircled by ice and snow. The Blue lagoon is recommended as a great way to start or end your tour in Iceland as it is on route to and from the airport.

We would be happy to make your travel arrangements to this truly unique and amazing destination!