

# Iceland "The Island of Fire and Ice with Mary Hafeman September 10 to 19, 2019 Fun Iceland Golf and Tour Itinerary

**September 10 – Depart USA (air is additional)**

**September 11–**

- **Arrive Iceland** very early morning Delta arrives from JFK at 6:55 am.
- **Meet our private professional driver, Snorri Ingason** and his Mercedes Coach, transfer to **Viking World Museum** for breakfast and tour.
- **We'll be playing 9 holes of Golf at historic Brautarholt Golf Course** located on the North Sea. Plan on changing at the club. We have included rental clubs, golf cart within the package.
- **In afternoon, arrive at Hotel Marina, Reykjavik- you have the afternoon and evening on your own.** Enjoy the historic, quaint Reykjavik with Nordic shopping on the main road, Laugavegur, along with museums, churches, dining, famous hotdogs and craft beers.
- **Overnight/ Breakfast at Icelandic Hotel Marina, Reykjavik (Dinner on your own)**

**September 12 –**

- **We start our adventure in West Iceland, the area of the fjord, Borgarfjörður.** This area is renowned for its beauty covered with old lava, rivers, streams and waterfalls.
- **Visit Deildartunguhver Hot Springs**, the most powerful hot spring in Europe.
- **Hraunfoss Waterfalls**, one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Iceland. The water comes out from under the lava and falls into the Hvita river.
- **Reykolt** is the of historical significance, housing the Iceland's best-known author, Snorri Sturluson from 1206 to 1241. The geo thermal pool date back to medieval times.
- **After lunch, we'll tour the Ice Cave at Langjökull.** This is Iceland's second largest glacier, the man-made cave stretches 800 meters and is 25 feet high .

<https://intotheglacier.is/tour/your-into-the-glacier-adventure-the-classic-tour/>

- Our first evening and our first chance to see the Northern Lights  
Overnight/ Breakfast / Dinner at Hotel Husafell or the lovely Hotel Hamar



**September 13:**

- **In the morning we drive to the northern town of Akureyri.** This is a city at the base of Eyjafjörður Fjord in northern Iceland. In the center, the 1940 Akureyri Church has stained-glass windows portraying scenes from Icelandic Christian history.
- **Along the way we will visit Glanni Waterfalls**, The Glanni waterfall in the river Norðurá –is believed to be home to elves and gnomes. This is of great importance to the Icelanders who have great respect for those invisible beings coexisting with humans in perfect harmony.
- **Grabrok Crater**, belongs to the volcanic system of Ljosufjöll, The crater is the largest of three and was formed about 3400 years ago in a fissure eruption.



- **Kolugljufur Gorge** is beautiful. There is a steep drop on either side of the canyon, and the rocky cliffs extended as far as we can see. A river rushes through the canyon way at the bottom the rugged gorge. As Iceland is rich in folklore, the Kolugljufur Gorge is named after the giantess, Kola. According to legend, Kola lived in the canyon and it became shaped by her daily activities; such as where she slept and where she cooked the salmon she caught in the river.
- **Arrive in Akureyri:** the largest town outside of the greater Reykjavik area. It is situated in innermost Eyjafjörður fjord and is an old trading station and an important fishing town. It has a beautiful botanical gardens within this fjord. Old town was built in 1850 and is 60 miles to the Arctic Circle. We can visit Brynjuís, one of the most famous ice cream shops in Iceland.



- **Overnight/ Breakfast/ Dinner at Hotel Akureyri**

### September 14

- **We leave Akureyri with our first stop at the beautiful Gooafoss Waterfall:** (Waterfall of the Gods), The Goðafoss Waterfall is one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Iceland. The water of the river Skjálfandafliót falls from a height of 12 meters over a width of 30 meters. In the year 1000 the Law speaker Þorgeir Ljósvetningagoði made Christianity the official religion of Iceland. After his conversion, Þorgeir threw his statues of the Norse gods into the waterfall.
- **Next stop we'll explore the Lake Myvatn area.** Lake Myvatn is a volcanic lake in North Iceland. From desolate craters to bubbling mud pools and geothermal caves, the area around Lake Mývatn is a microcosm of all the natural wonders that Iceland has to offer.
- **A stop at the unique Skutustadir Pseudo Craters.** The Skútustaðagígar pseudo-craters are in the Lake Mývatn area. The craters themselves are not magma-producing volcanic vents but were formed by gas explosions when boiling lava flowed over the cool, wet surfaces about 2,300 years ago.
- **Dimmuborgir Lava Formations** is a large area of unusually shaped lava fields east of Mývatn in Iceland. The Dimmuborgir area is composed of various volcanic caves and rock formations, reminiscent of an ancient collapsed citadel (hence the name). The dramatic structures are one of Iceland's most popular natural tourist attractions. The Dimmuborgir area consists of a massive, collapsed lava tube formed by a lava lake flowing in from a large eruption in the Prengslaborgir and Lúdentaborgir crater row to the East, about 2300 years ago. At Dimmuborgir, the lava pooled over a small lake. As the lava flowed across the wet sod, the water of the marsh started to boil, the vapor rising through the lava forming lava pillars from drainpipe size up to several meters in diameter. As the lava continued flowing towards lower ground in the Mývatn area, the top crust collapsed, but the hollow pillars of solidified lava remained. The lava lake must have been at least 10 meters deep, as estimated by the tallest structures still standing.
- **Hverir Mud Pools** is a Geothermal spot noted for its bubbling pools of mud & steaming fumaroles emitting sulfuric gas. , Hidden from the view, if you're coming from Mývatn, behind Námaskarð pass, the large geothermal field of Hverir is a unique wasteland in which pools of boiling mud, hot springs and hissing chimneys give life to a desolate Mars-like scenery. Not that we've ever been to Mars, but the metaphor gives you the idea of what is waiting for you in here.



- **Dettifoss Waterfall Referred to by some as 'The Beast' in comparison to 'The Beauty' of Goðafoss:** this monstrous behemoth of a waterfall is guaranteed to steal your breath away. Set within stark, rocky surrounds with bone-shatteringly sheer drops on either side, there couldn't be a more fitting backdrop for such untethered natural power. It's a truly unmissable jewel in the Diamond Circle's crown, one you will never forget. The name Dettifoss could be loosely translated as 'The Collapsing Waterfall'. Officially holding the title of the most powerful waterfall in Europe, an average of 96,500 gallons of water crosses its bow every single second. Such is its force, the mist from the falls are visible from several miles away. Straggling a 100-meter-wide abyss, Dettifoss plummets 45 meters to the craggy shores below.
- Overnight in the peaceful and beautiful town of Egilsstaoir, in East Iceland. Overnight / Breakfast /Dinner at Icelandair Hotel Herad

### September 15

- **East fjords of Iceland:** Eastern Iceland is something of an enigma. Here, in this quiet region this is home to only about 3% of Iceland's population, the country's largest forest, and herds of wild reindeer. It's got rugged fjords, great hiking trails, puffin watching spots, villages with loads of character, lighthouses, roads hugging steep cliffs, jaw-dropping mountain views and some of the best coastline scenery in Iceland.
- **Petra's Stone Collection:** This is a unique little museum located in Stöðvarfjörður. It's actually the former home of Petra, an area woman who collected many types of rocks from East Iceland over decades.
- **Jökulsárlón:** is a glacial lagoon, bordering Vatnajökull National Park in southeastern Iceland. Its still, blue waters are dotted with icebergs from the surrounding glaciers.
- **Breiðamerkurjökull Glacier:** part of larger Vatnajökull Glacier. The Glacier Lagoon flows through a short waterway into the Atlantic Ocean, leaving chunks of ice on a black sand beach. In winter, the fish-filled lagoon hosts hundreds of seals
- **Amphibian Boat Tour among the Icebergs on the lagoon:** During our boat excursion, you will sail among the huge icebergs in the picturesque scenery of Jökulsárlón. On the boat you get to taste the 1000- year old ice and if you are lucky you might even see some seals.
- **The Diamond Beach is a strip of black sand belonging to the greater Breiðamerkursandur glacial plain, located by Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon on the South Coast of Iceland:** Here, the icebergs which fill Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon wash up on shore, standing dazzling and defiant in stark contrast to the black sand beach. It is, therefore, a favorite amongst photographers, nature-lovers, and wildlife-enthusiasts. Many seals call this beach home, and it is one of the best places in the country to see orcas from the shore.
- **Overnight/ Breakfast/ Dinner at Fosshotel Jokulsarlon** The location is perfect for nature lovers, as the hotel is right between Skaftafell and Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, two of Iceland's most spectacular natural attractions.

## September 16

- **The Skaftafell area is one of Iceland's major must-see destinations.** It is a precious natural gem and one of Icelanders' most beloved recreational sites. This special nature preservation area is a rare oasis for flora. Skaftafell is filled with lush birch forests, colorful meadows, jagged mountains, and breathtaking glaciers. Skaftafell's landscape has been slowly formed over thousands of years. The enormous forces of volcanic eruptions, massive earthquakes, glacial movements, powerful rivers, and severe weather have together created this unique scenery. Some of the most impressive glacier tongues of Vatnajökull are also found in Skaftafell and Vatnajökull National Park. **The park lies on the west side of Vatnajökull - Europe's largest glacier. Vatnajökull glacier is the highlight of the Vatnajökull National Park.** Covering 8% of Iceland, it's hard to miss. Subglacial lakes and hidden active volcanoes add to the mystery.
- **Sand and Moss:** Drive along the South Shore (refers to the southern coastline of Iceland and it is one of the country's most scenic regions) as far as Vík, a charming village surrounded by high beautiful bird cliffs.
- **South Iceland is special as it is one of the flattest regions on the island.** Because of that, most of all grain farming in Iceland is done there. The high mountains to the north, shield the area from the harshest winds from the north.
- **Black Beach:** Perhaps Iceland's most famous black beach is located at Vík, Iceland's southernmost town. On the beach you'll discover beautiful columnar caves made from basalt rock, but the most recognizable feature are the eerie basalt fingers jutting out from the sea. In Icelandic folklore these bizarre stacks are thought to be the remnants of trolls who were turned to stone when they were surprised by sunrise. In 1991, the US journal *Islands Magazine* counted this beach as one of the ten most beautiful beaches on Earth. It is a stretch of black basalts and is one of the wettest places in Iceland. The cliffs west of the beach are home to many seabirds, most notably puffins which burrow into the shallow soils during the nesting season. Offshore lie stacks of basalt rock, remnants of a once more extensive cliff line *Reynisfjall*, now battered by the sea. There is no landmass between here and Antarctica and the Atlantic rollers can attack with full force. According to folklore, they are former trolls who tried to drag their boats out to sea only to be caught by the rising dawn. The sea around them is rather wild and stormy, so travelers will not be surprised to discover a monument to the memory of drowned seamen on the beach.
- **Skógafoss Waterfall:** is an amazing waterfall situated on the Skógá River in the south of Iceland at the cliffs of the former coastline. Due to the amount of spray the waterfall consistently produces, a single or double rainbow is normally visible on sunny days.
- **Seljalandsfoss Waterfall:** is one of the best-known waterfalls in Iceland. It is 65 meters tall and it is breathtakingly beautiful. A path leads you behind the waterfall but do bring a raincoat as you will get soaking wet from the drizzle. It is fantastic walking behind Seljalandsfoss, especially on a sunny day when one can catch a rainbow.
- Overnight / Breakfast/ Dinner at Hotel Stracta



September 17



- **Golden Circle:** The Golden Circle consists of three equally stunning locations in southwest Iceland: Þingvellir National Park, the Geysir Geothermal Area, and Gullfoss Waterfall. These sites are renowned across the world and are all as spectacular as they are unique.
- **Gullfoss Waterfall:** Gullfoss (Golden Waterfall) is an iconic waterfall of Iceland offering a spectacular view of the forces and beauty of untouched nature. Gullfoss is part of the Golden Circle tour, located in South Iceland on the Hvíta (White) river which is fed by Iceland's second biggest glacier, the Langjökull. The water plummets down 32 meters in two stages into a rugged canyon which walls reach up to 70 meters in height. On a sunny day shimmering rainbow can be seen over the falls.
- **Geysir Hot Spring:** Geysir is a famous hot spring in the geothermal area of Haukadalur Valley, found in south-west Iceland. Geysir is most well-known for having lent its name to geysers all around the world. Geysir or the Great Geysir is a famous hot spring located in the geothermal area Haukadalur in the south of Iceland. The geothermal area is about 3 km wide and the formation of the hot springs goes back to the final period of the ice age, so they have existed for more than 10,000 years. The first written record of this geothermal field is only from the year 1294 though, when an earthquake hit the southern lowland and the Haukadalur geothermal area, bringing the hot springs to life and spouting boiling hot water up in the air. Earthquakes usually have big influence on the behavior of geysers.
- **Þingvellir Historical Site and Rift Valley:** Iceland's settlement by the Norse started with the arrival of Ingólfur Arnarsonn in 874, and for the next 56 years, the era was called 'The Settlement Period'. Driven away from a newly united Norway under King Harald Fairhair, many communities from many different clans started to spring up all around the island's shores. **Þingvellir's cultural and historical heritage** are what draw many over to it, but its **geological traits** are quite as fascinating. Iceland is divided by the Mid-Atlantic Rift; some parts of it, such as the Westfjords and Reykjavík, are on the North American tectonic plate, while others, such as Vatnajökull glacier and the East Fjords, are on the Eurasian plate. Iceland is the only place in the world where this rift is above sea-level, and nowhere can you see the edges of both plates as clearly as in Þingvellir.
- **Friðheimar Greenhouse:** We will gain an insight into the processes of greenhouse horticulture, with a short and informative talk on the subject – and, in fact, it is quite remarkable that it should be possible to grow vegetables in this cold climate, by creating warm Mediterranean conditions, all year round, through the long dark winter. The Atrium also includes an exhibition about the use of geothermal heating in Icelandic horticulture. We can take away delicious food souvenirs such as a Tomato drink.
- **Icelandic Horse Stable:** We learn of the story of a remarkable horse breed, which was brought to Iceland by the first settlers from Scandinavia around 900 AD. Whether on the farm or for overland transport, the horse has been the trusty companion of the Icelanders down the centuries, and even today, farmers ride into the highlands to round up their sheep in autumn. In modern times the horse has become the Icelanders' favorite leisure companion. The Icelandic horse is a small, sturdy breed, famed for its five gaits: in addition to, the walk, trot and gallop, Icelandic horses may have the tölt (a smooth run) and skeið (flying pace). Four- and five-gaiters are prized.
- Overnight/ Dinner & Breakfast at Icelandair Hotel Marina, Reykjavik.



## September 18

- **Leisure time in morning in Reykjavik:** The capital of Iceland, Reykjavik or 'Steamy Cove', named after its geothermal location, is a vibrant city with a lively culture and fun-filled nightlife, not to mention the oldest Parliament - the Althingi - in the world. Relatively small population of 200,000 people live in the Greater Reykjavik area (2/3 of the country's total population), Reykjavik boasts panoramic views of the mountains and the Atlantic Ocean on almost all sides. In the summer, you can sit by the harbor at midnight and watch the sun dip slightly below the horizon before it makes its way up again. The city is unique for its numerous wells that allow all the city's residents to enjoy inexpensive central heating and a smoke-free city.
- **Afternoon: A visit to the famous iconic Blue Lagoon Premium entrance bring your swimming suit.** <https://www.bluelagoon.com/day-visit/the-blue-lagoon> The Blue Lagoon is probably Iceland's most famous attraction and has become considered a must-see for all visitors to the country. It is located in the Svartsengi lava field of Grindavík, between the Keflavík International Airport and Reykjavík. The lagoon was first formed in 1976 as a wastewater pool from the neighboring geothermal power plant, and a couple years later people began bathing in it upon hearing rumors that the mineral rich waters that are the byproduct of geothermal energy are soothing for a range of skin conditions. It was not long before the Blue Lagoon was formally established, and today it offers showers and changing facilities, a spa, exclusive lounge, and café for guests. The pool's milky blue color is incredible to see against the stark black lava landscape, and a soak in the waters will leave you utterly relaxed and the silica-rich waters will leave your skin silky smooth.

## Overnight / Dinner in Reykjavik & Breakfast at Icelandair Hotel Marina, Reykjavik

## September 19

- **Transfer to Airport early morning Delta or other airline flights back to the USA**

