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THE BEST OF MAN AND NATURE WORLDWIDESM

CAL DISCOVERIES TRAVEL

ICELAND TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE & AURORA BOREALIS EXPEDITION

March 15 - 23, 2015

DAILY ITINERARY

DAY 1

Sun Mar 15

USA TO REYKJAVIK

Early arrivals in Reykjavik March 13, 14, or 15 take the FlyBus to your hotel.

Passengers departing Seattle March 15:

1:30 pm Check in at Seatac International Airport for IcelandAir flight #680 to Keflavik.

4:30 IcelandAir flight #680 departs.

Passengers departing New York March 15:

6:00 pm Check in at **New York's JFK Airport** for IcelandAir flight #614 to Keflavik.

9:00 IcelandAir flight #614 departs.

Passengers departing Boston March 15:

6:30 pm Check in at **Boston's Logan International** Airport for IcelandAir flight #630 to Keflavik.

9:35 IcelandAir flight #630 departs.

DAY 2

Mon Mar 16

REYKJAVIK

6:25 - 6:45 am All IcelandAir flights arrive Keflavik.
Collect your luggage and make sure the luggage ribbon is on your bag.
Please board the coach reserved for your group #1 or #2.

7:15 Transfer into Reykjavik to the *Grand Hotel (4 nights)*.

The hotel will hold luggage in a secure area.

Rooms are available for checkin at 2 pm.

8:15 Breakfast buffet in the Hvammur Room, next to the Grand Restaurant.

9:30 Meet your expedition leaders and guides at welcome lectures in the Hvammur Room.

11:00 am - 1 pm Enjoy a city tour of Reykjavik.

1:00 Return to the Grand Hotel for lunch on your own.

2:00 Check into rooms.

2:45 Depart on an excursion to visit two of Reykjavik's fine museums,

5:30 the Aurora Museum and the Saga Museum.
6:30 Return to hotel.
Welcome buffet (Grand Hotel, Setrid Restaurant). (B,D)

DAY 3
Tues Mar 17 **BLUE LAGOON & REYKJANES PENINSULA**

7:30 am Breakfast buffet in the Hvammur Room.
9:00 Morning lecture in the Hvammur Room.
10:30 Depart with your group for the famous Blue Lagoon and to explore the Reykjanes Peninsula. We'll visit Kleifarvatn, Krysuvik, and then the Blue Lagoon. Those who are not soaking can visit the Salt Fish Museum in Grindavik. We'll return via Reykjanesta for a view of Eldey Island, then up to the Bridge Across the continents, and back to Reykjavik.
If you wish to soak in the Blue Lagoon, bring your swim suit and the 35 euro entrance fee.
You may purchase your lunch at the cafe at the Blue Lagoon.
5:00 pm Arrive back at hotel.
8:30 Depart for an evening of Aurora viewing at Kleifarvatn Lake.
10:30 Return to Reykjavik. (B)

DAY 4
Wed Mar 18 **PINGVELLIR, GEYSIR & GULLFOSS FALLS**

8:30 am Breakfast buffet at the Hvammur Room.
9:30 Depart on excursion to Pingvellir, Geysir, and Gullfoss Falls.
Today we will visit Pingvellir (the "plains of parliament"), where Iceland's democracy began in 930 AD. Pingvellir National Park is not only the birthplace of a nation, but also a highly interesting area for its unique geology and lake biology.
Board the coach reserved for your group.
Our itinerary will include Gullfoss and the Geysir after which all of the world's geysers are named. Also visit Kerio and Haveragerdi.
1:00 pm Lunch on your own at Gullfoss Falls cafe.
We'll continue our excursion this afternoon.
4:30 Arrive back at hotel.
Dinner on your own.
8:30 Depart for an evening of Aurora viewing by Kleifarvatn Lake.
10:30 Return to Reykjavik. (B)

DAY 5
Thu Mar 19 **ICELANDIC SAGAS & ECLIPSE LECTURES**

8:30 am Breakfast buffet at the Hvammur Room.
10:00 Morning welcome in the Hvammur Room and lecture on the Icelandic sagas.
Lunch on own.
1:15 pm Depart for a visit to the Settlement Museum and National Museum to learn about the heritage and people of Iceland.

4:00 Return to hotel.
 4:45 Eclipse lecture by your Cal Discoveries host, Dr. Alex Filippenko and Bob Nansen on photographing the eclipse, Hvammur Room.
 7:00 Depart for dinner.
 7:30 Dinner at the Reykjavik Restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 6 **REYKJAVIK - AKUREYRI - HUSAVIK**
 Fri Mar 20 **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE**

Early breakfast buffet at the Hvammur Room.
 Gather at the coaches with your luggage.
 Receive your boarding passes for the Eclipse flight.
 Transfer to the Keflavik International Airport for our charter flight to see the Total Solar Eclipse.
 8 - 8:30 Depart in our IcelandAir charter 757 flights for the line of Totality over the Atlantic Ocean.

SEE THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE!

11:00 am Flights arrive in Akureyri.
 Transfer with your group to the charming north Iceland community of Akureyri to explore shops and the harbor area.
 Have a group lunch at one of the restaurants on the central business street of Akureyri.

Coach #1: - RUB 23 Restaurant
 Coach #2: Strikid Restaurant

2:30 pm At leisure for personal exploration.
 Begin the drive to Husavik.
 Stop at the picturesque Laufas farm overlooking the Eyjafjordur with a small white church built in 1865, and accompanying museum.

4:30 Check into *Fosshotel Husavik (2 nights)*.
 5:30 - 6:30 Gather in the Dining Room for a talk by your Cal host.
 Dinner on your own.

9:00 Aurora viewing. (B,L)

DAY 7 **HUSAVIK - AURORA COLLECTING STATION**
 Sat Mar 21

9:00 am Breakfast buffet at Fosshotel Husavik.
 Our adventure today will include visits to the Japanese Aurora Collecting Station north of Husavik at Manarbakki Farm, including the Folklore Museum with traditional sod houses.

We'll also visit the Whale Museum and City Museum.
 The Husavik Whale Centre is Iceland's only center dedicated to the study of these marine mammals.

5:30 - 6:30 pm Lunch on your own in Husavik.
 Gather in the Dining Room for a lecture.
 7:00 Dinner at Fosshotel Husavik.
 Aurora Viewing. (B,D)

DAY 8

Sun Mar 22

TO LAKE MYVATN

9:00 am

Luggage out.

Breakfast buffet at Fosshotel Husavik.

10:00

Depart eastward to the Lake Myvatn region.

The area is a highly active volcanic area situated on the west edge of the meeting point of the Eurasian and North American plates.

We'll explore the Lake Myvatn region today. This area is ripe with natural history interest, from birds to geothermal sites, including a Bird Museum, the Geothermal plant, and nature trails.

The Myllan Restaurant in the Reynihlid Hotel will have a luncheon buffet where you may purchase lunch.

Bring swim suits and the entry fee if you wish to enjoy the warm geothermal waters at Nature Baths.

7:00 pm

Enjoy the mineral-rich geothermal waters at the Nature Baths hot spring
Farewell dinner in celebration of our journey.

Hotel Laxa (1 night)

(B,D)

DAY 9

Mon Mar 23

AKUREYRI - KEFLAVIK - TO USA

7:45 am

Luggage out.

8:00

Breakfast buffet at the Laxa Hotel.

9:00

Today we'll make our way to Akureyri, first stopping at the powerful Godafoss Waterfall, one of the most beautiful in Iceland.

You will receive your boarding passes for this morning's flight on the coaches.

You'll be on two charter flights this morning Akureyri (AEY) to Keflavik (KEF) (50 min. flights). The groups will arrive at the Akureyri airport about 20 to 30 minutes apart.

#1 NY #603 10:55 am to KEF Cal Discoveries Group

#2 NY #607 11:25 am to KEF Cal Discoveries/Planetary Society

#3 NY #609 11:55 am to KEF Planetary Society

#4 NY #604 1:50 pm to KEF Planetary Society

In Keflavik, collect your luggage.

For passengers with own arrangements in Iceland, the FlyBus is recommended for transfers into Reykjavik.

4:55

Check in for IcelandAir flights:

Flight #681 departs for Seattle, arriving 5:40 pm.

5:00

Flight #631 departs for Boston, arriving 6:40 pm.

5:05

Flight #615 departs for New York, arriving 7:05 pm.

(B)

Please Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local circumstances. Your leader will keep you informed.