

## *Cosy Days in Cold Weather West Iceland*

This is the time of year you want to snuggle up inside, or brave the outside and dip into hot geothermal jacuzzis, watch the Northern Lights (Aurora borealis), indulge in wonderful food and wash it down with tasty wine, see what the craft centres and shops have to offer, take short hikes or just read a good book.

Travel period: Sept to mid April.



**Day 1** – Arrive in Iceland – Head for an overnight at Hotel Glymur in Hvalfjörður. About 2 hours' drive from Keflavik International Airport. Enjoy wonderful food at the restaurant in Hotel Glymur and a dip in the jacuzzi after 10 p.m. Soak in the hot water while you watch the Northern Lights.

**Day 2** - Enjoy a late breakfast, head for the museums and crafts centre in Akranes, explore the art, silver and gold made in the workshops there. Take a walk on Langisandur beach, have coffee and cake at the museum's centre or explore the shops in Akranes. Overnight at Hotel Glymur.

**Day 3** – Drive to Hvanneyri for a visit to the wool centre (about 30 min) and then onto Reykholt, via Deildartunguhver, Europe's largest geothermal spring. In Reykholt you will learn all about Snorri Sturluson and the way he recorded our Saga or history, as well as having a chance to visit the museum and wonderful gift store there. Drive on for another 15 min and watch in amazement how the water comes flowing literally out of the lava (no surface water) at Hraunfossar, one of the countries most special waterfall. Overnight at Hotel Hamar – where you can indulge in good food and soak in the jacuzzi checking on the Northern Lights – only seen on clear evenings of course! The other option is to stay overnight at The English Lodge by the Langá river.

**Day 4** – Enjoy a late breakfast and then head for the Settlement Centre in Borgarnes to learn all about the settlement period of Iceland. This is a wonderful audio-digital show, with a choice of 5 languages. Drive up the Borgarfjordur area and visit the volcanic crater Grabrok. It only takes about 15 min to hike to the top, from where you have splendid view of the Nordurardalur valley, lavafields, lakes and rivers. Once down drive for a couple of minutes towards Borgarnes again, turn off the road to the left and head towards Glanni waterfall in Nordura, one of Iceland's best salmon fishing rivers. Overnight at Hotel Hamar where the hostess will recite poetry or compose Icelandic rhymes for you.



**Day 5** - Head for Reykjavík or the Keflavík International airport.

