

What the Past Brings to the Present West Iceland

Many of the first settlers and the best-known ones settled in West Iceland. This is also where the sagas (history) or oral tradition was compiled and written. Visit the sites and the museums or heritage centres that now portray this period of Iceland.

Travel period: May to end September.

Day 1 – Arrive in Iceland - Overnight at the English Lodge – or Hotel Hamar near Borgarnes – driving distance from the airport about 2-2,5 hours.

Day 2 – Start the day at the Settlement Centre to learn all about the settlement of Iceland. Drive to Reykholt, via Deildartunguhver, Iceland's largest geothermal spring, to learn about the way in which Icelanders recorded their SAGA (history). Continue on to Hraunfossar and Húsafell for some refreshments – and then on to Víðgelmir, a large cave to experience how some of the first settlers lived. Overnight at Húsafell, Hotel Hamar – or the English Lodge.



Day 3 – Drive up through Borgarfjörður with a visit to Mt. Grábok which gives a splendid view of the Borgarfjörður valley, over Brattabrekka and to Eiríksstaðir, a replica of the house Eric the Red lived in and where his son Leif Ericson, who discovered America in the year 1000, was born. Take the Snaefellsnesvegur 54 to Stykkishólmur, and drive past all the places connected to the Saga of Eric the Red. Climb Mt. Helgafell, one of Iceland's most sacred mountains (hill – only 88 m high) to pray and make a wish according to

the old custom, take a look over the islands of Breiðafjörður and Þingvellir, the old local council place where Eric the Red was sentenced to be outlawed. Visit Bjarnarhöfn and learn how shark has been cured through the centuries.

Overnight at Hotel Ólafsvík, Guesthouse H-hus or Hotel Hellnar.



Day 4 – A whale watching tour from Ólafsvík at 11 a.m. – a visit to Snaefellsjökull National Park in the afternoon.

Overnight at Hotel Ólafsvík in Ólafsvík – or Hotel Hellnar at Hellnar on the south side of the peninsula.

Day 5 – Take a tour to the top of Snaefellsjökull Glacier and en route to Reykjavík visit the seal colony at Ytri-Tunga and the cultural/crafts centre at Hvanneyri.

Overnight in Reykjavík.

