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TRANSUN

Iceland

& WHALE WATCHING



FEW PLACES ON EARTH CAN OFFER SUCH A RANGE OF NATURAL PHENOMENA AS ICELAND. THE MIDNIGHT SUN, GLACIERS, FJORDS AND GEYSERS, TOGETHER WITH A CHANCE TO SEE MIGHTY WHALES THAT THRIVE IN THE TEEMING SEAS OFFSHORE

First Edition **2011**

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Indulge in the milky blue-green water of the Blue Lagoon. Above Right: You are sure to have many whale tales to tell on your return from Faxaflói bay. Below Right: The magnificent Gullfoss waterfall in all it's glory.



Optional Excursions

The Golden Circle Classic

This popular excursion introduces you to some of the best-known natural phenomena in Iceland. We visit **Nesjavellir** power plant and the high temperature geothermal area situated in the picturesque landscape of **Lake Pingvallavatn**. We enter **Pingvellir**, where the **Icelandic parliament Alþingi** was founded in 930, the oldest known functioning parliament in the world. We continue to the beautiful waterfall **Gullfoss** and from there towards the incredible spouting hot springs of **Geysir** and **Strokkur**. We proceed to **Skálholt church**, the ancient seat of the Icelandic bishops. On our way back, we travel through fertile agricultural areas to **Hveragerði**, a small and charming horticultural village.

- ★ Daily departures at 08:30
- ★ Duration: 8,5 hours
- ★ Complimentary pick-up at your hotel at 0800
- ★ Price - £61 (0-11yrs free, 12 -17yrs 50% off)

Blue Lagoon Direct

The world-famous **Blue Lagoon** is a unique geothermal spa situated in the youngest lava field in west Iceland where the many recreational options include walking in the Blue Lagoon's spectacular surroundings, bathing in the milky blue-green water, relaxing in a geothermal steam bath or releasing the stress from your shoulders under a Blue Lagoon waterfall. For a unique experience, indulge yourself with an outdoor massage or one of the spa treatments available there. (We recommend booking this well in advance by calling +354 4208800). There is also a fantastic restaurant with a la carte menu and shop, selling skin care products based on a unique blend of minerals, silica and algae.

- ★ Daily departures from Reykjavik at 0900, 1100, 1300 & 1615
- ★ Departures from the Blue Lagoon to Reykjavik at 1200, 15:00, 1715 & 1900
- ★ Complimentary pick-up at your hotel at 0830, 1030, 1230 or 1545
- ★ Price - £24 (0-11yrs free, 12 -17yrs 50% off)
- ★ Not included: Entrance fee to the Blue Lagoon, towels, bathing suits (available for a small fee)

The Viking Horse & Golden Circle Afternoon

The Icelandic horse is a breed that has remained virtually unchanged since the Vikings brought it to Iceland in the 9th Century. Enjoy a **riding tour** on the outskirts of the capital, then a lunch break before heading to the National Park, **Pingvellir**, with its unique geological features. We visit the impressive waterfall **Gullfoss** and **Geysir** with its spouting geysers. Itinerary may change according to weather and road conditions.

- ★ Complimentary pick up at your hotel at 0900
- ★ Duration: Nine hours.
- ★ Limited participation available for riding tours.
- ★ Price - £107 (0-11yrs 50%, 12-17 adult fare)

The Viking Horse Riding Tour & Blue Lagoon Direct

Enjoy one-hour riding tour on the outskirts of the capital, then head to the Blue Lagoon for bathing in the milky blue-green water, relaxing in a geothermal steam bath or releasing the stress from your shoulders under a Blue Lagoon waterfall. For a unique experience, indulge yourself with an outdoor massage or one of the spa treatments available there. (We recommend booking this well in advance by calling +354 4208800). Return to Reykjavik.

- ★ Daily departures at 1000 and 1400
- ★ Duration: Flexible
- ★ Departures from the Blue Lagoon to Reykjavik at 1500, 1715 & 1900
- ★ Complimentary pick-up at your hotel or guesthouse in Reykjavik at 0900 & 1300
- ★ Not included: Entrance fee to the Blue Lagoon, towels, bathing suits (available for a small fee at The Blue Lagoon)
- ★ Price: - £77 (0-11yrs 50%, 12-17 adult fare)
- ★ Not included: Entrance fee to the Blue Lagoon, towels, bathing suits (available for a small fee)
- ★ Limited participation available for riding tours

Whale watching – 3hrs

- ★ Departures April & May at 0900 and 1300
- ★ June – August at 0900, 1300 and 1700
- ★ September at 0900 and 1300
- ★ October at 1300
- ★ Complimentary pick up from your hotel at 0800, 1200 and 1600
- ★ Duration 3 hours
- ★ Price: - £55 (0-5yrs free, 6-11yrs 50% off)

What's included

- ★ Return flights from Heathrow or Manchester to Keflavik
- ★ Two, four or seven nights hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis
- ★ Whale watching boat trip*
- ★ Viking meal
- ★ Reykjavik sightseeing tour
- ★ All taxes and government air passenger duty
- ★ Transfers
- ★ Range of optional activities (at extra cost)

Typical two night itinerary

- DAY 1** – Fly from the UK to Keflavik. Transfer to Viking Hotel.
- DAY 2** – Whale watching boat tour. Afternoon at leisure or choose one of our optional excursions. Evening Viking meal.
- DAY 3** – Reykjavik sightseeing tour. Transfer to airport for return home.

Breaks of longer than two nights have Whale Watching included and rest of the time is spent at leisure or can be used for optional excursions.

Departures

Iceland & Midnight Sun

DEPARTURE DATES:
All breaks between 30 April and 29 October 2011 must include a Saturday night.

ROUTE:
LHR KEF 13:00 / 15:00 KEF LHR 16:10 / 20:10
MAN KEF 22:05 / 23:35 KEF MAN 08:00 / 11:35

BASED:
Hotel Viking

BOARD BASIS: BB with one dinner

Prices

FROM: Two night breaks from £699
Four night breaks from £879
Seven night breaks from £1075

Just a short flight away, Iceland is not only closer than you think, but far different than you could possibly imagine! Despite its name, Iceland is warmed by the waters of the Gulf Stream, and in the height of the summer becomes a land of the Midnight Sun, filled with beautiful wild plants and flowers and an astonishing variety of birds, with magnificent whales off the coast. Everywhere you go in this fascinating land there is colorful evidence of the constant turmoil beneath the surface, which has spawned numerous volcanoes, warm water pools, and one of the strangest yet most beautiful landscapes known to man. Where else can you witness a checklist that can rival this:

Midnight sun – amazing light throughout the night in summer.
Glaciers, including Europe's largest.
Waterfalls, fantastic fjords and romantic shores.
Hot springs from colourful steaming fields to the spouting springs of Geysir.
Whales – astonishing success rates for sightings.
Walking, hiking, trekking through countless scenic worlds.
Bizarre lava landscapes from 'Trolls' Cathedrals' to terrain where US astronauts rehearsed for walking on the moon.
Clean air and clean water thanks to pure and renewable energy resources.
Bird watching – some of the world's biggest colonies of puffin and other seabirds, plus a rich blend of European and American species.

Shrouded in mist and steam from beneath the earth's surface, much of Iceland is still taking shape before your very eyes - raw, dramatic landscapes born from volcanic eruptions and carved out by glaciers. Other parts have hardly changed since the first Viking settlers saw them more than 1,100 years ago. You'll experience wilderness and wildlife, energy and total calm, all within easy reach.

Travellers visit Iceland today for exactly the same reasons that motivated the Vikings who discovered the place in the ninth century - the love of freedom. Whether your delight is in vast, untouched and uninhabited expanses of landscape, or strolling around town making friends, you'll feel free in Iceland.

Included activities

Whale watching* – 3hrs

Take part in an adventure at sea with an unforgettable

trip into the world of whales and sea birds. Our boat heads out into Faxaflói Bay, where the most common species of whales spotted are **Humpback whales, Dolphins and Porpoises**, often surfacing within a few feet of the boat, although **Fin** whales, **Sei** whales and **Killer** whales are also sometimes seen. Sea birds frequently seen include gannets, guillemots, cormorants, gulls, kittiwakes and arctic terns, while the boat passes colonies of puffins – a great photo opportunity! Trips vary, according to sea conditions, weather and seasons, but the boat rarely sails more than 15 nautical miles from the harbour.

Reykjavik Sightseeing – 2.5hrs

You visit the presidential residence at **Bessastaðir** as well as **Hafnarfjörður**, the port town famous for its elf mythology. You visit the old fishing harbour and when possible, the fish market. In Reykjavik, you go to restaurant **Perlan** and enjoy spectacular view over the capital and it's surroundings. You go to **Höfði** house, where the 1986 summit between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev took place, **Hallgrímskirkja church**, the University area and the old town centre. You will also see the recreation area in **Laugardalur**, a geothermally heated outdoor swimming pool. You will be picked up from the Viking hotel at approx 0830hrs and returned there afterwards.

Viking Meal

You step into the world of the Vikings, with a true Viking feast served in old-fashioned Viking-style trays. With singing Valkyries and Vikings, the fun reaches its height when the Fjoru-chieftain crowns one dinner guest as an Honorary Viking. The dinner includes: Shark and dried fish served with Icelandic schnapps, fish soup with assorted seafood and bread, braised lamb shank served with potato puree and glazed vegetables, and Skeyr, traditional yoghurt with blueberry sauce and sorbet. As well as a schnapps, a beer is also included.

■ Please note: Transsun Iceland short breaks breaks are arranged on an individual basis and do not include the services of a Transsun representative or local guide. We will however provide you with contact details should you require any assistance. It is your responsibility to ensure you are at the designated start points for any included or optional trips.



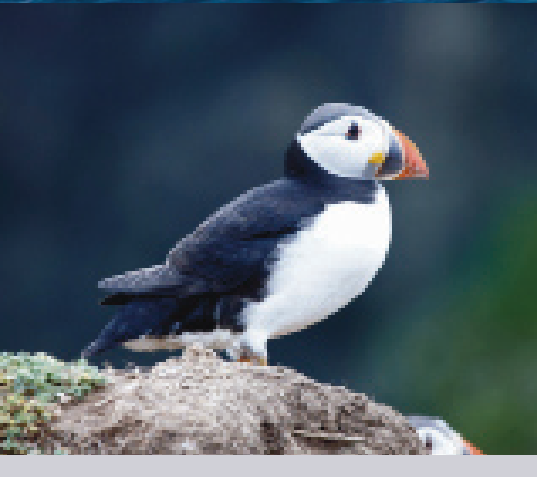
Hotel Viking

Situated on the outskirts of Reykjavik, Hotel Viking has 42 well furnished rooms, including shower, WC and television. The décor of the rooms on the first floor is Viking style and on the second floor it is a West Nordic theme. In the geothermal hot tub you can recuperate and freshen up and relax after a long day of excitement. Free internet access.

Buses to the centre of Reykjavik leaves every 20 minutes nearby. The hotel has 12 single rooms and 21 double. Eight of them can accommodate three persons and one sleeps four. Three suites also available. Other facilities in the rooms: Coffee and tea maker, hairdryer.

* Whale watching only included for on four and seven night breaks.

Below: As well as watching the whales in their native environment, explore the diverse local bird life, including the endangered puffins.



South Coast & Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon

This tour takes us along the beautiful south shore of Iceland to the extraordinary glacial lagoon, Jökulsárlón, often featured in films, including the Bond movie Die Another Day. We will pass some charming villages as well as Seljalandsfoss waterfall, Skógarfoss waterfall and Skaftafell National Park. We take an amphibious boat tour on the lagoon. You will see many amazing blocks of ice that have broken off Europe's biggest glacier, Vatnajökull. Passengers are dropped off at their hotels or guesthouses at the end of the tour.

- * Additional departure on Tuesdays & Saturdays from June through August
- * **Duration: 14 hours**
- * Complimentary pick-up at your hotel at 0730
- * Not included: Lunch and refreshments.
- * **Price: - £160 (0-11yrs free, 12 -17yrs 50% off)**

Magnificent fissure snorkelling in Lake Silfra in Thingvellir

As an activity, snorkeling is within the reach of practically everyone and the basics are easy to learn. Silfra is actually a crack/fissure in the face of the earth between the Eurasian plate and the American plate, which are drifting apart about 2cm every year. The water in Silfra comes up from the lava after traveling for years underground from Iceland's glaciers. Snorkeling between two continents makes Silfra a world top 10 site. Suitable for beginners or advanced, we offer expert tuition and guidance. We recommend that you wear warm clothes underneath the diving suit and bring extra clothing.

- * Daily departures at 0900.
- * **Duration: 4 hours.**
- * Winter (15 Sept - 14 Nov) Departure 0900, hotel pick up 0830
- * **Summer (15 May - 14 Sept) Departure 1300, hotel pick up 1230**
- * Included: All equipment (First class equipment in all standard sizes) - please provide size and weight for proper suit size.
- * **Not included: Refreshments.**
- * Please note this is not suitable for children under 14 years.
- * **Price: - £83 (no child fares)**

Golden Circle Afternoon

In one afternoon, this popular excursion enables visitors to experience some of the most exciting natural phenomena Iceland has to offer. We visit **Pingvellir**, where the **Icelandic parliament Alþingi** was established in 930. A UNESCO World Heritage site. We stop to view the waterfall **Gullfoss**, the spouting hot spring of **Geysir** and **Strokkur**. We continue our journey to **Hveragerði**, a small but beautiful horticultural town where you will see how geothermal energy has been harnessed to create unique greenhouse cultivation. We then travel over a mountain heath back to the capital.

- * Daily departures at 1300.
- * **Duration: 6 hours.**
- * Complimentary pick-up at your hotel at 1230.
- * **Price: - £58 (0-11yrs free, 12 -17yrs 50% off)**