



CLASSIC



# Iceland's Westfjords

Dates: 22-31 July 2019

Tour Leaders: Sue & Don Kissinger



Adventure Tours  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

## Overview

Join tour leaders Sue and Don Kissinger and in-country guide Herdis Fridriksdottir on this amazing 10-day in-country all-inclusive Iceland tour that includes outdoor adventures, geologic wonders, folklore, culture, delicious and unique Icelandic foods and breathtaking scenery in the northwestern part of the country – far away from the throngs of tourists in the Golden Circle! Experience this remote part of Iceland through hiking, fishing, kayaking, biking and horseback riding – something for everyone! We'll also explore isolated fishing villages, dip in geothermal pools, learn about the history of Iceland, bask in the long sunny evenings, and spend time in the Burial Rites area to learn more about life during the time of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the last person executed in Iceland in 1830. Even if you've been to Iceland, this tour will take you far from the standard tourist routes and with the all-inclusive package, you'll be able to relax and enjoy every meal, activity and experience throughout!

## Tour Leaders



### Sue and Don Kissinger

Sue and Don Kissinger have travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Central America, Africa and Europe. They met 36 years ago as UW-Stevens Point students on an international trip and just celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary. Sue has worked at UWSP for more than 26 years and is currently a career specialist in the Academic and Career Advising Center. She has lead 17 UWSP international trips, including 7 to Iceland – her favorite place to visit! Don works as an urban forestry coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in northern and western Wisconsin. Don has co-led trips with Sue to Belize, Iceland, Poland and Germany. They look forward to sharing this wonderful place called Iceland.



### Herdis Fridriksdottir (in-country guide)

Born, raised, and having lived most her life in Iceland, Herdis Fridriksdottir now lives on the Golden Circle nearby Geysir hot spring and Gullfoss waterfall. Herdis has a diverse background; holding a B.Sc in Forestry and a M.Sc in Land Use in Developing Countries from the University of Copenhagen. She also has an MPM degree M.Sc in Project Management from the University of Reykjavik. Herdis loves to travel and has been to over 30 countries in most corners of the world. She loves to share her country with new friends and is now a certified guide and licensed for bus driving. As the owner and founder of Understand Iceland, a small tour operator that specializes in welcoming groups from the US to Iceland, their motto is "Come as a guest - leave as a friend"

## Itinerary

### Day 1 - Monday, 22 July - Ease Into it!



You'll arrive very early at the airport in Keflavik (KEF) to meet the tour leaders. After collecting luggage, the group will have breakfast at the Viking Museum in Keflavik and travel via motor coach into Reykjavik to visit the Perlan for a beautiful view of the city and lunch. After checking into the guesthouse, we'll enjoy a stroll around town. *Overnight in Reykjavik at Álfróll.*

### Day 2 - Snæfellsnes Peninsula - Geo-Sights & Hike

After enjoying breakfast at the guesthouse, we will head north towards the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Besides the Snæfellsjökull volcano, the highest mountain on the peninsula and the setting of the novel *Journey to the Center*

of the Earth by Jules Verne, many other national sights can be appreciated here. We'll stop to hike along the cliffs and lava flows from Arnarstapi to Hellnar for lunch in a tiny café with an amazing view of the sea. After lunch, we'll continue our drive around the peninsula with stops for the Shark Museum at Bjarnarhöfn, Kirkjufell mountain and waterfall, the Snæfellsnes National Park, and of course, coffee and cake! *Overnight Fransiskus Hotel in Stykkishólmur.*

### Day 3 - Ferry Ride to the Westfjords

After a yummy breakfast at our hotel, we board the car ferry to cross the second largest bay in Iceland, Breiðafjörður, to journey to the Westfjords. You'll enjoy a fun boat ride on the Atlantic Ocean and watch for seabirds, including puffins, or relax in the indoor lounge. After lunch, drive the Fjords and check-in at our hotel in Breiðavík. We'll then head to the sea cliffs after dinner to watch the sunset and view the puffins up-close. *Overnight at Hotel Breiðavík.*



### Day 4 - Cliffs of Latrabjarg - Hiking

The Latrabjarg Bird Cliffs are the largest bird cliffs and the westernmost point of Europe. They are home to millions of puffins, guillemots, razorbills and gannets and provide visitors with close-up views to these stunning birds. The cliffs are up to 440m high and 14km long. Explore with a leisurely guided hike along the cliffs and enjoy a picnic lunch on the way. *Overnight at Hotel Breiðavík.*



### Day 5 - Sea Angling in Patreksfjörður

After breakfast, we will drive to the next fjord to spend some time fishing for Icelandic cod out of the small fishing village of Patreksfjörður. On the way visit the museum Hjótur, filled with lots of treasures! For dinner we will eat our "catch of the day!" Options for swimming in the local pool that evening. *Overnight at Stekkaból Guesthouse in Patreksfjörður.*



### Day 6 - Culture and Waterfalls

Heading further northwest, we'll climb over the heath and through a long tunnel to reach the beautiful city of Ísafjörður. Along the way, make several stops, including: Villimey, a local, organic skin care company, the breathtaking waterfall Dynjandi and Hrafseyri – the Museum of Jón Sigurðsson, complete with turf houses, where we'll enjoy eat our lunch. There are plenty of opportunities for photo stops along the way, including for coffee and cake! *Overnight at Hótel Ísafjörður in Ísafjörður.*

### Day 7 - Ísafjörður - Biking to Bolungavík

After getting fitted for bicycles, ride along an abandoned road along the sea (no vehicle traffic) for 12-14 km to the tiny fishing village of Bolungavík, where we'll have time to explore a fishing museum and dine in a historic house. You can opt to bike back to Ísafjörður or ride the motor coach through the tunnel. Enjoy some free time in the afternoon to discover the art shops, historic homes and cafes of town before we head to an AMAZING fish buffet dinner at Tjörhúsið near the historic fishing docks. Free evening to stroll along the fjords (you will need a walk after this hearty meal) *Overnight at Hótel Ísafjörður in Ísafjörður.*





## Day 8 - Kayaking, Magic, and Culture

View the beautiful city of Ísafjörður from kayaks as we paddle in a fjord in the North Atlantic. Guides lead the group along the shore with chances to see seals and sea birds. After our paddle, motor coach out of Westfjords and head to lunch in Heydalur with beautiful scenes along the way. Just in time for dinner at Hvammur in the valley where Agnes Magnúsdóttir lived and died, learn about her story and the culture of this remote part of Iceland, including the food and music. *Overnight at Hvammur.*

## Day 9 - Riding Icelandic Horses in the Land of Agnes Magnúsdóttir

The Icelandic Horse is the pride of all of Iceland. Take an easy 4-hour ride on these beautiful animals – the only breed of horses found in Iceland – as we venture through the valley that Agnes lived in. Cross the river where she crossed, see the church where she was confirmed, and end at the farm where she lived before she was executed. After a picnic lunch, journey back to Reykjavik for the farewell dinner and some optional nightlife downtown! *Overnight in Reykjavik at Álfhóll.*



## Day 10 (Wednesday, 31 July) - Exploring Reykjavik and Flight Home

After breakfast at the guesthouse, free morning to explore Reykjavik: more sightseeing, shopping, eating a hot dog or cinnamon roll... Head to Keflavik for lunch and say goodbye to our new Icelandic friends; afternoon flights home.



*All photos (except cover and this panoramic of Reykjavik) taken by tour leader Sue Kissinger.*

## Cost and Details

**COST:** \$4,499\* (total USD) \*Due to the high cost of Iceland tourism and the volatility of the Krona (Iceland's currency), the final cost will depend on the number of travelers and exchange rate at time of final payment (and will not exceed an additional \$450).

**MY OWN ROOM:** not available

**INCLUDED:** The cost includes all lodging, based on double occupancy, all meals, all group land transfers with motor coach and ferry, 1-2 tour leaders (depending on group size), all group activities (as listed above), all equipment rental, traveler's handbook and orientation.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Roundtrip airfare, extra activities/sites, extra purchases (such as souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, snacks and lodging sundries), local driver and guide tips, laundry services and travel insurance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** With weather and other uncontrollable variables, some activities/lodgings/schedules/meals may change prior to or during the tour. This tour will accommodate a variety of fitness levels; however, it is best to be in fair physical/mental shape.

**TOUR LEADERS:** Sue and Don Kissinger

**GROUP SIZE:** 16-20      **CONTACT:** Trevor Roark (program manager), 715-340-8186, [adventure.tours@uwsp.edu](mailto:adventure.tours@uwsp.edu)

**BOOKING:** Book online with a credit card OR print booking form, complete and mail along with \$300 (pp) nonrefundable deposit. **WEBSITE:** [www.uwspadventuretours.com](http://www.uwspadventuretours.com)

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