

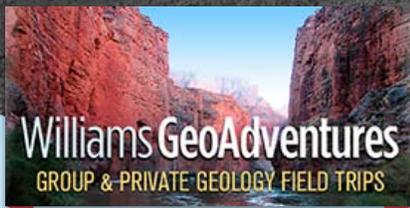


Iceland's

West Fjords

Nature & Culture

A tour with host and geologist **Tom Williams** and Iceland guide **Elisabet Brand**
August 18th - August 28th



2019



#1



Join Tom Williams and Elisabet Brand on an adventure to **Iceland's most remote and scenic** area, where ancient volcanoes and recent glaciers have carved a **dramatic landscape**, the sea cliffs are home to **thousands of birds**, and the culture echoes Iceland of **100 years ago**.

“Tom Williams, M.S., P.G., is a retired Engineering Geologist. He has taught earth sciences for 23 years at 8 San Francisco Bay Area colleges and, since 1997, has personally led all 40 Western U.S. and international GeoAdventures.”

“Elisabet Brand has many years of experience in guiding in Iceland, of all kinds of journeys.”

Day 1 – Sun. Aug. 18th
Travel from USA

Day 2 – Mon. Aug. 19th
Arrival to Iceland - Land of Sagas

Arrival in Iceland in early morning, or pick-up of earlier arrival participants. From Keflavík we head to the Borgarfjörður area, where you will get an introduction to the West Fjords, as well as learning about the history of Iceland. Borgarnes, which was first mentioned in Egill's Saga, is proud of its heritage and historical sites, including the Settlement Centre of Iceland. Dramatic recreations of the formative years of Icelandic history and sagas are held in the Centre, bringing stories to life through exhibitions, theatre and live presentations. We will bit explore Borgarfjörður area before we continue to the Dalir area. Few parts of Iceland are as rich in history as the Dalir, where records go back virtually unbroken to the settlement in the 9th and 10th centuries. Overnight in Dalir. B, L & D

Day 3 – Tue. Aug. 20th
Home of white-tailed eagle

We cross Gilsfjörður and head to Reykhólar. The sea closest to shore is very shallow and has a high tidal range. These conditions, combined with the marshes and ponds found inland, create a bountiful biota and a perfect environment for a rich bird life. We travel to Ísafjarðardjúp, which is

one of the longest fjords in Iceland. On the way to Ísafjörður, we explore the fjords and mountains of this amazing landscape. Ísafjörður is the largest town on the peninsula. Overnight in Ísafjörður (2 nights). B, L & D

Day 4 – Wed. Aug. 21th
Coastal culture –past and present

We start with sightseeing in the town of Ísafjörður, before we go to Bolungarvík, the northernmost village in the West Fjords, situated on an eponymous cove. We might have the chance to enjoy the panoramic view from the mountain Bolafjall. Then back to Ísafjörður for a boat tour to the charming island Vigur. Back on land, we will enjoy Ísafjörður town. Overnight in Ísafjörður. B, L & D

Day 5 – Thu. Aug. 22th
Mountainous landscape

We will spend the day exploring interesting routes to fjords and mountains, nature and saga. Þingeyri is a small village situated on a spit of land in one of Iceland's most scenic fjords, Dýrafjörður. As in most other seaside villages in Iceland, its culture and industry have been shaped by the sea throughout the centuries. During the day we will explore amazing areas such as Lokinhamrar and Svalvogur. Overnight in Þingeyri. B, L & D

Day 6 – Fri. Aug. 23th

Waterfalls and fjords

Today we continue touring the amazing fjords of the west. First we will take a look at the waterfall Fjallfoss (or Dynjandi), located at the head of Arnarfjörður fjord. From there we continue with several interesting stops to Patreksfjörður. Named for its first settler, whose spiritual guide was St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Overnight in Patreksfjörður for 2 nights. B, L & D

Day 7 – Sat. Aug. 24th

Látrabjarg

The cliff of all cliffs, Látrabjarg, is home to birds in unfathomable numbers. This westernmost point of Iceland (and Europe) is really a line of several cliffs, 14 km (9 mi) long and up to 441 m (1465 ft) high. We visit the Hnjótur fishing and farming museum, located in Örlygshöfn. Rauðisandur (Red Sand), is precisely that, a beach with red sand. The magnificent hues of the sand differ with daylight and weather, and the beach is the biggest pearl in a string of coves with sand ranging in colors from white through yellow through red to black, and in coarseness from very fine to sole-hurting chips of seashells. Overnight in Patreksfjörður. B, L & D

Day 8 – Sun. Aug 25th

Breiðafjörður and Stykkishólmur

We take a mountain road to the Barðaströnd coast, where the ferry to Stykkishólmur leaves. Breiðafjörður is a large shallow bay, about 50 km (31 mi) wide. Breiðafjörður has a spectacular land and seascape of shallow seas, small fjords and bays and intertidal areas dotted with about 3,000 islands, islets and skerries. The area contains about

half of Iceland's intertidal area and tides can be six meters (20 ft). Stykkishólmur is a town on the northern side of the Snæfellsnes peninsula, with beautiful and well-preserved old houses in the town center. The afternoon is free to explore the town until we drive to nearby Grundarfjörður. Overnight in Grundarfjörður for two nights. B, L & D

Day 9 – Mon. Aug. 26th

Snæfellsnes – circle around the glacier

This 90-km long peninsula comprises a world of diversity. Friendly towns and villages, spectacular mountains, a multitude of bird species on treacherous cliffs, beaches of sand and pebbles, remnants and relics scattered here and there of times and ways of life long past. Saga sites and hiking trails. The Snæfellsjökull National Park is at the westernmost part of the peninsula, including the mystical glacier Snæfellsjökull, as well as other unique sites such as Djúpalónssandur. Overnight in Grundarfjörður. B, L & D

Day 10 – Tue. Aug 27th

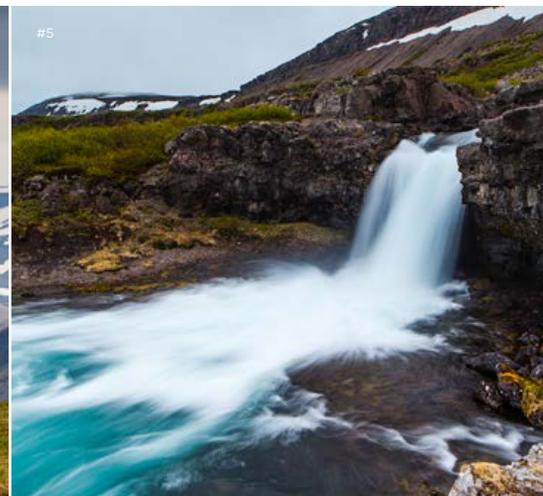
Reykjavík – the capital

We leave Snæfellsnes and head towards Borgarnes, with a few selected stops, and then return to Reykjavík with a possible detour around Hvalfjörður. Free time in afternoon. Farewell dinner and overnight in Reykjavík. B, L & D

Day 11 – Wed. Aug 28th

Departure day

After breakfast, leave for Keflavík and your departure for home. B



TOUR PRICE:

\$7,280 per person double occupancy
Single supplement: \$1100

TRIP PARTICIPANTS:

Min: 15
Max: 20

DEPOSIT

A deposit of \$1,000 per person payable to Williams GeoAdventures, 101 Ross Street, #4, Cotati, CA 94931.

FINAL PAYMENT:

Final payment is due no later than May 18th 2019

To REGISTER for this tour, see <http://geology-adventures.com>

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderately active. Walking from easy to moderately strenuous, according to individual preference.

WE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Insurance for Trip Cancellation/ Interruptions, Medical, Baggage and Evacuation is available and highly recommended. You are advised to check first with your medical carrier to determine if you have adequate medical and medical evacuation coverage during travel.

NOTE: If you apply for travel insurance within fourteen (14) days of making your deposit for the tour, the exclusion for pre-existing conditions may not apply.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Motor coach transportation while in Iceland
9 nights in local hotels or guesthouses.
All breakfasts, dinners and lunches
Fees for all scheduled excursions, including ferries, exhibitions and museums.
Driver, guide and lecturer. All driver and guide tips included.

NOT INCLUDED

Airfare to and from Iceland is NOT included.
Excess baggage, travel insurance and personal items.

CANCELLATION:

Cancellations are subject to the following land-only per person penalties:
Prior to and including May 18th 2019; Refund, less \$1,000 non-refundable deposit.
May 18th - June 17th 2019; 25% of tour cost is withheld.
June 18th - July 18th 2019; 50% of the tour cost is withheld.
After and including July 18th 2019; 100% of tour cost is withheld.

All cancellations must be submitted formally to Williams GeoAdventures.

LIABILITY

Travel North disclaims responsibility for any loss, damage, accidents, sickness or changes in schedules caused by weather, strikes or any other irregularity outside Travel North's control. Travel North reserves the right to alter routes, itineraries or departure times, without prior notice, should necessity arise. We advise all clients to have insurance, as clients are on their own responsibility on optional tours, such as activity tours. The estimated duration of tours as indicated on our website are standard times and can vary according to road or weather conditions. Travel North reserves the right to alter/change/correct mistakes that may possibly appear in brochure.

A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE VALID FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS BEYOND THE LENGTH OF STAY.