

Iceland Westfjords

July 27– August 7, 2023

Led By: Sue and Don Kissinger, and Herdís Friðriksdóttir



Continuing Education
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point





Iceland Westfjords **July 27–August 7, 2023**

Join tour leaders Sue and Don Kissinger on this amazing 12-day in-country tour that includes outdoor adventures, geologic wonders, folklore, culture, delicious 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, and kayaking – something for everyone!

Iceland is an island of 103,000 km² (39,756 sq. miles) with a population of approximately 340,000 – the least densely populated country in Europe. Over half of the population lives in the beautiful, modern city of Reykjavik, leaving the rest of the island dotted with small villages and majestic undeveloped scenery. Bus over the heath and around the fjords to some isolated fishing villages and the beautiful city of Ísafjörður. Iceland's summers are surprisingly warm, lush and green, with days lengthening until midsummer, when the sun dips down to the horizon but never sets. There are more than 170 geothermal pools scattered throughout the country and we will relax in several of them through the week! Even if you have been to Iceland before, this tour will take you far from the standard tourist routes and with the nearly all-inclusive package, you will be able to relax and enjoy every meal, activity, and experience along the way!

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Ease into It!

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.
- Arrive very early at the airport in Keflavik (KEF) to meet the tour leaders.
- After collecting luggage, eat breakfast in Keflavik and travel via motor coach towards Stykkishólmur and lunch.
- After lunch, visit the Settlement Museum and then discover the history of Settlement or Egill Skallagrímsson.
- After checking into the guesthouse, enjoy a stroll around town.
- Overnight in Stykkishólmur.

Friday, July 28, 2023

Snæfellsnes Peninsula - Geo-Sights and Hike

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.
- Travel via motor coach around the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. The journey will take us around the peninsula with stops for the Shark Museum at Bjarnarhöfn, Kirkjufell Mountain and waterfall, Snæfellsnes National Park, and of course, coffee and cake! 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.
- The group will stop for lunch in a tiny village by the ocean.
- After lunch, take an hour-long hike along a beautiful trail amongst the cliffs and lava flows from Arnarstapi to Hellnar.
- Overnight in Stykkishólmur.

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Ferry Ride to the Westfjords

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.
- After a delicious breakfast, board the car ferry to cross the second largest bay in Iceland, Breiðafjörður, to journey to the Westfjords.
- Enjoy a fun boat ride on the Atlantic Ocean and watch for seabirds, including puffins, or relax in the indoor lounge.
- The group will stop for lunch in a tiny village by the ocean.
- After lunch, stop by the stranded ship Gardar and the Museum Hnjotur (filled with old junk and interesting local stories).
- Following check-in at the hotel in Breiðavík and dinner, head to the sea cliffs to watch the sunset and view the puffins up-close. Make sure to have your cameras ready, this is an opportunity of a lifetime!
- Overnight in Breiðavík.

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Cliffs of Latrabjarg - Hiking

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.
- 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. After breakfast, hike the cliffs and enjoy a picnic lunch on the way.
- Overnight in Breiðavík.



Monday, July 31, 2023

Sea Angling in Bildudalur

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.
- After breakfast, drive to the next fjord to spend some time fishing for Icelandic Cod out of the small fishing village of Bildudalur.
- While half the group fishes, the other half visits the Sea Monster Museum and shops in town.
- The group will eat lunch in a local restaurant and then switch.
- End the day with options for evening swimming in the local pool.
- Overnight in Patreksfjörður.



Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Culture and Waterfalls

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.
- Heading further northwest, after breakfast, 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 Hrafnseyr, the Museum of Jón Sigurðsson Iceland's independence hero, complete with turf houses.
- Lunch will be enjoyed in a small village on the way. There are plenty of opportunities for photo stops, including for coffee and cake!
- Overnight in Ísafjörður.

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Bolafjall Mountain, History, and Fish Buffet

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.
- After breakfast, drive to Bolungarvik to the Osvor Maritime Museum and Bolafjall Mountain, then lunch at Einarshus.
- Stroll around town to visit the wool shop and the natural history museum, then travel back to Ísafjörður. Enjoy some free time in the afternoon to discover the art shops, historic homes, and cafes of town.
- Free evening to stroll along the fjords (you will need a walk after this hearty meal).
- Overnight in Ísafjörður.



Thursday, August 3, 2023

Kayaking, Magic, and Culture

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.
- View the beautiful town of Ísafjörður from kayaks as we paddle easy on a calm fjord in the North Atlantic. Guides lead the group along the shore with chances to see seals and sea birds.
- Motor coach out of Westfjords and head to lunch in Heydalur with beautiful scenes along the way.
- Travel to Holmavik to explore the Magic Museum before heading for dinner at Laugarholl.
- Evening swimming options include a private pool or national hot stream.
- Overnight in Laugarholl.

Friday, August 4, 2023

Settlement and Saga Museum – Reykjavik

- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.
- After breakfast, head to the Center of Leif Eiriksson and learn about the man who found North America 500 years before Columbus.
- On the way to Reykjavík the group will stop at the volcanic crater Grábrók for a short hike for beautiful views of the mountains of West Iceland.
- Overnight in Reykjavik.

Saturday, August 5, 2023

Free Time in Reykjavik and the surrounding area

- Breakfast included.
- After breakfast, free time to explore this beautiful city or to sign up for a guided tour (own cost)*. Herdís and Sue can help facilitate plans.
- Lunch and dinner on own.
- Overnight in Reykjavik.



Sunday, August 6, 2023

Free Time in Reykjavik and the surrounding area

- Breakfast and dinner included.
- After breakfast, free time to explore this beautiful city or to sign up for a guided tour (own cost)*. Herdís and Sue can help facilitate plans.
- Lunch on own.
- Farewell dinner at Punk eda Grillmarkadurinn.
- Overnight in Reykjavik.

Monday, August 7, 2023

Say Goodbye to Iceland

- Breakfast and lunch included.
- After breakfast, check out of the hotel and start heading towards the airport with a morning tour of Reykjanes Peninsula possibly including Gunnhver, Bridge Between the Continents, and the Brimketill Cliff.
- Head to Keflavik with lunch in Cafe Duus.
- Say goodbye to our new Icelandic Friends, followed by afternoon flights home.



Pricing

Registration Fee

\$5,998 USD per person

*Registration closes May 31, 2023

Payment Schedule:

\$450 due upon registration (*This fee is nonrefundable*)

\$2,774 due by **April 1, 2023**

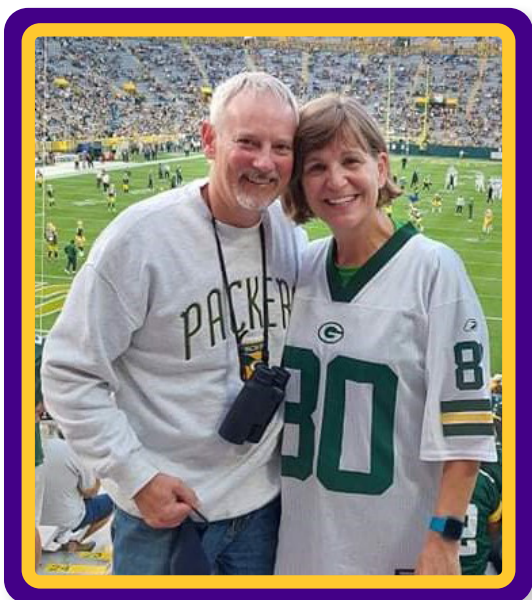
\$2,774 due by **June 1, 2023**

- **Referral Bonus and Discounts:** Receive \$50 off your tour for each traveler you refer. If you refer three people then you get \$150 off your tour, etc. The referrals can be family, friends, co-workers, etc. UWSP students & alumni get a \$50 discount. The referral bonus and all other discounts will be applied to your final payment.
- **Flights:** Please do not book your flights until this tour has reached the minimum number of travelers to hold space. UWSP Adventure Tours Staff and/or tour leader will stay in touch with you to confirm this. Once confirmed, you are responsible for arranging and purchasing your own flights (flight itineraries will vary due to preferences and departure locations). Please wait to book your flights.
- **U.S. Airport Transfers:** UWSP Adventure Tours does not coordinate airport transfers for your departure or arrival to/from this tour destination due to liability, costs, and inflexibility. Please arrange for your own transport to/from the airport in the U.S. according to your flight itinerary.
- **Cancellations and Refunds:** Cancellations of tours must be made in writing up to 91 days prior to departure and will be refunded in full less your nonrefundable deposit. Cancellations made within 90 days of departure will not be refunded.
- **Price Includes:**
 - All buses and shuttles during the trip, beginning with the arrival in Iceland on July 27, and ending with departure on August 7. (This does not include transportation to individual activities you may choose to partake in outside of those listed in the itinerary.)
 - All activities and tours listed in the itinerary. (Any optional tours that may arise will be at your own cost.)
 - All overnight lodging included.
 - Breakfasts, lunches, and dinners beginning with the arrival in Iceland on July 27, and ending with the departure on August 7. (Lunch and dinner on August 5, and lunch on August 6 not included.)
 - Three Trip Leaders.
 - Orientation meeting approximately two months before the trip.



Meet the Trip Leaders

Sue and Don Kissinger



Sue and Don have travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Central America, South Africa and Europe. They met 40 years ago as UW-Stevens Point (UWSP) students on an international trip and just celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary. Sue recently retired from UWSP where she worked for 30 years and as a career specialist and academic adviser. She has led 24 UWSP international trips, including 11 to Iceland! Don retired from a 29 year career as an urban forestry coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in northern and western Wisconsin. Don has co-led programs with Sue to Belize, Iceland, Poland and Germany. Sue and Don recently relocated to a lake in northwestern Wisconsin and enjoy to hiking, kayaking, fishing and spoiling their grandchildren.

Herdís Fridriksdóttir

Born, raised, and having lived most her life in Iceland, Herdís Fridriksdóttir now lives on the Golden Circle nearby Geysir hot spring and Gullfoss waterfall. Herdís has a diverse background; holding an 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. Herdís 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".

