



Iceland

Icelandic Knitting, Weaving & Textile Crafts

June 15 – 23, 2025

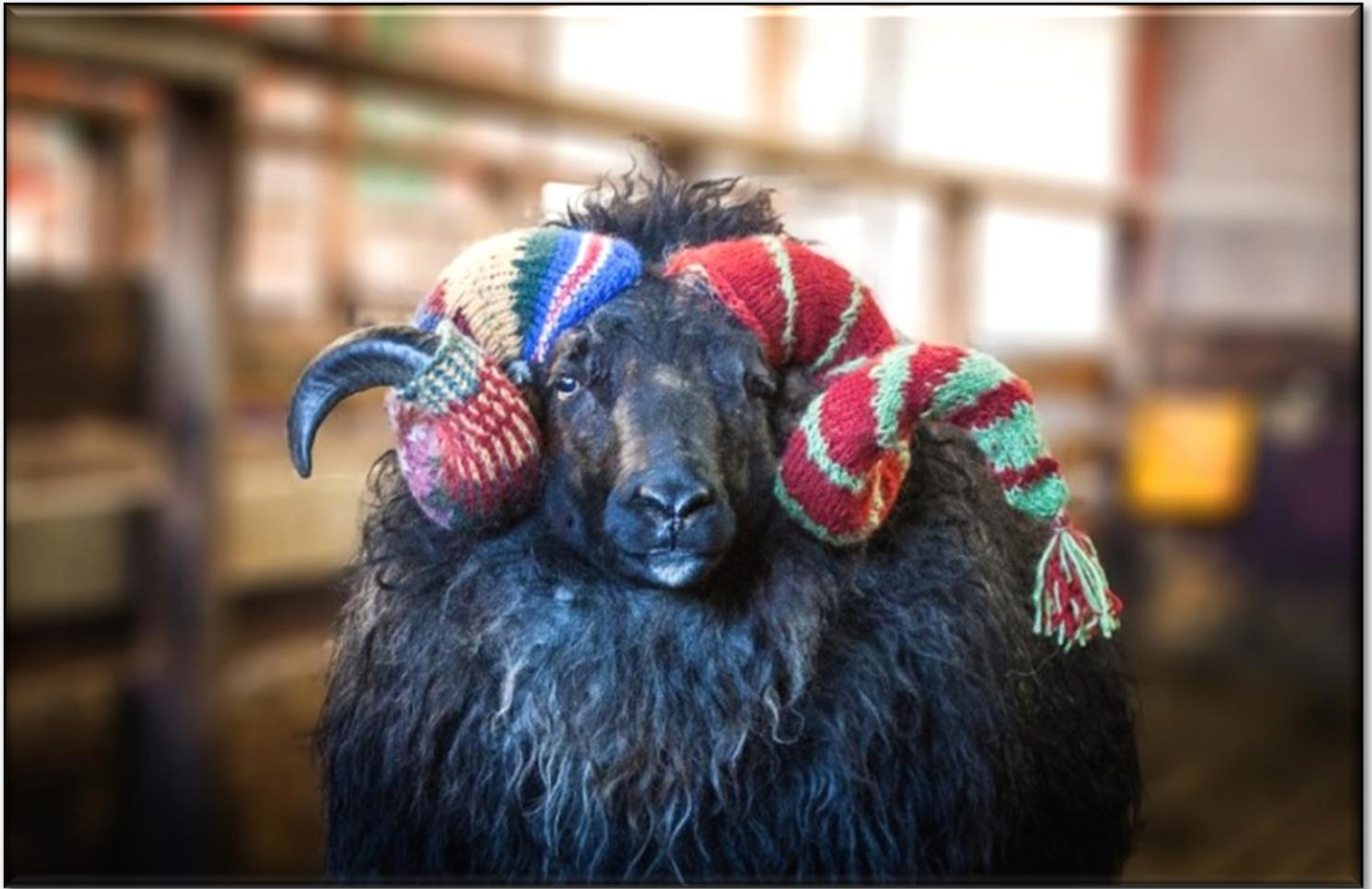


Photo © Esia Travel

**Celebrate the Summer Solstice
in the Land of Fjords, Vikings, Trolls & the Midnight Sun**

Combine with the Faroe Islands for the Ultimate North Atlantic Island Adventure!
June 23 – 30, 2025

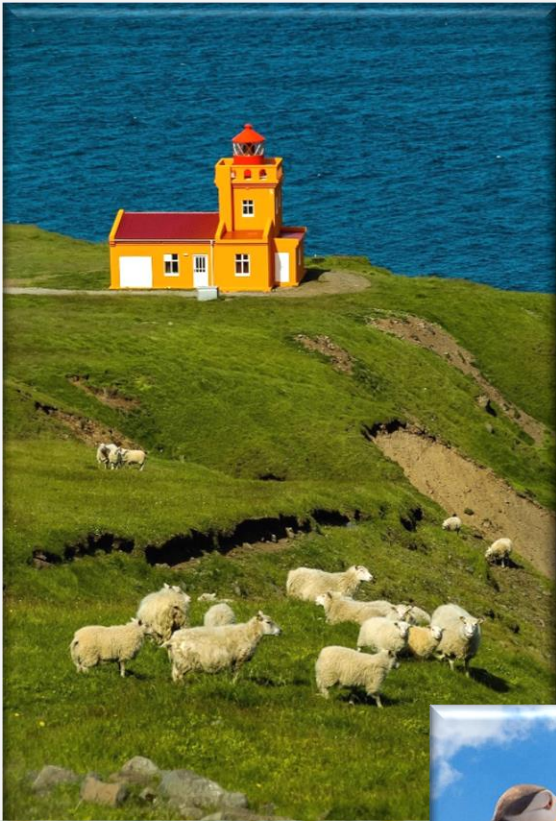
With an optional 3 Day pre-trip extension
to Iceland's Magnificent South Coast
June 13 – 15, 2022
See Page 17 for details

“Uncommon Textile Journeys that Change Lives”



Welcome to Iceland...

One of the most dramatic natural landscapes on the planet



Meet Our Icelandic Fiber Artist Mentors...

Ragnheiður Jóhannsdóttir “Ragga” is a knitting expert, designer, author and entrepreneur with over 40 years of experience. She is also skilled in herbal dyeing spinning yarn and basically everything that has to do with wool. Ragga specializes in how wool and its processing has evolved over the years and has focused on the history of Icelandic *lopapeysa* sweater design. What she enjoys most is to teach new skills and to show how you can use your knowledge for further development. She is very excited to share her knitting knowledge with you and loves to work with Icelandic wool. Ragga will introduce us to the Icelandic knitting techniques and traditions and there will be a choice of various items to knit: socks, gloves, hats, shawls or the traditional Icelandic “lopapeysa” sweater!



Guðrún Bjarnadóttir

is a botanist, teacher and sperm analyst at the Icelandic Bull Centre. She teaches botany at the Agricultural University of Iceland at Hvanneyri. Guðrún spends most of her spare time collecting plants and dyeing wool, creating her own yarn from the Icelandic wool. Plants, knitting and Icelandic nature are her favorite things and she says she is very grateful to be able to combine this all in her work. In her home in Borgarfjörður, she has an open workshop where she shows traditional methods of dyeing yarn from Icelandic plants or lichens and many other things. We will have the opportunity to spend a morning with Guðrún participating in a workshop to learn about her process.

Ríta Freyja Bach

Ríta and Páll live in Grenigerði, a small organic farm 3 km outside of Borgarnes. In addition to selling plants, they also work with wool and the horns of animals like reindeers, sheep and goats. From the horns, they make all kinds of useful things, particularly jewelry. Their handcraft is for sale in Ullarselið at Hvanneyri (www.ull.is) and some handcraft shops in Reykjavík. They also have a gallery at their farm. Ríta teaches students at the Agricultural University of Iceland to spin the wool and she has also taught many courses in wool craft elsewhere. We are lucky enough to visit their farm to learn more about Icelandic goat wool, see their beautiful art and taste some pancakes made from goat's milk. We also have the chance to learn the art of spinning with Ríta one day while at our hotel.



Cari Sample Malver

is an award-winning weaver trained in the Rio Grande tradition of weaving unique to the Southwest of the US. This style of the art was brought to Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado by the Spanish settlers in the 16th century and is a result of the interweaving of the Spanish, Mexican native and local Indian pueblo weaving cultures. Cari is passionate about weaving and exposing others to the many forms of fiber art around the world. Cari founded Loom Dancer Odysseys and has been a specialty tour company owner since 1992. She weaves on a variety of different looms and in many countries. In addition to leading Loom Dancer's textile expeditions, she loves to teach weaving classes. When not exploring the world, Cari splits her time between Telluride, Colorado and Santa Fe, New Mexico where the natural landscapes and cultures are her muse.





Wednesday, June 15 Arrive Reykjavik ~ An Evening Private Visit Handknitting Association of Iceland

Today you arrive in Iceland's capital city of Reykjavik and transfer on your own to Hotel Holt. Known as the "Smallest Big City in the World," you have the rest of the day to explore rest and explore this fascinating seaside city. While it may be surrounded by extraordinary nature, it is a vibrant city full of urban life. You might want to explore the interesting museums such as The National Museum of Iceland where you can learn about the first settlers of Reykjavik. You can also stroll alongside the Old Harbor. Reykjavik is home to many marvelous sculptures. For an iconic experience, walk along the waterfront to the Sólfar (The Sun Voyager). This steel sculpture --- of a Viking ship. Here you can enjoy unparalleled views of Mount Esja (pictured below) .

Another amazing site is Hallgrímur's Church (Hallgrímskirkja), one of Iceland's most photographic site. If shopping is your passion, you can meander along Laugavegur, an open-air shopping street filled with boutiques and restaurants. The options are literally almost endless.



Our Journey through Iceland



In the early evening, we have a special treat in store. We'll gather to have a private "after hours" visit to the Handknitters Association of Iceland. Knitting in Iceland is iconic. For many centuries, Icelandic people have depended on their sheep to provide the marvelous wool for their warm garments, a necessity for the long and cold winters. Historically, many women have also used their craft to supplement their family's income. In 1977, several Icelandic women joined forces to establish an organization that could better market their work. Thus, the Handknitting Association was

founded. Their next step was to open a store to sell their woolen goods. Today, the Handknitting Association is well known for its quality and offers one of the widest selections of traditional hand knitted Icelandic sweaters in Iceland. It is also considered to be one of the main sources of Icelandic wool, patterns and supplies in Reykjavik. We'll linger here immersing ourselves in the woolly magic and you can purchase materials for your knitting project. Dinner is on your own tonight so that you can choose one of Reykjavik's many wonderful restaurants and sample traditional Icelandic cuisine. Overnight at 4* Hotel Holt. (B)





Monday, June 16 To the Icelandic Countryside Natural Dyeing Studio ~ a Wool Centre ~ a UNESCO World Heritage Site

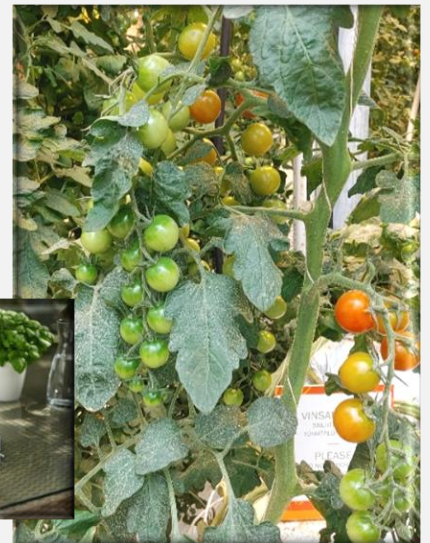


In the morning, we set off for our adventure deeper into Western Iceland often referred to Sagaland for its rich Viking history. En route we visit botanist and dyer Guðrún Bjarnadóttir at her shop Hespuhúsið, an open herbal dyeing studio (see her bio on Page 3). We'll learn about the coloring of yarn with dye made of Icelandic plants and lichens. The studio has a sitting room where you can sit and peruse books or pick up the needles. In the lounge there is the folklore department, and a small museum with old objects, many related to old crafts.

Next we visit Uppspuni, a family-run mini-mill where high quality yarns are produced from their own sheep. It is the very first mini-mill in Iceland. The yarn is spun from 100% Icelandic local fiber in the natural colors of their sheep and each carries the name from legendary Icelandic Folk Tales. For example, *Hulduband* (the hidden woman yarn), *Dvergaband* (the dwarf yarn), *Dís* (the fairy) and *Tröllaband* (Trollband). In their words, "The elves and the hidden people in Iceland are said to live in rocks and mountains.

We feel their spirit linger in the strings of the yarn, since the sheep that provide the wool are kept in the magnificent mountains that circle our horizon, for nearly 3 months before shearing."

Iceland might not bring to mind fresh tomatoes, but from here, we carry on to Friðheimar with their amazing greenhouses filled with possibly the best tomatoes you have ever tasted. Here we will enjoy a unique lunch among the tomato plants in a greenhouse and an Icelandic horse show. Friðheimar is very much a family affair, run by Knútur Rafn Ármann and his wife Helena Hermundardóttir. He is an agronomist from Hólar University College in north Iceland, while she is a horticulturalist from Reykir Horticultural College.





Our next stop is Þingvellir National Park (Thingvellir in English), the only UNESCO World Heritage Site on the Icelandic mainland. The site is a natural wonder on an international scale and a spectacular showcase of geology. The park is a geologist's dream as it sits in a rift valley caused by the separation of 2 tectonic plates, with rocky cliffs and fissures like the huge Almannagjá fault. Here all the faults and fissures clearly evidence the rifting of the earth's crust. In fact, this is the only place in the entire world where one can stand between two continental plates. Its otherworldly landscape changes every year!

The park is also famous for the Alþing (Althing), the site of Iceland's parliament from the 10th to 18th centuries. On the site are the Þingvellir Church and the ruins of old stone shelters.



From here, we carry on to our accommodation for the next two nights at Basalt Hotel. This boutique hotel is surrounded by lovely Icelandic countryside in Lundaarreykjadal, one of Borgarfjörður's valleys. Tonight, we enjoy a delicious dinner of locally sourced ingredients. Overnight at Basalt Hotel. (B)





Tuesday, June 17

Goats, Caves, and Waterfalls

Following breakfast, we'll head out to visit Háafell Goatfarm and its Icelandic Goat Centre. The Icelandic goat is an endangered species and the Icelandic Goat Centre at Háafell is working towards protecting and maintaining the goat stock in Iceland. This is your chance to bond with an Icelandic goat! The playful goats are very friendly and love to snuggle. Other animals on the farm are horses, sheep, and Icelandic chickens.



Next, we visit Ullarselið Wool Centre which is a workshop and store to shop their yarn which is 100% Icelandic wool that comes mostly from their own sheep. All the yarn is all the colors that can be found in their Icelandic herd. Here we find a treasure trove of quality handicrafts made from Icelandic wool and other Icelandic raw materials. Unique offerings include sweaters made from hand-spun ribbons, fleece garments, feather products, horsehair and horn jewelry, felted hats, slippers and mittens.

Iceland is known for its numerous and magnificent waterfalls. This afternoon, we have the chance to visit Hraunfossar Lava waterfalls which is a real treasure. The falls are a collection of creeks and cascades that stream out of the lava. One of the things that makes these falls so spectacular is the changing color of the water. It can range from a mystical turquoise of glacial waters to a milky white river. The falls are extraordinarily beautiful and a truly rare natural phenomena. Overnight at Basalt Hotel. (B)

Wednesday, June 18 To Snæfellsnes Peninsula Sagas, Vikings and Glaciers



Today we travel to the Snæfellsnes peninsula, which is like a miniature version of Iceland and considered one of the country's best escapes. En route, we'll enjoy a visit to Borg á Mýrum, a farm and church estate just west of the town of Borgarnes. The estate is especially rich in settlement history and is home to a famous church built in the 1800s, as well as a monument of Egill

Skallagrímsson of Egils Saga. The recorded history dates back to the Age of Settlement. Skallagrímur Kveldúlfsson was one of the country's very first settlers, and as he arrived, he claimed this area as his land. His son, the famous Viking-age warrior and poet Egill Skallagrímsson, was born there and called the farmstead his home, as did his many descendants after him. The life and times of the Viking were recorded some 300 years after his demise in the epic of Egils Saga.

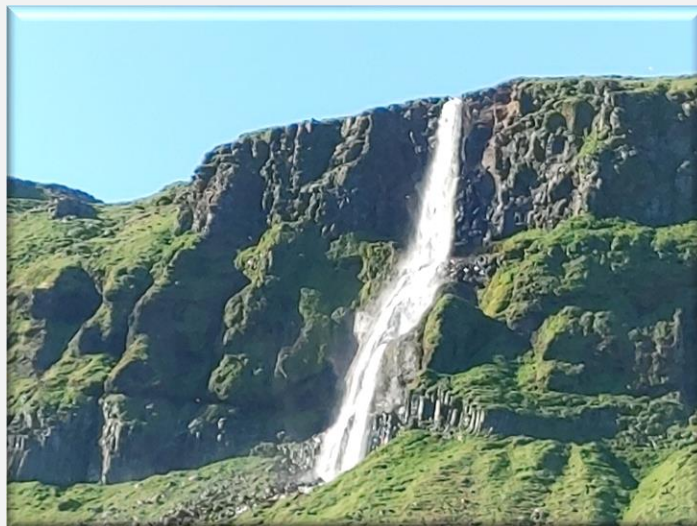
Next, it's a visit to Eiríksstaðir where we can sit by the fire and listen to tales of the Vikings in the 10th century. The expansion of the Vikings made its way westward from Iceland first to Greenland and later to the shores of North America. Dressed in typical Viking Age clothing and gear, our guides at Eiríksstaðir will teach us about the Viking Age and its craftsmanship, clothing and architecture.





We eventually arrive at our accommodation for the next four nights at Hotel Budir, considered one of the most beautiful countryside hotels in Iceland. Siting in a lava field on the westernmost tip of the peninsula, this idyllic oasis boasts arguably one of the most romantic restaurants in Iceland. Here we enjoy an impressive view of the breathtaking Snæfellsjökull glacier and the Budir-estuary which meanders into the vast Faxafloi-Bay where a number of seals reside.

Hótel Búðir's restaurant has been referred to as "The Mecca of Icelandic cooking," due to its unique and delightful cuisine. The restaurant's menu is seasonal and takes advantage of fresh local produce like seafood and fish from neighboring villages such as Stykkisholmur, Olafsvik and Borgarnes. It is in this lovely setting that we will enjoy our knitting workshop with Ragga. Overnight at Hótel Búðir. (B)



*No group dinners are planned here because if we were to include a group dinner, the hotel requires we all order the same thing which is not an option with dietary restriction and preference.



Thursday, June 19 and 20

Exploring Extraordinary Snæfellsnes Peninsula

These days we will spend exploring the stunning landscape that has captured the imagination of people all over the world. Beginning with Jules Verne's famous science fiction novel "Journey to the Center of the Earth" to recently when Ben Stiller brought the fishing village Stykkishólmur onto the big screen in "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," Snæfellsnes is a feast for the senses. Furthermore, it is believed that Snæfellsjökull is one of seven main energy centers of the earth.

Most tours spend one very long day exploring the many wonders. But we will break it up and spend two days meandering around the peninsula, hugging the coastline and visiting the charming

seaside hamlets, each offering a distinctive taste of Iceland. We'll discover dramatic sea cliffs, black and light sand beaches, craters, crooked lava flows, lush fjords, fishing villages, geothermal areas, mineral springs and rich birdlife.

Late in each afternoon, we will join Ragga for an Icelandic knitting workshop held in the wonderful ambiance of our hotel enjoying the spectacular views. Overnight at Hótel Búðir. (B daily)



Friday, June 21

Knitting with Ragga or Weaving with Cari

Celebrate the Summer Solstice Exploring Snæfellsnes peninsula



We have the entire day to bask in the beauty of Hotel Budir and its surroundings. We'll spend the day knitting with Ragga or weaving with Cari working on our projects.



This evening, we will have a very special private celebration of the Summer Solstice in the land of the Midnight Sun!



In Icelandic folklore, Midsummer Night is one of four magical nights in Iceland. On this night, it is believed that cows can speak, seals will take on human form, and rolling around naked in the grass can cure humans of all ailments. We'll head to the beach for a bonfire with special Icelandic treats and tales. Overnight at Hotel Budir. (B)



Sunday, June 22 Return to Reykjavik With a Tribute to Viking Heroes and Remote Hot Springs



Photo © hvammsvik.com/hot-springs/

Today we return to Reykjavik and Hotel Holt with interesting stops along the way. Our first stop is in Borgarnes to visit the Settlement Centre, a folk museum offering a deep background into Iceland's history and flora and fauna giving our visit to Iceland strong context. Here we learn what it was like for the first settlers of Iceland to set out across the wilds of the North Atlantic to their new home. Iceland's most famous Viking and first poet, Egill Skallagrimsson, is highlighted.

Our next stop is Hvammsvik Hot Springs, a serene oasis which features eight natural hot springs of various sizes and temperatures located at the edge of the Atlantic

Ocean in Whalefjord. Here we can skip the madness and throngs of tourists that frequent Iceland's famous Blue Lagoon and enjoy the secluded warm waters with full access to the private showers and changing rooms, a swim-up bar, steam room, and the ocean itself. They also offer other fun activities such as paddle boarding, ocean swimming, introductory sessions to Wim Hof breathing techniques, and so much more! If hot springs are not your cup of tea, this is simply a beautiful place to relax in nature and provides the perfect way to unwind from our adventure in the West of Iceland. We'll arrive in Reykjavik in the early evening when we can gather for a farewell dinner for those that would like to (not included). Overnight at Hotel Holt. (B)



Thursday, June 23 Flights Home

or Begin Faroe Islands Extension ~ Wild and Woolly Wanderings through the “Sheep Islands”

Sadly, all good things must come to an end (or not if you are continuing on to the Faroe Islands). This morning you transfer on your own via taxi or shuttle for the airport for your flights home. (B)



The Faroe Islands ~ Discover the Best Kept Secret in Europe

June 23 - 30



The Faroe Islands are one of the most unknown places on earth, wild and untouched due to the vast oceans separating them from neighboring countries. The name of the mountainous islands, Føroyar, means "Sheep Islands" in Faroese. There are twice as many sheep as people. Shaped from volcanic activity, this green archipelago of 18 islands is located in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean, marooned halfway between Scotland and Iceland and equidistant from Norway. The islands rise steeply from a salty sea and are filled with

rugged landscapes, high mountains and prolific bird and wildlife.

The Faroe Islands have a rich history stretching back more than a thousand years. Archeology has shown



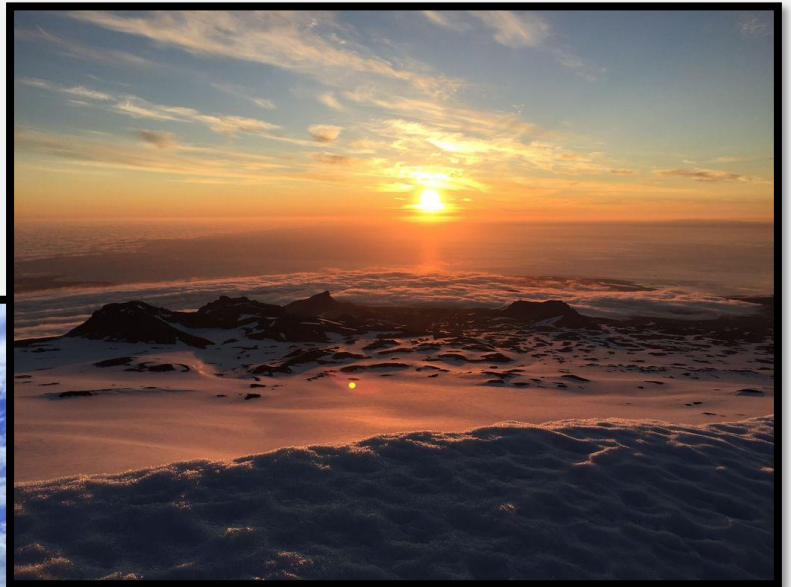
that the first settlers were Irish Monks in the 7th century who described them as “Islands of the sheep and Paradise of Birds upon arriving on the shores.” Later in 795,

Vikings colonized the islands sailing from Denmark and Norway after which the islands changed hands many times, becoming constituents of various kingdoms, including the Kingdom of Norway, the Kalmar Union, and the Kingdom of Denmark.



It's Surprisingly Easy to get to the Faroe Islands

While the Faroe Islands are isolated pearls in the North Atlantic, they are surprisingly easy to reach by air. Iceland is only a little more than an hour's flight. There are also one hour and fifteen-minute flights from Edinburgh, Scotland while one can fly from mainland Europe in two hours.



Won't you join us
in Iceland
~ a tapestry of fire
and ice?

Land Costs Include:

- 8 Night's accommodation based on double occupancy*. Single accommodation available at additional cost.
*Please note that hotel rooms and bathrooms in Iceland are often smaller than we are used to in the US and Canada.
- Private tours
- Various Workshops/Special Events including 3 Days of an exclusive knitting and weaving workshops.
- Private van and local expert guide
- Breakfast daily
- Private visits and demonstrations with talented knitters, weavers, spinners, jewelers and textile designers
- Entrance fees

Land Costs Exclude:

- All air transportation
- Airport transfers
- Meals not designated on the itinerary
- Any item not specifically included in your program including all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, alcoholic beverages, etc.
- Tips for your guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional insurance of any kind. We HIGHLY recommend purchasing trip protection insurance!

Cost: \$4,595 USD Per Person Based on Double Occupancy
(based on 12 participants)

For those wishing single accommodations, there is a \$1,095 USD Single Room Upgrade (limited rooms available)

Activities such as golf, horseback riding, fishing and any other activity not included in the itinerary are at an additional cost.
We will be happy to help with the arrangements.

Save Your Spot!

Please call our office for details or questions!

800.369.3033 (US only) ~ 970.728.6743

Loom Dancer Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain or "ordinary" tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the creative and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. Our typical group size is limited to 12-15 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

We invite you to join us.
Be a creative traveler,
not a tourist.

As with all true adventures, this itinerary is subject to change without notice based on a variety of factors. Although Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys will do our best to adhere to the scheduled itinerary, we are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions. This itinerary should be considered an approximation of activities only. The itinerary or accommodations may be changed subject to unexpected and worthwhile opportunities, weather, group desires, and circumstances beyond our control, etc. Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys and its guides reserve the right to alter the itinerary without prior notice. Also please be aware that any voluntary changes on your part to your itinerary while in Iceland will be made at your own expense. There is no refund for any unused portion of the itinerary including hotels, activities, etc.

Discover Iceland's Magnificent South Coast

June 13 - 15, 2025

Explore iconic waterfalls, black sand beaches, geysers and a glacial lagoon



Most other tours are only day trips to the South Coast and beyond. What's the rush? That's certainly not for us! We'll immerse ourselves in the majesty and diversity of this dynamic landscape for several days. From black sand beaches to powerful geysers; spectacular waterfalls to frigid ice lagoons, we'll explore it all.

We be staying in the charming seafront village of Vik. It is Iceland's most southerly town situated along a rugged stretch of coastline and tucked between glacier topped mountains, rugged sea cliffs with black sand beaches. (Photo on right)



3 Full Days / 2 Nights Itinerary

June 13 Meander from Reykjavik along the Golden Circle to Vik on the South Coast

June 14 Full day scenic drive from Vik to Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon where we take an amphibian boat tour among the icebergs and walk on enchanting Diamond Beach. Return to Vik.

June 15 Journey from Vik to Reykjavik along the South Coast visiting its many extraordinary sights.

Extension Land Costs Include:

- 3 Days/2 Night's accommodation based on double occupancy. Single accommodation available at additional cost.
- All visits/activities as described
- Three full days of touring in a private van and local expert guide
- Breakfast daily

Extension Land Costs Exclude:

- Any air transportation or Airport transfers (except at the end of the tour if you have a late day flight)
- Meals not designated on the itinerary
- Any item not specifically included in your program including all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages including excess baggage fees, laundry, phone calls, internet and any other items of a personal nature not specifically indicated
- Tips for your guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional insurance of any kind

Extension Cost: \$1,995 USD per person, double occupancy based on a minimum of 8 or more travelers
Single Room Upgrade: \$425 USD



Just Some of the Many Highlights

- Gullfoss, the Golden Waterfall
- Unique black beach Reynisfjara near Vik
- Stunning glaciers, rugged lava fields and mysterious volcanoes and geysers
- Geysir geothermal area
- South Coast waterfalls: Seljalandsfoss & Skógafoss
- Geysir geothermal area
- Sail among the icebergs on Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon and walk on Diamond Beach, a black sand paradise

800-369-3033 (US only) ~ 970-728-6743



PO Box 22128, Telluride, CO 81435 ~ loomdance@aol.com ~ www.loomdancerodysseys.com
800-369-3033 ~ 970-728-6743 ~ Fax 970-728-7081

About Other Activities in Iceland

All our trips are designed to offer something for everyone and Iceland is no exception. Our itinerary is created to accommodate a variety of interests for our fiber enthusiasts as well as their non-fiber traveling companions. **The knitting and weaving workshops included in the itinerary are suitable for any ability or level of interest.** Even if you are a non-knitter or weaver, or not necessarily a fiber fiend, there are a myriad of activities to enjoy while the textile lovers indulge their passion. For those not participating in the workshops, you can explore on your own or engage in any of the activities below that Iceland is so famous for.

Horseback Riding

Being on horseback is the ideal way to experience the ancient nature of Iceland relatively untouched for 100, or even 1,000 years. Considered the world's purest breed, Icelandic Horses were brought by Viking ships to serve as the sole source of transportation over Iceland's rough terrain. Isolated by law, nature gifted these horses with no natural predators, but in turn challenged them with sparse forage and a harsh climate. This natural selection process produced the calm, sure-footed Icelandic horse and has made it an integral part of the country's culture. (Adapted from <http://www.icelandichorses.com/horses.php>.) Read more about the history of the Icelandic Horse at <http://www.icelandichorses.com/history.php>

These friendly, sure-footed horses have a unique and rhythmic gait known as the 4-beat tölt which is famous for an incredibly smooth and seemingly floating ride over Iceland's rugged landscape. There are many riding experiences available for all levels of ability. Choose from a couple of hours in the saddle to all day rides through the magnificent scenery of Iceland.

Fishing

Fishing for salmon, lake and sea trout, and Arctic char under the midnight sun is an experience no angler will ever forget. Iceland, the land of fire and ice, is home to some of the best Atlantic salmon and game fishing in the world. With crystal-clear, well-managed rivers and breathtaking scenery, it is no surprise that for generations, anglers have come to (and subsequently fallen in love with) Iceland. Fishing for salmon, sea trout, trout and Arctic char under the midnight sun is an experience no angler will ever forget.

<http://www.fishpal.com/Norse/Iceland/index.asp?dom=Iceland>

Hiking

Hiking and walking in Iceland is enormously popular with many short and easy hikes to full day adventures. In fact, it might even be considered a hiker's paradise with opportunities that are virtually endless. With its magnificent scenery, wild landscapes and well-designed trails, Iceland will not disappoint the walker. Early June marks the beginning of the hiking season.

Photography

Iceland's remarkable natural beauty is an incredible muse for any photographer. Choose from a variety of photography workshops or venture out on your own for that once-in-a-lifetime shot.

World Class Golf

"Playing golf in Iceland is an adventure you'll remember for a lifetime. Midnight golf is available in the summer due to Iceland's northerly location, and one-tenth of Iceland's surface is adorned with lava. Sweeping mountains and majestic ocean views characterize Icelandic golf courses, which follow the contours of the naturally dramatic landscape. Their design pays tribute to the first golf courses in Scotland - the home of golf." ~ according to Golficeland.org