**Iceland Itinerary 23th – 28th October 2011**

**Day 1 – Keflavik - Reykjavik**

Evening Flight from the UK to Keflavik and transfer to your hotel.

**Day 2 – Hveragerdi - Vik – Reynishverfi – Dyrholaey**

Drive east towards the south coast and pass through the small ‘greenhouse’ town of Hveragerdi,

with an abundance of geothermal activity. If you wish it is also an ideal place to carry out a rural

settlement study or take a hike to many hot springs which are warm enough to bathe in. The

latest hot springs that have appeared here did so after the Olfus earthquake in 2008.

Visit the black sand beach and dunes at Vik, the most southerly point of Iceland. See the

incredible hexagonal basalt columns and impressive cliffs of Reynishverfi. The coastline between

here and Dyrholaey is worthy of study with a variety of features including Iceland’s answer to

Durdle Door – an immense natural rock arch. Overnight in the countryside.

**Day 3 – Solheimajokull – Skogar – Seljalandsfoss - Eyjafjalljokull flood plain**

Drive west where you will reach the Solheimajokull glacier to study the moraines and see first

hand how the glacier is shaping the land. Enjoy an optional glacier walk or trip up onto the

Myrdalsjokull icecap. Visit the waterfall at Skogar, this is a broad, block waterfall that thunders

60m over a cliff edge. Close by is an interesting museum which looks at rural life through the

ages, complete with re-constructed turf houses - a great opportunity to see how the Icelandic way

of life has been influenced over the years by the country’s geography and harsh climatic

conditions. Continue towards Seljalandsfoss, a narrow plunge waterfall where the water plummets

over a former sea cliff, far enough away from the bedrock to allow you to walk behind it. Close by

you will see an area affected by a jokulhlaup (glacier burst) from the recent Eyjafjallajokull volcano

eruption, here students will see evidence from where glacial flood water has washed down the valley.

Continue to your accommodation in the countryside.

**Day 4 - Thingvellir – Geysir – Gullfoss - Reykjavik**

Travel to a geothermal power plant or hydroelectric plant and enjoy the power plant’s interactive

display and guided tour. Then on to the rift valley at Thingvellir, where the divergent North

American and Eurasian tectonic plates can be found, pulling apart at an average rate of 2.5cm per

year – it is also where Iceland's national assembly, the Althing, was set up in 930AD. Look out for

ropey lava as you then make your way across the landscape, passing many fissures. Continue to

Geysir, where Iceland’s most reliable geyser Strokkur spouts every 5 minutes or so. Nearby,

witness the immense power of the two-tiered waterfall Gullfoss which flows from a glacier into a

rift valley. Return to your accommodation in Reykjavik or, if you prefer to a rural guesthouse.

**Day 5 - Reykjavik** or whale watching – Krysuvik - Bridge between Continents – Blue

Lagoon

Take a city tour of Reykjavik with additional options for shopping and studies on urban

environments. Alternatively you may like to take part in a three hour whale watching trip. In the

afternoon travel to Krysuvik and witness the solfataras (boiling mud pools).

Continue through the beautiful lava deserts, along the shore line where the power of the Atlantic

can be seen pounding the coastline. Next is a crater row accessible by dirt road, where you can

see a typical fissure eruption site. There is also the "Bridge between Continents", where a

wooden bridge spans a fissure, said to be where the mid-Atlantic ridge enters Iceland, thereby

demonstrating continental drift. Next spend the afternoon in the Blue Lagoon where you can take

a dip in the milky blue geothermal waters of Iceland’s most famous attraction. Overnight in

Reykjavik.

**Day 6**  **– Reykjavik – Kefl**avik Early morning transfer to Keflavik international Airport

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