

Day 1 (Wednesday, April 5)

12:00 – 13:30: Free screenwriting workshop with Megan Herbert (Nordic House).

14:00 – 16:30: Collection of welcome packs from the hotel lobby. (If you're unable to collect them then, we'll bring the rest to dinner.)

16:30: Buses depart hotel for welcome drink.

17:00 – 18:00: Welcome drink at the presidential residence, Bessastaðir, hosted by President Guðni Th. Jóhannesson.

18:30 – 21:00: Opening dinner and Featured Author reading at Restaurant Reykjavik. (Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages are available for purchase.)

Workshops & Day Tour: Thursday, Friday, Saturday

There are three two-hour workshop slots each day. Workshops will have a maximum of 15 participants. You will be enrolled in five workshops over two days, with the remaining workshop slot free for your own writing. On the third day, you are invited to join us on a day-long tour in the Icelandic countryside.

To clarify: There are two days of workshops and one day of a tour. The pacing of workshop and tour days will vary for attendees depending on workshop selection. Some participants will attend two days of workshops followed by a day tour, while others will begin with the day tour and then attend two days of workshops, and yet others will have one day of workshops, a day tour, and a second day of workshops.

Workshop Schedule (Thurs, Fri, Sat):

6:30 – 8:30: Breakfast at your leisure (for those staying at the hotel).

8:30-10:30: Workshop

10:30-11:00: Coffee break

11:00-13:00: Workshop

13:00-14:30: Lunch in the hotel

14:30-16:30: Workshop

In the evenings there will be receptions or other events.

Thursday, 5 p.m.: Reception at Reykjavik City Hall.

Friday, 5:30 p.m.: Choice between literary walking tour of Reykjavik (rain or shine!) or reception at Whales of Iceland museum, co-hosted by Embassies of Denmark, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States in Iceland.

Saturday: Pub night (see details below).

Those on the day tour will always be back in time to participate in any evening event.

Day Tours (Thurs, Fri, Sat):

You will be booked to attend one full-day tour in the Icelandic countryside, and have a choice between the following two tours. If you have not booked the IWR package with accommodation, you will be responsible for meeting at the hotel for the tour's departure.

6:30 - 8:00: Breakfast at your leisure (for those with accommodation).

All day (approx 8:00 – 17:00): Special literary-themed tour led by an Icelandic author. You will either be on the Golden Circle tour or Literary Borgarfjörður.

On the Golden Circle tour we will visit:

Skálholt: From 1056 to 1785, Skálholt was one of two episcopal sees in Iceland, making it a cultural and political centre. Iceland's first official school was founded here. In 1550, Iceland's last Catholic bishop, Jón Arason, was executed here along with his two sons. We'll have a short talk by author Einar Kárason (refreshments provided).

Geysir geothermal area: This is one of the most popular spots in Iceland. In this area of bubbling hot springs, you'll find the original Geysir that lent its name for the world's geysers. Its eruptions are notoriously unreliable, but next door neighbour Strokkur explodes with reliability every few minutes or so, guaranteeing a terrific show.

Lunch at Hotel Geysir.

Gullfoss waterfall: This majestic waterfall cascades over two levels of the Hvítá River. The waterfall is 32 metres (105 feet) high, and spills into a canyon that is up to 70 metres (230 feet) deep.

Pingvellir National Park: Pingvellir is a place of historical and geological importance. It is the site of Iceland's first parliament, the Alþing, which was established in AD 930. Pingvellir is also a place where the North American and European tectonic plates are slowly separating at a rate of about 1 centimetre per year.

Gljúfrasteinn: The home and workplace of Nobel Prize winning author Halldór Laxness (1902-1998), with reading by author Hallgrímur Helgason.

The Literary Borgarfjörður tour travels west to the Borarfjörður region, with stops at:

Gljúfrasteinn: The home and workplace of Nobel Prize winning author Halldór Laxness (1902-1998), with reading by author Hallgrímur Helgason.

Hvalfjörður Fjord and Hlaðir: We'll drive around the beautiful Hvalfjörður Fjord, where Allied convoys gathered during the Second World War. We'll include a

stop at the Hlaðir community centre, where you can enjoy light refreshments and visit the small museum dedicated to the famous “Arctic Convoys” of WWII.

Reykholt: This is one of the most important historical sites in Iceland. This area was the home of 13th century writer and chieftain Snorri Sturluson. Reykholt features a medieval centre, a church, and Snorralaug — Snorri’s hot pool, possibly the oldest preserved constructions in Iceland. We’ll have lunch here and listen to a talk by a local author.

Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls: The Hraunfossar “lava” waterfalls seem to appear as if by magic, emerging from under a lava field and tumbling into the Hvítá River. Nearby Barnafoss bears the name “Children’s Waterfall” after two children are said to have perished here falling off a natural bridge across the water.

Deildartunguhver: Europe’s most powerful hot spring. Our guide will boil some eggs in the hot earth, and you can enjoy a small taste of the eggs with some Icelandic rye bread and herring.

Day 4 (Saturday, April 8)

20:30 - late: Pub night at Café Rosenberg, with live music by Contalgen Funeral and readings by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir and Oddný Eir Ævarsdóttir.

Day 5 (Sunday, April 9)

6:30 – 9:00: Breakfast at your leisure (for those with accommodation)

9:00 – 11:15: Roundtable Q&A with featured writers, with short coffee break at the half-way point.

11:15 – 11:30: Completion of feedback forms and check out

RELAX AND WRITE - optional extension

Sunday, April 9

Afternoon: Free time for writing and exploring

13:00: Return trip to Blue Lagoon (for those who purchased tickets upon registration.)

19:00: Dinner at Bryggjan brugghús restaurant in Reykjavík.

Monday, April 10

6:30 – 9:00: Breakfast at your leisure, for those with accommodation included.

Day: Free time for writing and exploring. Or trip to Árni Magnússon Institute to see the Icelandic Sagas.

19:00: Dinner at Iðnó in Reykjavík, with open mike night for those who wish to read from their work.

Tuesday, April 11

6:30 – 9:00: Breakfast at your leisure, for those with accommodation included.

Check out by 14:00 and departure.