

## **ITINERARY**

### **Day 1 (Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>)**

All day: Arrival, hotel check in, and collection of welcome packs.

16:30: Opening reception and welcome at City Hall hosted by the City of Reykjavík.

18:30: Evening: Light meal and introductions at the hotel.

### **Day 2 (Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>)**

*Please refer to your personalized schedule for information on the workshops in which you have been enrolled.*

9:00-10:30: Workshop I

10:30-11:00: Coffee break

11:00-12:30: Workshop II

12:30-14:00: Lunch at Satt Restaurant (in the hotel)

14:00-15:30: Workshop III

17:00: Reception hosted by the President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, at his official residence, Bessastaðir.

Evening: At your leisure

### **Day 3 (Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>)**

*Please refer to your personalized schedule for information on the workshops in which you have been enrolled.*

9:00-10:30: Workshop I

10:30-11:00: Coffee break

11:00-12:30: Workshop II

12:30-14:00: Lunch at Satt Restaurant (in the hotel)

14:00-15:30: Workshop III

16:15-18:30: Guided Literary Walking Tour of Reykjavik (rain or shine!) Sponsored by Reykjavik UNESCO City of Literature. The tour will end with informal refreshments at the Canadian Embassy (on behalf of the Canadian, U.S., and British Embassies in Iceland).

Evening: At your leisure. (Feel free to stay downtown after the walking tour and make your own way back to the hotel when you wish.)

#### Day 4 (Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>)

6:30 - 8:00: Breakfast at your leisure.

All day: Special literary-themed Golden Circle tour. Your tour guide is writer and historian Guðni Th. Jóhannesson.

On the trip, 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. Writer Einar Kárason will deliver a short talk here entitled: "The essence of our being: Literature" Coffee / tea and light snack 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 nextdoor 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.

**Þingvellir National Park:** Þingvellir 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. Þingvellir 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. Author Sjón will read for us.

20:30 - late: Optional pub night at the popular KEX Hostel in downtown Reykjavík. Music is by Lay Low. Readings will be delivered by Gerður Kristný and Ragna Sigurðardóttir.

#### Day 5 (Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>)

6:30 - 8:00: Breakfast at your leisure

8:00-10:00: Roundtable Q&A with featured writers