

ITINERARY

Day 1 (Wednesday, April 8th)

All day: Arrival, hotel check in

14:00 – 16:30: Collection of welcome packs from the hotel lobby.

17:00 – 17:30: Welcome drink at the hotel.

17:30 – 19:00: Opening dinner and introductions at the hotel.

19:30 – 21:30: Featured Authors all read for the group.

Day 2 (Thursday, April 9th)

There are six workshop slots over a two-day period. Workshops will have a maximum of 15 participants. You have been enrolled in five workshops, with the remaining slot free for your own writing.

6:30 – 9:00: Breakfast at your leisure.

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

16:00-17:00: Reception hosted by the City of Reykjavík at City Hall.

Evening: At your leisure. *Note:* At 9 p.m. on Thursdays, the hotel hosts Icelandic “bedtime stories” in the auditorium. Free to attend, they are presented in English by Icelandic actors.

Some people have also chosen to purchase tickets to a performance by the Iceland Symphony Orchestra at the Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre.

Day 3 (Friday, April 10th)

There are six workshop slots over a two-day period. Workshops will have a maximum of 15 participants. You have been enrolled in five workshops, with the remaining slot free for your own writing.

6:30 – 9:00: Breakfast at your leisure

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

16:15-18:15: Guided Literary Walking Tour of Reykjavik sponsored by Reykjavik UNESCO City of Literature **OR** Guided tour of the award-winning Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre.

Each tour will end with a reception at the Reykjavík City Library hosted by the Embassies of Canada and the United Kingdom in Iceland.

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

Day 4 (Saturday, April 11th)

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

All day: Special literary-themed Golden Circle tour led by an Icelandic author. We'll be on two buses and your guide will be either writer and geophysicist Ari Trausti Guðmundsson or writer and historian Guðni Th. Jóhannesson. The two buses will travel in different directions, one beginning with a stop at Skálholt and one with a stop at Gljúfrasteinn. We will have lunch together.

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 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 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 Icelandic author Andri Snær Magnason.

Approximate return to hotel at 18:00.

20:30 - late: Pub night at a location in downtown Reykjavík, with live music by Snorri Helgason and readings by Gerður Kristný and Jónína Leósdóttir.

Day 5 (Sunday, April 12th)

6:30 – 9:00: Breakfast at your leisure

9:00 – 10:30: Roundtable Q&A with featured writers (in hotel auditorium)

Relax and Write optional extension

Sunday, April 12th

Afternoon: Free time for writing and exploring

13:00: Return trip to Blue Lagoon (an optional extra to the Relax & Write.)

19:00: Dinner at **The Fish Market** restaurant.

Monday, April 13th

6:30 – 9:00: Breakfast at your leisure. We'll have a sign up sheet at breakfast for those who wish to read at the open mike night.

Day: Free time for writing and exploring

19:00: Dinner at **Skólabrú** restaurant, with open mike night for those who wish to read from their work. Please be in the hotel lobby for prompt departure at 18:45.

Tuesday, April 14th

6:30 – 9:00: Breakfast at your leisure. Check out by 14:00 and departure.

