

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 (Wednesday, April 13)

All day: Arrival, hotel check in.

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

17:00: Welcome drink, location to be confirmed, to be followed by:

Opening dinner and introductions at the hotel.

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

### Day 2 (Thursday, April 14)

*There are six workshop slots over a two-day period. Workshops will have a maximum of 15 participants. You will be enrolled in five workshops, with the remaining slot free for your own writing. Your personalized workshop schedule has been sent to you.*

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

16:30-17:00: Reception at City Hall, hosted by the City of Reykjavik.

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.

### Day 3 (Friday, April 15)

*There are six workshop slots over a two-day period. Workshops will have a maximum of 15 participants. You will be enrolled in five workshops, with the remaining slot free for your own writing. Your personalized workshop schedule has been sent to you.*

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

16:15-18:00: Guided Literary Walking Tour of Reykjavik. Sponsored by Reykjavik UNESCO City of Literature.

18:00-19:00 International Festival of Authors, Canadian authors reading at the museum

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

## **Day 4 (Saturday, April 16)**

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

All day (approx 8:00 – 18:00): 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 likely have a short talk by an Icelandic author here (and refreshments).

**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.

**Kjarvalsstaðir:** The newly refurbished art gallery dedicated to the work of Iceland's most well known artist, Jóhannes S. Kjarval. Reading by author and poet Steinunn Sigurðardóttir.

The **Literary Borgarfjörður** is a new tour we are creating for the IWR. We still have to confirm the exact schedule, but we will travel west to the Borgarfjörður region, and visit:

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

**Lunch.**

**Reykholt:** This is one of the most important historical sites in Iceland. This area was the home of 13<sup>th</sup> 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 listen to a talk here and enjoy some refreshments.

**Deildartunguhver:** Europe's most powerful hot spring.

20:30 - late: Pub night at a location in downtown Reykjavík, with live music and readings by local authors.

## **Day 5 (Sunday, April 17)**

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 17**

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 Kolabrautin restaurant in the Harpa Concert Hall.

### **Monday, April 18**

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.

### **Tuesday, April 19**

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

