

SCANDEM 2017 – Excursion

Objectives: To visit a very beautiful part of Iceland, holding the Snæfellsnes glacier (Snæfellsjökull) and the Snæfellsnes National Park, and the southern part of Breiðafjörður, Iceland's most beautiful fjord with numerous islands and skerries.

Leaving Reykjavík, we head quickly northwest with a few rest-room stops on the way, but when approaching the outer southern part of Snæfellsnes peninsula we slow down with several stops near the southwest end of the peninsula. Then driving clockwise around the glacier and again slowing down at the midst of the northern part of the peninsula, viewing Mount Kirkjufell, visiting the Shark museum at Bjarnarhöfn, passing Stykkishólmur and then stopping for dinner at a site facing the numerous islands of Breiðafjörður. After dinner we head home to Reykjavík, arriving there late evening at around 23 hours.

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- 7:30** Departure from Askja, University of Iceland (<http://www.hi.is/askja>), Reykjavík
- 8:40** Arrive in **Borgarnes**. Short (15-20 min) rest-room stop.
- 9:00** Heading towards Snæfellsnes on road 54. Refreshment on board (juice & kleinur).
- 10:00** Arrive at **Vegamót**. Short (10 min) rest-room stop, or just stretching out.
- 10:10** Heading towards Búðir, with short photo stop (10 min) near **Kirkjuhóll** farm for seals (if present). Vegamót – Kirkjuhóll, 20 min drive. Kirkjuhóll – Búðir, 20 min drive.
- 11:00-11:30** **Búðir**. Short (30 min) walk to the shore, enjoying the sandy beach.
- 11:30** Departure from Búðir. Heading towards Hellnar. Drive 20 min, flexibility 10 min.
- 12:00-12:30** **Hellnar**, a former fishing village. Short (30 min) walk towards the bird cliffs.
- 12:30** Departure from Hellnar. Heading towards Lóndrangar.
- 12:40-12:50** **Lóndrangar**. Short (10 min) photo stop. The Lóndrangar are a pair of rock pinnacles, volcanic plugs of basalt, and remnants from a bigger crater that was eroded away.
- 12:50** Heading for Malarrif, to the visitor centre of Snæfellsnes National Park, a 5-min drive.
- 13:00-13:30** **Malarrif**. An (30 min) outdoor lunch (Sandwich & juice) and rest-room stop.
- 13:30** Heading towards Djúpalón, a 10-min drive.
- 13:40-14:10** **Djúpalón**, a pebble beach cove with spectacular lava formations and gorges at its end. Short (30 min) walk to the shore at Djúpalón.
- 14:10** Heading north clockwise around the **Snæfellsjökull**, the three peaked volcano and glacier (1446 m high). A 20-25 min drive.

14:35-14:45 Short (10 min) stop at **Hellissandur**, once an important fishing post. Photo stop here if the glacier is not cloudy!

14:45 Heading for Kirkjufellsá (stop at Búlandshöfði just in case, to have glacier view).

15:20-15:50 Stop (30 min) at **Kirkjufell** in Grundarfjörður, on the north side of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. The area includes Kirkjufellsá River, Mount Kirkjufell and Kirkjufellsfoss waterfall. Snaps offered!

15:50 Heading for Bjarnarhaven – Bjarnarhöfn, a 25-min drive.

16:15-17:00 **Bjarnarhöfn**, a farmstead, the settlement site to Björn Ketilsson (Björn austræni) in the 9th century. Visit the Shark Museum. Taste of shark and snaps.

17:00 Heading for Hrísakot, with a short detour through Stykkishólmur (stop at the new church; ca 50 min including the stop)

17:50 Arrival at **Hrísakot**. Dinner at farm Hrísakot from **18.00** - onwards - grilled lamb with potatoes and salad, beer or wine. Walk around Hrísakot, possibly on Mount Hrísafell (around 280 m). Study turf buildings.

20.30 Departing to Reykjavík via Vatnaleið.

23.00 Arrival in Reykjavík.

Additional rest stops will be upon demand!

Recommended reading: One of the most famous Icelandic Saga occurs on the northern part of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. This is **Eyrbyggja Saga**, one of the best Sagas. Eyrbyggja Saga has, as the most other sagas, wide Nordic (or Scandinavian) links. It all started in Norway and with a remarkable fellow called Ketil Flat-Nose, and with fighting and quarrel. Other Scandinavians were also later involved, among them Swedish Berserks named Halli and Leiknir! These troublemakers were later killed having a sauna! We recommend: Eyrbyggja Saga, Penguin classics, 1989, eds Pálsson and Edwards, or any Scandinavian translation of Eyrbyggja.
