**Tourist guide Iceland**

**Intro:**

Much of Iceland is still taking shape before your very eyes – raw, dramatic landscapes are born from volcanic activity. Other parts have hardly changed since the first Viking settlers settled down more than 1100 years ago. On Iceland you will experience both wilderness and wildlife, and total calm.

**Nature:**

Iceland is an island created by volcanic activity and more than half of Iceland is over 400 m above sea level. Most of the island is covered by lava, glaciers, sand and snow. If you like to hike, see the raw nature and want to discover deserted places, it is a good opportunity to do it when you are on Iceland.

Both Iceland and the surrounding water are rich in animals. On the island there is a lot birds and Látrabjarg in West Iceland is the largest bird cliff known in the world. In the surrounding water there are a lot of whales and seals of various sizes and species.

A geyser is a spring heated by the underground. When it boils it is ejected turbulently out of the ground and into the air. Geysir, also known as the Great Geysir, is one of the most known geysers in the world. It is placed in the south of Iceland. Eruptions at Geysir can hurl boiling water up to 70 meters in the air.

**Blue Lagoon:**
On the half-island Reykjanes the blue lagoons are located. The blue lagoons are heated ponds that are 37-39 degrees. They contain heated saltwater from the underground which is surrounded by lava stones and black sandy beaches. The water is heated by a geothermic power plant.
Wounds heal faster in the water and human bacteria also die. Actually the water is a bit toxic.

**Northern Light:**
On Iceland you can see the very beautiful phenomenon Northern Light, also called Aurora. Northern light are particles colliding with the earth’s magnetic field and this redirects the particles to the northern and southern poles of the field. This creates the beautiful lights that we call the northern lights.

**Reykjavik:** The Reykjavík Capital Area consists of seven municipalities with approximately 200,000 inhabitants, comprising two-thirds of the Icelandic population.

Reykjavik is a city where you’ll feel safe to walk the streets. With its colourful houses, friendly people and walkable city center, it’s like being in a big village. But this “village” has a multitude of cultural venues, gourmet restaurants, and stores.

Even so, it’s still only a 15-minute cab ride between downtown and wild nature, where you’ll feel you’re the only person on earth.

Iceland’s first settler, Ingolfur Arnarson, maked his home in Reykjavik and named the settlement Reykjavik (“Smoky Bay”) after the misty geo-thermal steam he saw rising from the ground. Today, it heats homes and outdoor swimming pools throughout the city – a pollution-free energy source that leaves the air outstandingly fresh, clean and clear. If you visit Reykjavik you have to visit one of the area’s many outdoor geo-thermal pools.

Reykjavik is packed with all the artistic venues you would expect from a capital city: art galleries, museums, several theaters, a symphony orchestra and even an opera house. There are seven movie theaters in and around the capital and live music concerts almost every day of the year. Reykjavik is also renowned as one of Europe’s hottest nightspots, where the action on the friendly pub and nightlife scene lasts right through the night.