

# 2008 Europe - Itinerary

**Greenland – Iceland - Belgium – Netherlands – Scotland - England – August - September 2008**

Trip Day		Date		
Day 01	Wednesday	30 July 2008		Depart Melbourne QF9
Day 02	Thursday	31 July 2008	Arctic Summer Tour Day 01	Arrive LHR 05:25. -Fly from UK to Keflavik. FI0451 13:00hrs – Arrive 15:00
Day 03	Friday	01 August 2008	Arctic Summer Tour Day 02	<b>Fly from Reykjavik to Kulusuk.</b>
Day 04	Saturday	02 August 2008	Arctic Summer Tour Day 03	<b>Transfer by helicopter to Tasilaq and by minibus to Hotel Ammassalik.</b>
Day 05	Sunday	03 August 2008	Arctic Summer Tour Day 04	Optional Excursions
Day 06	Monday	04 August 2008	Arctic Summer Tour Day 05	<b>Transfer to Kulusuk for return flight to Reykjavik.</b>
Day 07	Tuesday	05 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 01	<b>Southern Highlights</b> - We depart from Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, and drive towards the historic setting of Thingvellir, which is not only the venue of the oldest Parliament in the world but is also interesting from a geological point of view. The Parliament was founded here in the year 930 AD. This place is not only the heart of Iceland but has its place in every Icelanders heart. We then pass on to the well-know Geyser hot spring, in Haukadalur, and the magnificent waterfall of Gullfoss, the golden waterfall, where the river Hvítá falls into a narrow canyon. On a sunny day a wonderful rainbow appears from the drizzles of the pounding waters. In the afternoon you will have the chance (optional) to try out the Icelandic horse in the attractive landscape near our guesthouse. Overnight in a country guesthouse, private facilities.
Day 08	Wednesday	06 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 02	<b>Life Beneath a Volcano</b> - Living in the vicinity of the 1491 meter high Hekla through the centuries has not always been easy. Hekla, Iceland's most active volcano is a constant threat and as recently as 1947 many farmers had to abandon their land. The remains of their fight against the drift sand and ashes still exist in stone fences, which we shall take a closer look at. Hekla's most recent eruption occurred in January 2000. We then travel on the track Nyrðri Fjallabakur, crossing numerous rivers and the lavafields. In this barren land the American astronauts trained for their first visit to the Moon. We pass on through the highlands to the hot springs of Landmannalaugar. The mountains and hills are now yellowish and golden as they are made out of rhyolite. We can enjoy a nice bath in the springs or a walk in the neighbourhood. On our way back to our hotel we take a look at the Maar of Hnausapollur.

Day 09	Thursday	07 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 03	Today we drive on to the track of Sprengisandur. On both sides we can see glaciers, in the west Hofsjökull glacier and in the east the largest glacier in Europe, Vatnajökull. We drive on the desert, where as far as your eye can see, there is only barren land. During the day we shall visit the mountain hut at Laugafell, where one has the chance of bathing in natural hot springs. Then we keep on our journey to our next accommodation in Husavík.
Day 10	Friday	08 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 04	<b>Glaciers and Deserts</b> - On our way down to civilization we stop in the town of Akureyri and the historical waterfall Goðafoss and then arrive to the Mývatn area for a two-night stay in small cottages facilitated with showers and WC. Lake Mývatn is surely the Pearl of Nature in North Iceland. From the harbour of town Húsavík we can cruise (optional) out on the ocean for whale watching. The chances of seeing a whale in its natural surrounding are over 90%...an unforgettable journey.
Day 11	Saturday	09 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 05	<b>The Sea and Its Treasures</b> - The sea cliffs of Tjörnes are famous for its bird life. We look out for the puffins, as this is their home territory, and the seals at the coastline. One of the highlights of today's phenomenon is Ásbyrgi, where the heathen God Odin's horse Sleipnir, stepped down with one foot and created a horse shoe formation in the lava. Our next stop will then be at the sight of Europe's largest waterfall, Dettifoss. Same overnight.
Day 12	Sunday	10 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 06	<b>Regards From the Center of the Earth</b> The day starts with a visit to the unbelievable lava formation of Dimmuborgir, then to Námaskarð, with its various hot springs. We drive on to take a look at the volcano Krafla and its most recent lava fields. Afterwards we drive east towards Jökulsá á Fjöllum, through the desert, passing the farm Möðrudalur and onto the ancient farmhouse of Sænautasel. We finish the day's agenda by driving to Svartiskógur, for our overnight stay.
Day 13	Monday	11 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 07	<b>Life at the Seaside</b> - We shall be travelling the whole day by the seashore, visiting little fishing villages, watching out for birds and seals and taking a close look at life at the seaside. The big glacier Vatnajökull will be more and more visible. On our way we pay a visit to the stone collector Perla, who has filled her home with thousands of beautiful samples, some of which you can even buy to take back home with you.

Day 14	Tuesday	12 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 08	<b>The Battle Between the Sea and the Ice</b> - On our way along the coastline we shall witness the constant battle between the major forces of sea and land. At Jökulsárlón, where the icebergs are floating in the lagoon, you will have the opportunity to cruise (optional) on an amphibious boat for a closer look at this almost factionary world. If weather permits we shall take a fun tractor ride to Ingólfshöfði, the bird cliff island where the first settler in Iceland, Ingólfur Arnarson, had his first winter quarters. Skaftafell, the National Park, will be visited before we head to our accommodations at Kirkjubæjarklaustur for an overnight stay.
Day 15	Wednesday	13 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 09	<b>A Brief Look Into Life Back in the Centuries</b> - In the morning we travel across Mýrdalssandur and to Reynisfjara where we can view the Reynisdrangar columns in the ocean. We shall examine the bird life by the cliffs of Reynisdrangar and then drive on to Skógar for a visit to Skógar Folk Museum. The collection of Mr. Thordur Tomasson, the curator of the museum, will take us back in time to the former life of the Icelander. The massive waterfall of Skógafoss lies in the neighbourhood. On our way back to Reykjavík we stop at the waterfall Seljalandsfoss, where you can even walk behind the water, then cross the plain of Hellisheidi and arrive back in the capital again in the early afternoon, for individual needs, shopping or visits to museums and later for a good night's rest before your departure day. Eric the Red Guesthouse Reykjavik
Day 16	Thursday	14 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 10	<b>Eric the Red Guesthouse Reykjavik</b>
Day 17	Friday	15 August 2008	Between Fire and Ice Day 11	<b>FI454 Depart Keflavik 16:10 Arrive Heathrow 20:10</b>
Day 18	Saturday	16 August 2008		<b>London</b>
Day 19	Sunday	17 August 2008		<b>London</b>
Day 20	Monday	18 August 2008		<b>London</b>
Day 21	Tuesday	19 August 2008		<b>London Heathrow – Brussels</b>
Day 22	Wednesday	20 August 2008		<b>Brussels</b>
Day 23	Thursday	21 August 2008		<b>Brussels</b>
Day 24	Friday	22 August 2008		<b>Brussels</b>
Day 25	Saturday	23 August 2008		<b>Depart Brussels for Lille</b> 09:30 Three Day Small Group Tour of the French and Belgian Battlefields
Day 26	Sunday	24 August 2008		<b>Battlefield Tour</b>
Day 27	Monday	25 August 2008		<b>Battlefield Tour - Lille</b>

Day 28	Tuesday	26 August 2008		Lille
Day 29	Wednesday	27 August 2008		Lille - Ghent – Bruges
Day 30	Thursday	28 August 2008		Bruges
Day 31	Friday	29 August 2008		Bruges
Day 32	Saturday	30 August 2008		Bruges – Antwerp
Day 33	Sunday	31 August 2008		Antwerp
Day 34	Monday	01 September 2008		Antwerp – Rotterdam
Day 35	Tuesday	02 September 2008		Rotterdam
Day 36	Wednesday	03 September 2008		Rotterdam – Delft – The Hague
Day 37	Thursday	04 September 2008		The Hague
Day 38	Friday	05 September 2008		The Hague – Utrecht
Day 39	Saturday	06 September 2008		Utrecht
Day 40	Sunday	07 September 2008		Utrecht – Amsterdam – Haarlem – Amsterdam
Day 41	Monday	08 September 2008		Amsterdam
Day 42	Tuesday	09 September 2008		Amsterdam
Day 43	Wednesday	10 September 2008		Amsterdam
Day 44	Thursday	11 September 2008		Amsterdam to Edinburgh
Day 45	Friday	12 September 2008		Kirkaldy
Day 46	Saturday	13 September 2008		Kirkaldy
Day 47	Sunday	14 September 2008		Kirkaldy
Day 48	Monday	15 September 2008		Edinburgh to Bishop Auckland Castle.
Day 49	Tuesday	16 September 2008		Bishop Auckland to Bakewell
Day 50	Wednesday	17 September 2008		Bakewell
Day 51	Thursday	18 September 2008		Bakewell to Derby.
Day 52	Friday	19 September 2008		Derby to Oxford
Day 53	Saturday	20 September 2008		Oxford
Day 54	Sunday	21 September 2008		LHR to Melbourne QF30 - LONDON/HEATHROW - 12:20
Day 55	Monday	22 September 2008		Melbourne 19:55