Saturday Tours for MATS 2015

1. **Siglufjörður Culture and Coastline Culinary – Courtesy of Saga Travel & Air Iceland.**
   Limit 15 guest. Pick up 07:30.

   Upon arrival in Akureyri, you’ll meet our local Saga Travel guide. We travel by one of Iceland’s most beautiful coastline and enjoy some unique views towards the North Atlantic. The focus of the day is on the cultural heritage of small fishing villages, the coastal life and the fresh taste of North Iceland.

   We begin by enjoying the first half of our "Culinary Coastal and Countryside" tour. We travel by the seaside and take a short boat trip to the island Hrísey and taste products from the ocean as well as visiting the very first micro brewery in Iceland. All the producers we meet are small family businesses and by some the knowledge has traveled from generation to generation. During the tour we enjoy mouth-watering local treats, served especially for us and fishermen and brewers will share their gastronomic knowledge of North Iceland.

   During the second part of our day we focus on history and the beautiful coastal surrounding. We take time to walk the black sandy beach, visit a small fishing village and the Siglufjörður Herring Museum. The Herring Museum was the recipient of The Luigi Micheletti Award in 2004, the European prize for innovative museums in the world of industry, science and technics. The great herring era in the 20th century had a huge influence on the social and economical structure in Iceland. Without the herring it is questionable whether the modern society that now exists in Iceland could ever have been developed. On this tour we learn how this came about and how it shaped the culture and people’s life during last century. We then return to Akureyri for you to catch the afternoon flight back to Reykjavík.

   Included:
   - Round-trip domestic flights between Reykjavik and Akureyri (45 minute flight)
   - Fully guided day tour
   - Local food and gourmet tasting
   - Light refreshments during the day
   - Fee for the Siglufjörður Herring Museum

   We recommend you bring with you:
   - Warm Clothes and good shoes
   - Big smile
2. Ski Iceland, Courtesy of Visit North Iceland & Air Iceland. Limit 15 guests. Pick up 07:30

Imagine skiing down to the Atlantic Ocean, imagine skiing without having to worry about trees.
Imagine discovering the natural wonders of Iceland from a mountain top and even seeing the northern lights above the clouds.

This trip will showcase some elements of the Ski Iceland project where you can travel to 5 areas in 5 days with one ski pass and explore versatile landscapes while skiing. You are welcome to Icelanders number 1 ski destination, North Iceland.

Itinerary:

08:45 Departure from Reykjavik domestic airport.

09:30 Pick up at Akureyri international airport and drive to Mt. Hlíðarfjall the Akureyri ski resort. Five minutes from downtown Akureyri and suitable for all level of skiers.

09:45 A short meeting where participants get the ski equipment of their choice and a short introduction about skiing in Iceland from the managing director of the North Atlantic Ski Area Association.

10:00 Ski as you can and everyone will have access to a ski instructor if they would like some tips and tricks up their sleeves after the trip. Beginners are welcome.

11:30 Departure to the Icelandair Hotel Akureyri and we will take a look at their après ski area and ski storage units and they will invite everyone to some Icelandic cuisine.

12:00 Departure to Siglufjörður

13:15 Arrival to Rauðka restaurant in Siglufjörður placed on the small fisherman docs where we will have lunch.

13:45 We ski the Alps of Siglufjörður with amazing views of the mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. For those who want to its possible to ski down to the Atlantic Ocean.

15:00 Departure to Akureyri international airport and a short flight to Reykjavík. Departure from the airport 16:40 arrival 17:25

Don’t forget to bring your happy exploration mood with you.
3. **South Iceland Surprise Tour, Courtesy of South Iceland Adventure, Hotel Hvolsvöllur & GT Travel. Pick up 07:30**

Your adventure starts at 7:30, with a pick up at your hotel in Reykjavík by a bus from Guðmundur Tyrfingsson. From the city the bus takes you to the beautiful South coast and the remoteness of the inland accompanied by a guide from South Iceland Adventure.

In a small town of the South coast, Hvolsvöllur, you change from the bus to modified super jeeps and head out for the unknown. South Iceland Adventure will take you on their most popular winter tour, SIA Surprise.

On a SIA Surpsie tour South Iceland Adventure local guides choose the tour of the day, depending on weather and snow conditions. The most popular places to visit on an SIA tour are either Eyjafjallajökull or Þórmörk.

In the Eyjafjallajökull tour the super jeeps will take you up to the famous volcano that erupted in 2010. In good conditions this is a wonderful tour with a spectacular view of the inland of Iceland, the surrounding glacier, the black beaches and the Vestman Island.

On the Þórmörk tour you visit the valley of the God Thor. Þórmörk is located in between the three glaciers, Mýrdalsjökull, Tindfjallajökull and Eyjafjallajökull and made in eruptions under the glaciers which makes it’s spectacular landscape. The route takes you along the roots of Eyjafjallajökull, crossing the glacial rivers and stopping by at some of the beautiful places along the road, among them Gýgjökull, where the eruption started in 2010.

Hotel Hvolsvöllur offers you lunch on the tour and after the adventure you will stop by and enjoy tapas and wine at Hotel Hvolsvöllur. After having relaxed for a short while, a bus from Guðmundur Tyrfingsson will pick you up again and drop you off at your hotel in Reykjavík.

4. **Hot Spring Cool Glacier Good Food, Courtesy of Mountaineers of Iceland. Limit 60 guests. Pick up at 08:00**

This tour provides some of the best features of Icelandic nature. We think of it as “hot and cool” providing you with a slice of adventure and time to soothe away your cares...

Experience an exhilarating snowmobile tour on Langjökull glacier followed by a luxurious bathe in an outdoor secret lagoon set amidst Icelandic nature, with an authentic Icelandic food experience. Your adventure starts on top of Langjökull glacier, Iceland’s second largest glacier. Sit back, relax and take in the stunning snowy world around you on this unique 10x10 Monster Truck tour.

We then switch gears and take you to a natural paradise where you can really relax. At The Secret Lagoon enjoy the warm, gentle, restorative waters followed by an authentic Icelandic food experience. Bliss.

This is the perfect way to get to know Iceland’s “hot and cool” secrets and live a little. Included: 10x10 Monster Truck Tour with pickup in Reykjavík, snowmobile tour, access to the Secret Lagoon and authentic Icelandic food experience.
Bring: Warm, wind proof clothing in addition to good, sturdy shoes should do the trick. Mountaineers of Iceland provide you with the following gear in the snowmobile tours: Overalls, gloves, shoe covers and helmets.
For the Secret Lagoon please bring swimwear and a towel.

5. A Journey into the Glacier – Courtesy of Ice Cave, Reykjavik Excursions and Hotel Husafell. Limit 30 guest. Pick up 08:30

We welcome you to the first man-made ice tunnels and Caves in Iceland, which will open for visitors in 2015. Located on Europe’s second largest ice cap glacier, Langjökull. This isn’t your average Iceland tour, it’s an exclusive, once in a lifetime adventure.

The journey starts in Reykjavik and we will drive to Langjökull, where an 8 wheel drive glacier truck will take us to the Ice Tunnels entrance, 1250 metres above sea level. There we get a preview of the magnificent, stunning blue ice and deep crevasses in the heart of the glacier.

For lunch we will stop in Húsafell where we get introduction on the new luxurious hotel in Húsafell which will open in 2015.

6. Taste of Saga & Local Food in Borgarnes, Courtesy of West Iceland. Pick up at 08:30

Borgarnes has a lot to offer when it comes to history and is often called Saga town. Three museums are in Borgarnes the Settlement centre with two exhibitions guided by audio guides in 12 languages, one about the Settlement of Iceland. The other one is dedicated to Egill Skallagrímsson he lived in the area, he was Viking and poet. The Edda’s world museum portrays an artist’s view of Ásgard and other scenes from Norse mythology. Borgarfjordur Museum two extraordinary exhibits: Children throughout a century and Oh to be a bird!

These museums mark a circle so it is fun to walk between them. Lunch will be at the Icelandair Hótel Hamar beautiful hotel just outside of Borgarnes. We end the day at Ljómalind farmers market where we get taste of local food and enjoy locally made handicraft.

10:00 - The Settlement Centre
12:00 – Lunch Icelandair Hótel Hamar
13:00 - Edda’s World
14:00 - Borgarfjörður museums
15:00 - Ljómalind Farmers Market
17:00 – Reykjavik
7. South Iceland Adventure and Delight, Courtesy of Visit South Iceland, GT Travel, Hótel Rangá and Arcanum. Pick up 08:30

8:30 Departure from Reykjavík with GT Travel and the tour starts to South Iceland

11:00 Arcanum offer glacier trips with highly rained guides and all equipment is provided. Enjoy all the beautiful colors of the ice. www.arcanum.is

Choose your adventure with Arcanum:

- Glacier walk at Sólheimajökull (up to 40 persons)
- Snowmobile tour at Mýrdalsjökull (up to 40 persons)
- Super-jeep tour to Mýrdalsjökull
- Quad bike tour to the black lava sand beach

15:00-16:00 Late lunch at Hótel Rangá

Hotel Ranga is a luxury countryside hotel and the only 4 star resort in South Iceland. It offers all the facilities and services of a modern resort. Located about an hour from Reykjavík between the towns of Hella and Hvolsvöllur, it lies just off the main road right in middle of South Iceland’s panoramic scenery.

8. Fakasel Horses, Fridheimar & Fontana, Courtesy of Visit South Iceland, GT Travel, Laugarvatn Fontana, Friðheimar and Fákasel. Pick up 08:30

Visit South Iceland, GT Travel, Laugarvatn Fontana, Friðheimar and Fákasel welcome you to South Iceland and we want to invite you to this post tour at Mid-Atlantik. Enjoy good food and adventure in South Iceland!

Departure from Reykjavík with GT Travel and the tour starts to South Iceland

11:00 – 13:00 After a short stop in Pingvellir National Park it is time to enjoy bathing in Laugarvatn Fontana. Laugarvatn Fontana is composed of a series of interconnected baths and steam rooms that complement each other to create a healthy, natural and unique spa experience.

13:30-15:00 Lunch at Friðheimar. Visitors enjoy the special experience of entering a greenhouse with its fragrance of tomato plants – and then sitting down to a feast of the famous Friðheimar tomato soup with fresh-baked bread – with tomato plants all around!

15:30-16:30 See the horse show in Fákasel. At Fákasel Horse Park, you will be introduced to the unique story of the Icelandic horse, its distinctive features and its important role in Icelandic history
and culture. Our 45 minute show, The Legends of Sleipnir, employs large-scale multimedia and special effects to weave together history, old Norse mythology and exhibition riding to demonstrate the Icelandic horse's beauty and uniqueness.

17:30 Arrival in Reykjavík

9. Glacier Walk with Mountain Guides, courtesy of Icelandic Mountain Guides, Pick up 08:30

A Glacier Walk is a great way to experience Icelandic nature and a tour to Sólheimajökull glacier tongue is an ideal way to spend the day. On the two hour drive from Reykjavík you will pass right under the famous Eyjafjallajökull volcano that caused so much trouble in the spring of 2010.

Just east of it lies Sólheimajökull an outlet glacier from Mýrdalsjökull Iceland’s fourth largest glacier. There you hike up to the glacier (30- 40 min) where you go on a safe glacier walk on crampons on the ice field. As we explore this wonderland of ice sculptures, ridges and deep crevasses, you learn more about these disappearing giants.

Experienced mountain guides will teach you how to use basic glacier equipment necessary for this tour. On the way back there is a stop at the picturesque waterfall of Skógafoss.

Note: Bring warm clothing, rain gear and hiking boots.

10. Super Jeep Adventure with Iceland Rovers, courtesy of Iceland Rovers, Limit 25 guests. Pick up 08:30

Viking parliament, Glacier, Lava Cave, Hot Spring and Waterfalls

Enjoy an amazing tour through a landscape of extreme contrasts, full of history and geology.

Our day begins with a stop at Þingvellir National Park, the site of the ancient Viking parliament dating back to the 10th century.

From there we head into the highlands through the barren mountain pass of Kaldidalur to Langjökull for an unforgettable discovery of this enormous glacier.

The lava field of Hallmundarhraun is our next destination where you will explore one of Iceland’s biggest and most majestic lava caves.

After caving, you will visit the extraordinary, lush waterfalls, Hraunfossar and Barnafoss, and take a look at one of the world’s largest hot springs Deildartunguhver before returning to Reykjavík.

Note: Bring warm clothing and good shoes.
11. The Blue Lagoon and Reykjanes Culture, courtesy of Visit Reykjanes. Pick up 08:30

Departure from Reykjavik
Blue Lagoon, lagoon experience – www.bluelagoon.is
Sightseeing: The Bridge between continents and Gunnuhver.
Vitinn – lunch. www.vitinn.is.
Sightseeing - Garður and Garðskagi lighthouse.
The Viking World – www.vikingaheimar.is
The Icelandic Museum of Rock n' Roll – www.rokksafn.is

12. Northern Lights, Nature & Culture, courtesy of GJ Travel & Others. Pick up 08:30

This is an educational trip to South Iceland helping travel professional to select and design the most successful Northern Lights programs and to become an Aurora specialist.

You learn firsthand about the secrets of the Aurora Borealis and what makes Iceland a great Northern Lights destination. Find out what are the hit and miss ingredients of Northern Lights programs.

This exclusive FAM-trip includes a lot of culture, nature sightseeing and fun-activities during the whole day. We visit the Aurora Information Center, take you on short torch walk, show you several hotels in the countryside that are popular for Northern Lights Tours, meet the locals, boil eggs in a hot spring, enjoy plenty of culinary treats, visit a geothermal greenhouse and horse stables.

This tour has never been offered before during the MidAtlantic program – so be the first one to sign up. The hotels visited during the day are Hotel Grímsborgir & Villas, Hotel Rangá, Stracta Hotel Hella, Árhús Cottages and Hotel Eldhestar (Nordic Swan ecolable). Light lunch, treats, drinks and surprises included.

Tour starts at 08:30 / return between 17:00-17:30.
Bring along: Good humor, photo camera, warm clothing, headwear, gloves and shoes to walk in snow and on icy ground.

Please note that during this trip you will unfortunately not see any real northern lights, but you return with a wealth of knowledge about the magic auroras making you the best Northern Lights specialist you want to be.
13. Snorkeling Silfra & Lava Caving Combo, Courtesy of Dive.is. Limit 20 guests. Pick up 09:00

SNORKEL THROUGH LAVA FILTERED WATER AND WALK WHERE LAVA FLOWED!

Our Silfra Snorkeling & Lava Caving Tour is a great combination tour for those who want to make the most of their time in Iceland.

On this trip you will get to snorkel through one of the world’s most fantastic snorkel and dive sites, Silfra, as well as go hiking through a lava tube that was created thousands of years ago by a river of red glowing lava.

Depending on the time of year and the weather, we will choose either the Gjábakkahellir cave in Thingvellir or the Leiðarendi cave, which is closer to Reykjavik.

Both caves are lava tubes that display the same typical features of this most common type of lava cave in Iceland. The caves are full of utterly weird and wonderful rock formations as well as a splattering of amazing colors.

Please make sure to bring good shoes, as we will walk over very uneven ground.

Even though at some points inside the cave we will have to climb and crawl a little, this cave tour is an easy one that can be undertaken by everyone who feels comfortable in confined spaces and is fit to take a short hike.

Note that snorkelers and divers can join on the caving portion of the tour together.

PREREQUISITES:

Participants must:

- be at least 150cm tall
- be comfortable in water and be able to swim
- be physically fit
- be ready to wear a sometimes tight & constricting dry suit
- not be pregnant
- feel comfortable in confined & dark spaces such as caves

PLEASE BRING:

- Long underwear, thick socks, suitable clothes for the weather of the day, good shoes (e.g. hiking boots), warm clothes for caving

INCLUDED:

- Free hotel pick up and return
- guide
- guided snorkeling trip
- guided cave tour
- all necessary equipment
• hot chocolate and cookies between Snorkeling in Silfra and Lava Caving
• entrance fee of ISK 1.000,- into Silfra

17:30 Arrival in Reykjavík


Flight to Vestmannaeyjar with Eagle Air (flights takes 20 minutes). Sightseeing with bus in Vestmannaeyjar with Vikingtours. Volcanos, valleys, golf course and a visit to the new volcano museum ELDHEIMAR- Pompei of the North. Lunch at Hotel Vestmannaeyjar along with a presentation of the highlights of the tourist business on the island. Return flight to Reykjavík around 16:00.

15. Culture Visit Reykjavík, Courtesy of Visit Reykjavík, Icelandair Hotels, Nautholsvik and Whales of Iceland. Pick up around 11:00

To discover the wonders of Reykjavík City, VISIT REYKJAVÍK hosts a special tour with ICELANDAIR HOTELS, SATT restaurant, NAUTHÓLSVÍK thermal beach and the WHALES OF ICELAND, A GIANT EXPERIENCE.

This tailor-made tour features an inspiring combination of culture, history and culinary.

11:00 – 11:30 Pick up from hotels
11:30 – 12:00 Guðlaugur from Icelandair hotels hosts a presentation at Icelandair Hotel Reykjavík Natura
12:00 – 13:00 Brunch buffet at SATT restaurant
13:00 Departure from Hotel Reykjavík Natura
13:20 – 14:00 Settlement exhibition
14:00 – 14:30 Downtown city walk from Settlement exhibition to the Reykjavík Art museum
14:30 – 15:50 Visit at Hafnarhús Art Museum of Reykjavík - light refreshments
16:00 – 17:00 Reception at Whales of Iceland exhibition
Tour’s description
The tour starts off with a pick up from hotels. First stop is at Icelandair Hotel Reykjavík Natura where Guðlaugur Kristmundsson, sales manager at Icelandair hotels presents an introduction to Icelandair hotels vast production of accommodation throughout Iceland. Guðlaugur’s presentation is followed by a brunch at one of Icelandair hotels restaurants, SATT.

From Hotel Reykjavík Natura the culture exploring group will head to the downtown of Reykjavík to the Settlement exhibition, where one of the oldest remains of a Viking house was excavated and preserved.

From the Settlement Exhibition we will take a small de-tour on our way to Reykjavík Art Museum to see the downtown of Reykjavík and get some historical information on the development of Reykjavík from a small village to a “big” city.

Note those attending this tour need to bear in mind that weather conditions in Iceland can be quite unpredictable, yet so fascinating.

We will be greeted with light refreshments at the Reykjavík Art Museum and enlightenment on art culture in Iceland.

The tour ends at the brand new Whale Exhibition, Whales of Iceland. Our participants will have the opportunity to see the spectacular exhibition and enjoy complimentary appetizers. Whales of Iceland opens February 2015 and will be the largest whale exhibition in Europe. This permanent year-round indoor exhibition features life-size models of all 23 whale species found in Iceland’s coastal waters, as well as man-made skeletons of whales. The exhibition is located right in the heart of Reykjavík’s harbour area. There is no better way to learn about the Whales of Iceland than seeing these giants up close and personal in full-size. They are so large that you will hardly believe your eyes, and you will certainly leave with a new perspective and appreciation for these interesting and beautiful animals. This innovative exhibition features an interactive minke whale and information stations that enhance and educate visitors about each whale. The exhibition space is stunning where the whales are the centre piece and the atmosphere is like no other. You may feel like you are walking underwater.