

Heimaey (Iceland)

ISHEI-04 - Pompeii of the North

Duration : 3h00

Price: 100 €

Leave from the perfectly formed natural harbour with its tall cliffs inhabited by multitudes of birds. Both the birds and their eggs have been an important source of food for the islanders. From there, drive from the pier into the **Herjólfsdalur Valley** where ruins of old farmhouses dating back to the settlement can be found.

The tour then continues along the scenic western part of the island, providing an opportunity to view the outer islands of the archipelago. The youngest island, “Surtsey”, was formed in a volcanic eruption in 1963; it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Next, a photostop will be made at Stórhöfði, which offers magnificent views over the island; here puffins nest during spring and the early summer months.

The tour continues to two volcanoes, the 5,000 years old Helgafell, “Holy Mountain”, and the considerably younger Eldfell, “Fire Mountain”, which erupted in 1973 making it necessary to immediately evacuate the islanders to the mainland. Stop here and walk to the viewpoint for a panoramic view, about 10 minutes.

As you continue onwards, drive over the new lava field making your way past the “Skansinn” – a fort with a wooden church, which was donated to the people of the Westman Islands by the state of Norway to commemorate the millennium of Christianity in Iceland.

Then, visit the new **Eldheimar** – ‘Pompeii of the North’ Museum where the history and aftermath of the 1973 eruption is explored. After the visit to the museum, you will head back to your ship.

- We recommend you wear good and comfortable walking shoes and dress in layers. The walk up the viewpoint is very steep and can be slippery. This tour is conducted in English only.
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