



Tour plan - Reykjaneskagi (times are approx.)

- 09:00 Departure from hotel
- 09:45 Hellisheiðavirkjun – Geothermal power plant (1)
- 11:45 Þorlákshöfn – a town dependant on soil conservation; refreshments (2)
- 13:00 Strandakirkja – the church in the sand (3)
- 14:00 Krýsuvík – reading the land; light refreshments (4)
- 14:50 Seltún geothermal area – Icelandic tourism in a nutshell (5)
- 16:30 Return to hotel

The tour will take participants to geothermal power station at Hellisheiði (1), where we will visit sites of ecological restoration of disturbed areas, such as the moss communities and grasslands which are characteristic of the area. We will then drive to village Þorlákshöfn (2), visiting sand dune areas and large scale restoration projects. We will drive west along the coastline the Reykjanes Peninsula, an area rich in history of land use and geology, visiting Selvogur (3) and Krýsuvík (4) for discussions on issues like the effects of ecosystem collapse on society and restoration activities. Then we will turn north to stop at Seltún (5), a spectacular gem of geothermal activity giving a fit background for discussing both views on harnessing of the power of Earth and the impact of growing tourism at highly vulnerable areas. The Kleifarvatn lake area is unique and the lavafields along the road crossing the Reykjanes Peninsula, the youngest being 700 years old, illustrate once again the volcanic nature of Iceland and the links between land use and ecosystem condition and recovery. The tour will be a living example of Icelandic history, land degradation, land restoration and the controversial use of alien species and their impact on Icelandic nature. The trip will include some short hikes. Warm clothes, rain and wind-tight, and good shoes are required for this trip. Pack lunch and light refreshments provided.

After the tour we recommend that you join us for a swim in Laugardalslaug, a geothermal swimmingpool, a 5 min walk from the hotel. Admission fee is 980 kr. or 1850 if you need to rent a swimsuite and a towel (see <https://sundlaugar.is/sundlaugar/laugardalslaug/?lang=en>). We recommend this video on pool ethics in Iceland <https://adventures.is/blog/hot-spring-geothermal-pool-etiquette/>.