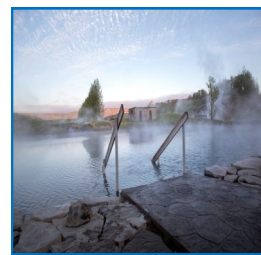


## **A knitting trip to Iceland with Mary Penxa & Sawmill Creek Fiber Events 27th May to 04th June - 2027**



### **Thursday 27th May: Depart US for Reykjavik - Iceland**

Depart on your overnight flight to Reykjavik, Iceland. Be sure to have your up-to-date passport valid for 6 months beyond your date of travel and allow a minimum of **3-hours** for check-in for your International flight.

### **Friday 28th May: Selfoss - Uppspuni Mini Mill Visit to the Secret Lagoon (D)**

After clearing customs and immigration your driver/guide Hildi will greet you and take you by private transfer to southern Iceland to the town of Selfoss on the banks of the of the Ölfusá river. Check into the South Coast hotel your home for the next 2 nights. Time to settle in and in the afternoon you will visit and have a tour [Uppspuni Mini Mill](#) for two hours and enjoy a visit to their lovely shop. All the yarn found at the mill is 100% Icelandic wool.

With a shared admiration for the Icelandic sheep. Hulda Brynjólfssdóttir and Tryfingur Sveinsson began Uppspuni Mini Mill in 2017, bringing together Hulda's passion for wool and Tryfingur's passion for machinery. Time will be allowed to visit with Hulda to hear all about the mill, have time to knit and shop the beautiful Uppspuni yarn available on site. Your final visit will be to the Secret Lagoon in Fludir. Known as Gamla Laugin, it is the oldest swimming pool in Iceland. Your welcome dinner this evening will be at [Vinstofa](#) [www.vinstofa.fridheimar.is](http://www.vinstofa.fridheimar.is)

**Hotel South Coast Eyravegur 11-13, 800 Selfoss Phone: + 354 464 1113 (2 Nights)**

### **Saturday 29th May: Helga Thoroddsen at her studio - Pingborg Wool Collective - Guðrún Bjarnadóttir at Hespa Dye Studio (B,L)**

Today after breakfast you will visit with [Helga Thoroddsen \(prjon.is\)](#) at her new studio for a hands-on experience and to learn about Lopapeysa - [\(the traditional Icelandic yoke sweaters\)](#) The experience with Icelandic Wool will include separating the wool, combing it, and spinning a small skein. It will be a 2-1/2 hour visit with a coffee & cake break included.

After visiting with Helga you will have lunch in Hestheimar. After lunch you will stop at the [Pingborg Wool Collective](#) where you will find the softest Icelandic wool you've ever felt from local sheep.

Your last visit of the day will be with [Guðrún Bjarnadóttir at Hespa Dye Studio](#) to hear all about her process of using natural plants to create beautiful yarn. Yarn will be on hand to purchase if you so choose.

You will have dinner at a food court close by to the hotel before returning to the hotel to relax, and have time to knit and chat.



### **Sunday 30th May: Drive the South Coast Visit Seljalandsfoss Waterfall - Reynisfjara Black Beach Vik for lunch and free time (B,D)**

Today after breakfast and check out of the hotel drive the south coast to visit [Seljalandsfoss Waterfall](#) an iconic waterfall which has a pathway that allows visitors to walk behind the cascading water. Continue to [Reynisfjara](#) with its famous black sand beach with its unique geology, dramatic landscapes, and black sand due to its volcanic origins. Stop for lunch in the town of [Vik](#) at your own expense and time to explore. Vik is located on the main Ring Road and while it only has a population of 300, it is the largest settlement for miles around.

After time in Vik we will take a scenic drive with a short stop along the way and check in to the [Gerði Guesthouse](#) your home for the next 2 nights. Enjoy dinner at the [Pórbergur Museum](#). Remainder of the evening is free to relax and knit before bedtime.

**Gerði Guesthouse - Breiðabólstað 2, Gerði - 781 Höfn, Iceland + 354 478 1905 (2 Nights)**

### Monday 31st May: Glacier Lagoon with a boat ride - Diamond Beach (B)

Following breakfast at the Guesthouse we will visit [Glacier Lagoon](#) considered one of the greatest wonders of nature in Iceland. Huge blocks of ice constantly break off the glacier, [Breiðamerkurjökull](#), and large icebergs float on the lagoon. Included is a boat ride on the lagoon. Lunch at your own expense nearby. You will also visit [Diamond Beach](#) for a once in a lifetime experience and considered one of the most beautiful beaches in the world and a perfect place to enjoy a leisurely walk. You can also keep an eye out for seals who make their home on Diamond beach.

Return to the Guesthouse to relax and knit. This evening you can choose to remain at the guesthouse for dinner or take a 6 minute walk and dine again at the [Pórbergur Museum](#). **Open 6:00PM - 8:00PM**



### Tuesday 01st June: Drive to Reykjavik - Hofskirkja - Skaftáreldahraun - Skógafoss (B)

Today after breakfast and checking out of the hotel we will return to Reykjavik with stops along the way. **(6 hour drive)** Our first stop will be Hofskirkja to see [Hofskirkja Turf Church](#). There are only 6 turf churches remaining in Iceland and Hofskirkja is the last of the old churches to be built in this beautiful traditional turf style. You will also stop at [Skaftáreldahraun Lava Field for a short visit](#) - A huge lava flow streamed from Lakagígar in what became known as the "Skaftá Fires" and believed to be one of the greatest lava flows in a single eruption. You will stop for lunch in route.

Continue on to [Skógafoss](#) which is one of the biggest waterfalls in Iceland, with a drop of some 60 meters and a width of 25 meters. You can walk right up to it but be prepared to get drenched. Later arrival to Reykjavik and check into the Alda Hotel. Dinner at your own expense this evening in Reykjavik. *The Alda hotel provides a wonderful common space where you will be able to gather and knit in the evening.*

**Alda Hotel, Laugavegur 66-68, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland Phone: +354 553 9366 (3 Nights)**

### Wednesday 02nd June: Storkurinn - Istex - The Hand Knitting Association of Iceland - Maro (B)

Today after breakfast you will depart the hotel at 9:00AM. Your first will be to visit [Storkurinn](#) considered the oldest handicraft store in Iceland with a focus on yarns made from natural materials. Your next visit is to [Istex \(Lopi Wool Dyeing and Spinning Factory\)](#) where you will discover how the famous Lopi yarn is produced and its connection to centuries of knitting heritage. You will enjoy lunch at a local bakery at your own expense.

Enjoy a visit to the [Hand Knitting Association of Iceland](#) - Founded in November 1977 by a group of people mainly women with their aim to increase their income by knitting and selling sweaters and other garments from the unique wool of Icelandic sheep. Your visit will include hearing all about the Hand Knitting Association. Visiting with the knitters that work in the shop and time to shop if you so choose.

You will also visit [Maro](#) - a yarn store that offers high-quality yarn and accessories with a selection of other unique products as well. This evening allows free time to explore and have dinner.

### Thursday 03rd June: Free Day in Reykjavik - Farewell dinner (D)

A full day to explore and do whatever takes your fancy in Reykjavik. Relax at the hotel, stroll the streets, visit the National Museum or find a cozy café to have lunch and knit. At the top of Skólavörðustígur you will find the famous church of Hallgrímskirkja where you can ascend the elevator for wonderful views. You can also visit yet again the Handknitting Association of Iceland for last minute shopping. Just to be aware the local grocery stores also sell yarn.

This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at **ROK** to reminisce about your trip to the land of fire & ice. [www.rokrestaurant.is](http://www.rokrestaurant.is)

### Friday 04th June: Departure day - Reykjavik to USA (B)

For those knitters traveling today, transfers will be provided by Hildi to Keflavik airport. Departure from the hotel will be at **12:00 Noon** Please allow a minimum of **3 hours** for check-in for your International flight.

This itinerary is subject to change.

**Key:** **B** = breakfast; **L** = lunch; **D** = dinner

**COST: \$ 4875** per person (based on sharing a room)

**Single Supplement \$ 1071** (Singles are limited)

**Plus airfare:** (Keflavik airport roundtrip)

#### Hotel Links:

**2 Nights - South Coast Hotel:** [www.southcoasthotel.is](http://www.southcoasthotel.is)

**2 Nights - Gerði Guesthouse:** [www.gerdi.is](http://www.gerdi.is)

**3 Nights - Alda Hotel:** [www.icelandhotelcollectionbyberjaya.com](http://www.icelandhotelcollectionbyberjaya.com)

#### Tour Includes:

Accommodation for 7 nights/9 days

Breakfast each morning

Welcome & Farewell dinner. Dinner on the **30th May** at the Þórbergur Museum

Transportation with a professional driver/guide Hildi from **May 28 to June 04 - 8 days.**

**FLIGHTS:** Arrival flights on the **28th May no later than 8:30AM**

**FLIGHTS:** Departure flights on the **04th June later afternoon 4:00PM or later.**

Gratuity for Hildi for your days in Iceland

Private airport transfers on **May 28th & June 04th** to and from Keflavik International airport

**Visits to:** Guðrún Bjarnadóttir at Hespa Dye Studio - Hands-on Experience with Helga Thoroddsen to learn about Lopapeysa - Pingborg Wool Collective - Uppspuni Mini Mill - Istex - Secret Lagoon - Seljalandsfoss Waterfall - Reynisfjara with its famous black sand beach - Town of Vik - Glacier Lagoon - Hofskirkja Turf Church - Skaftáreldahraun Lava Field - Skógafoss Waterfall

#### Yarn Shops:

Storkurinn ([www.storkurinn.is](http://www.storkurinn.is))

Istex ([www.istex.is](http://www.istex.is))

Hand Knitting Association of Iceland ([www.handknitted.is](http://www.handknitted.is))

Maro ([www.maro.is](http://www.maro.is))

#### Visits:

Helga Thoroddsen: ([www.prjon.is](http://www.prjon.is))

Guðrún Bjarnadóttir: ([www.hespa.is](http://www.hespa.is))

Hulda Brynjólfssdóttir: ([www.uppspuni.is](http://www.uppspuni.is))

#### Dinners:

**Selfoss: Vinstofa on the 28th May** ([www.vinstofa.fridheimar.is](http://www.vinstofa.fridheimar.is))

**Hofn: Þórbergur Museum on the 30th May** ([www.thorbergur.is](http://www.thorbergur.is))

**Reykjavik: Rok on the 03rd June** ([www.rokrestaurant.is](http://www.rokrestaurant.is))

#### Not Included:

- \* International Airfare
- \* Items of a personal nature (Laundry, telephone, drinks, meals not specified)
- \* Yarn purchases and mailing expenses
- \* Gratuities at the hotels





**Hildigunnur Hauksdottir (Hildi)** - Driver & Guide extraordinaire, will be escorting you throughout Iceland. Her philosophy “Connecting you to people and places in Iceland to reveal the true soul of the places you visit” Hildi, is an expert at finding unique experiences to include in the itinerary as you journey throughout Iceland. You will return home with a much greater knowledge of the land of fire and ice.



### **South Coast Hotel**

Located next to the new city center of Selfoss in south Iceland and a perfect location to explore the south coast.



### **Gerði Guesthouse & Farm**

Gerði Guesthouse & Farm is located on the doorstep of Vatnajökull Glacier Park in southeast Iceland and is located ten minutes from Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon and Diamond Beach. It provides a perfect base for glacier exploration, ice cave adventures, and boat rides on Glacier Lagoon.

Björn Þorbergsson and Þórey Bjarnadóttir, your hosts will welcome you to their beautiful home that is steeped in local history. On the farm you will find 500 sheep and 25 beautiful Icelandic horses. If you are lucky you might also see the Northern Lights



### **Alda Hotel**

Alda Hotel Reykjavik is a contemporary boutique hotel conveniently located on Laugavegur the city's main shopping street.

The hotel is located at the upper end of Laugavegur (otherwise known as the quiet part) close to shops, cafes and restaurants but away from the central nightlife area.

Step out the front door and you are moments away from local boutiques, award winning restaurants, and cozy coffee shops.

**Below is detailed information on the visits to local knitters & farmers in Iceland:**

### **Gudrun Bjarnadottir - Hespa**

#### **Hespa Studio - Natural dyeing methods:**

You will meet with Gudrun at her studio where she will give a 20 minute presentation on natural wool dyeing methods. As Gudrun attends to her pots, she will tell you about how Icelandic women have spun and colored their wool the last 1100 years. After her presentation, people are free to look around the studio, exploring all the beautiful colored wool in the shop. There is also a tiny "folk museum" in one corner of the studio that is interesting.

### **Helga Thoroddsen - Seminar on Icelandic Wool**

Helga Thoroddsen is one of Iceland's most talented knitting designers. Helga, along with one of her colleagues will meet the group at the new Pingborg Studio in Selfoss where you will learn about Icelandic wool and its unique properties. Helga, will explain and demonstrate how wool has been processed from the beginning of time in Iceland. You will receive a large piece of unprocessed wool and learn how to separate the soft fleece from the long strands. Once separated you will learn how to comb the softer wool called "Pel" until it is ready to become a long strand of fleece. Everyone will then receive a spindle and learn how to spin the fleece into yarn. Everyone will spin their own ball of yarn to take home. There will also be a break for coffee and cake.

### **Uppspuni - Mini Mill**

At Uppspuni you will meet with Hulda Brynjolfsdottir who is the founder and owner of the mill. There will be a half hour presentation in the mill where you will learn about the process that creates a really soft yarn. After the presentation you will visit the "little yarn shop" in the loft above the mill. There you will see all kinds of yarn, both natural and dyed by Hulda. The mill is in the countryside on Hulda's farm. This is a lovely visit where you will meet a true Icelandic farmer

### **Pingborg**

This is the best little wool shop in Iceland. Established about 35 years ago this shop is the foundation and inspiration to all the female farmers in Iceland. Helga Thoroddsen was one of the founding members.

