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40 years on - follow in the footsteps of Neil Armstrong on an Icelandic lunar tour

This month marks the 40th anniversary since Neil Armstrong first set foot on the moon – and although trips to the earth’s nearest satellite may not be available yet, budding astronauts can follow in his footsteps by visiting the area of Iceland where they trained before the moon landings on 20th July 1969.

Starting from Lake Mývatn in the north of Iceland, the Askja Lunar Tour journeys through the surreal lunar landscapes and areas of unique geological formations, which now form part of Vatnajökull National Park, Europe’s largest protected wilderness.

The huge caldera of Askja is an active centre of a volcanic system and, at 220 metres, is the deepest lake in Iceland. Here, visitors can walk to the explosion crater Víti (Hell) at the rim of Lake Öskjuvatn and bathe in the small, milky and warm geothermal waters.

En route back to Lake Mývatn, the tour also visits Herðubreiðarlindir nature reserve where clear springs from an old lava flow sustain beautiful vegetation, flowering plants and birdlife in the otherwise barren, volcanic landscape. The high bulk of an old sub-glacial volcano, Herðubreið rises 1682m above it providing a breathtaking background to this wilderness oasis.

The 11-hour Askja Lunar Tours depart daily from July 10 – August 20 and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays until August 31. It costs 14,000ISK per adult (around £74) and 7,000ISK (around £37) for children aged 6 – 12.

For more information on the Askja Lunar Tour visit www.askjatours.is

For more information on the Vatnajökull National Park visit www.vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is/english

For more information on Iceland visit www.visiticeland.com

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