

Year anniversary of Eyjafallajökull ash cloud sees an eruption of Iceland volcano tours and a new museum

4 April 2011, London: April 14 marks a year since the Eyjafallajökull ash cloud began to cause global travel disruption. Iceland, however, is celebrating the opening of a dedicated volcano museum, a surge of new volcano tours and exciting travel opportunities.

The volcanic landscape around Eyjafallajökull is safe and open to visit. Visitors can see the dramatic changes the ash cloud caused to the area including the spectacular Gigjökull glacierfall, which formed from Eyjafjallajökull's melted ice cap and the striking black and white glaciers. Visitors can also journey to the eruption site, 700 metres above sea level, for panoramic views over volcano tops and the Atlantic Ocean.

New for April 2011- 'Eyjafallajökull Erupts' Visitor Centre at Þorvaldseyri

A brand new Visitor Centre will open on April 14 at Þorvaldseyri farm, which lies at the base of Eyjafjallajökull. The centre has been set up by the family who live at the farm and exhibits a film and photographs documenting daily life on the farm with the erupting volcano in the background. Visitors can buy books, T-shirts, souvenirs and products from the farm at the Centre gift shop. The Centre is located on Route 1, 140 km from Reykjavik. For more information visit www.icelanderupts.is

Superjeep tours

A growing number of superjeep rides take visitors where no other vehicle can-across glacial rivers and over rough terrain to get up close to the dormant volcano. The jeeps travel through lava fields, past glaciers and mountains and stop off at Seljalandsfoss waterfall, which can be walked behind.

Reykjavik Excursions offers one day superjeep tours with prices starting from £209 per person including the tour and pick up from Reykjavik hotel or guesthouse (www.re.is). Nordic Visitor has a three day volcano tour with prices starting from £420 per person including two nights accommodation, airport transfers, a guided superjeep tour and the Blue Lagoon entrance fee (www.nordicvisitor.com).

Helicopter tours

For a birds eye view, visitors can take helicopter rides from Reykjavik up into the volcanic area. Fliers can see the destruction of the ash cloud with black glaciers, old lava flows and spectacular waterfalls. A helicopter ride for four

people costs £2,094 and lasts two and a half hours.
www.helicoptericeland.com

Volcano hikes

True adventure enthusiasts can get a thrill on Discover The World's special eight day Volcano Explorer package. Available from May until September, the self drive tour journeys through south Iceland's volcanic areas. Highlights include the rifts and fissures of Thingvellir National Park, climbing the Eldfell crater in the Westman Islands, which is still steaming after its 1973 eruption, and seeing the spectacular 565 km lava flow at Laki. Prices start at £1,046 per person including accommodation, breakfast, car rental and insurance and excludes flights. www.discover-the-world.co.uk

Media Information

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