

ICELAND SPRING BREAK TRIP 2016

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT JOHNSTOWN
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND EARTH RESOURCES

*Denmark
Strait*

Greenland Sea

*Norwegian
Sea*



ICELAND

North Atlantic Ocean



ICELAND

0 km 20 40 60 km

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BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday, March 5th, 2016 – Board flight

7:45PM: Depart from Dulles, Washington, DC (IAD) Icelandair – Flight 644 (economy)

Day 2: Sunday, March 6th, 2016 – Reykjanes Peninsula

6:30: Arrive in Keflavik, Iceland on the Reykjanes Peninsula (30 miles south of Reykjavik)

7:30: After clearing customs, we will pick-up the vehicles

8:00: I think it will be best to have breakfast at the airport

9:00: Stop at Bridge between Two Continents near Sandvik. We'll talk about Mid Atlantic Ridge, the boundary between the North American Plate and the Eurasian Plate.

10:00: Valahnukur cliff. Check the contact between tuff and pillow lava.

11:00: Gunnuhver hot spring and an introduction to geothermal activity.

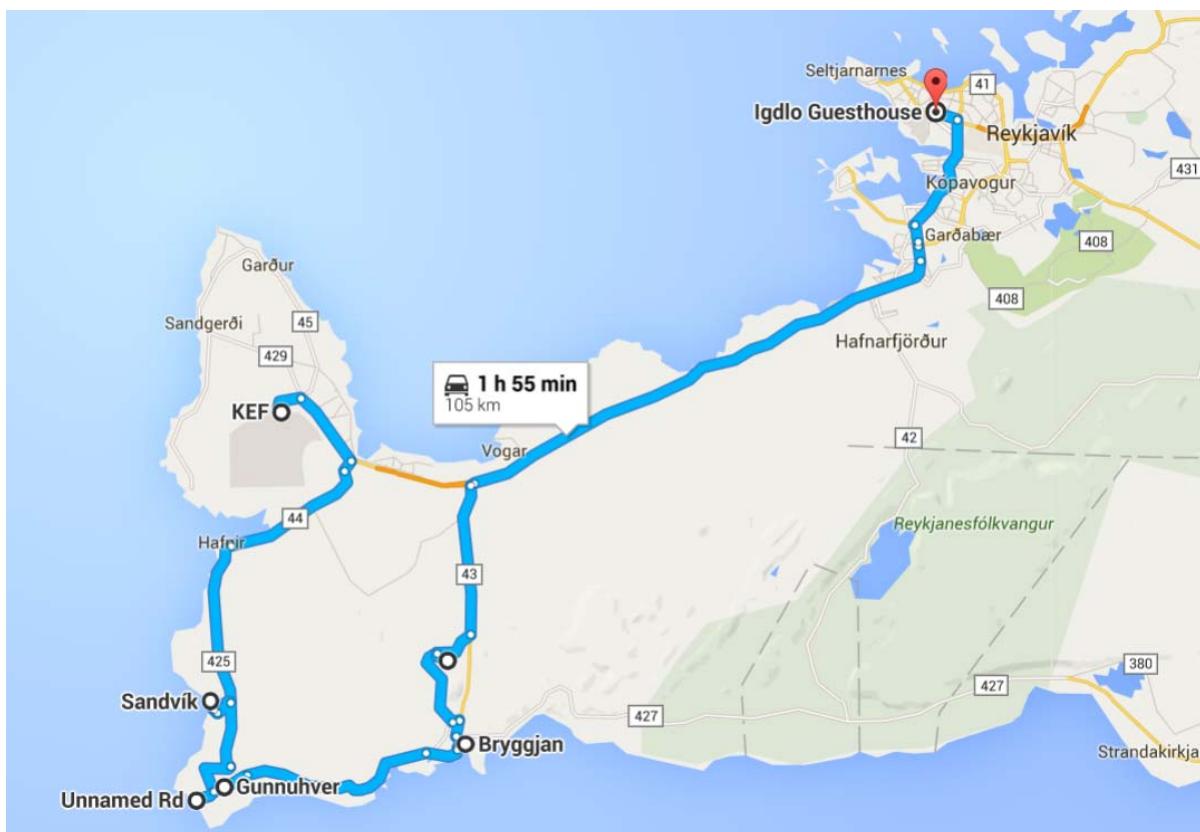
12:30: Lunch in Grindavik – There is a café called Bryggjan (2 240, Miðgarður, Grindavík) near the harborfront that might be good.

There is also a grocery store in Grindvik called Netto, this might be a good opportunity pick up some groceries and such.

2:00PM: Blue Lagoon – the basic package is \$45 dollars, that really just gets you entrance into the pools, looks like you can add on towel for \$5. They list other packages up to \$80 that include drinks, mud masks, etc.

It is about 40 minutes to the hostel, we can stay as long as people want but I would suggest we hit the road by 5.

6 or 7 PM: Get to the hostel (Igdlo Guesthouse, Gunnarsbraut 46, 105 Reykjavík). Stay there for one night. Fend for yourself for dinner? Or we could cook a group meal, the hostel has a kitchen that we can use.



Day 3: Monday, March 7th, 2016 – Reykjavik to Heimaey

The morning is free and the hostel will provide breakfast.

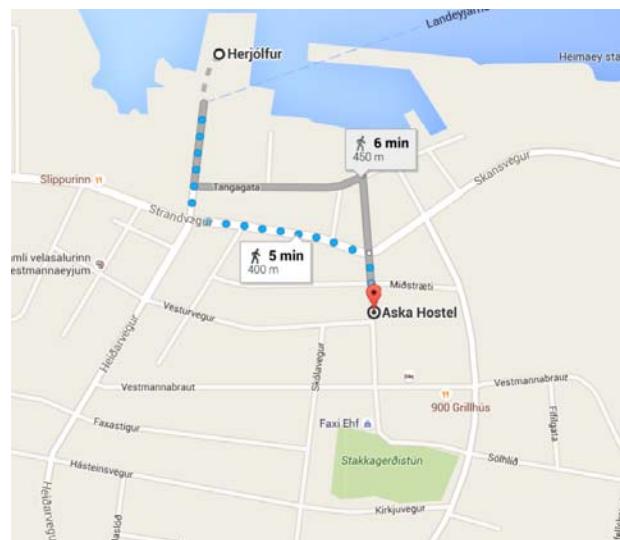
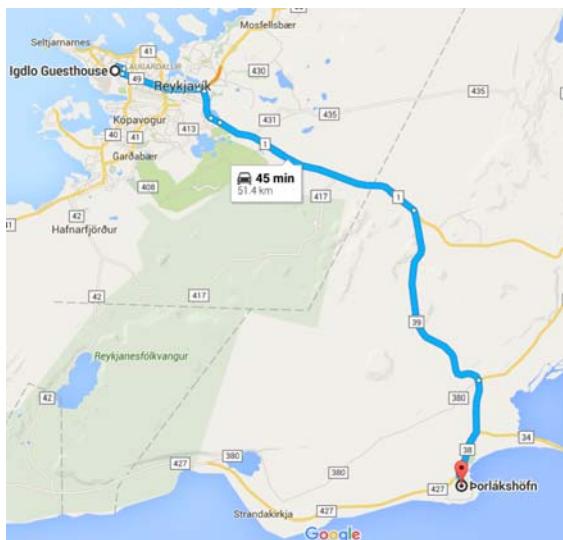
10:15: Leave the hostel and head toward Þorlákshöfn for the ferry

11:30: Board the ferry and depart for Vestmannaeyjar, Heimaey.

12:00: Lunch on the boat

2:30PM: Arrive Vestmannaeyjar, Heimaey and check in with the hostel (Aska Hostel, Bárustígur 11, Vestmannaeyjar, 900, Iceland).

Rest of the day: Walk around, hang out, relax, whatever... On our own for dinner, there might be a kitchen at the hostel, we could do a group meal.



Day 4: Tuesday, March 8th, 2016 – Heimaey to the Rift Valley

8:00: Make breakfast in the hostel

9:00: Drive to the south edge of the island, hike around and get a view of Surtsey

There is enough hiking to make that our full day, there is a lot to see here. Terry has a good loop hike that would bring us past a lot the cool stuff.

There pictures of Elephant Rock on the internet from this island, it looks really cool, hopefully we can figure out where it is, I'd like to see that...

If weather becomes an issue there are indoor activities available as well.

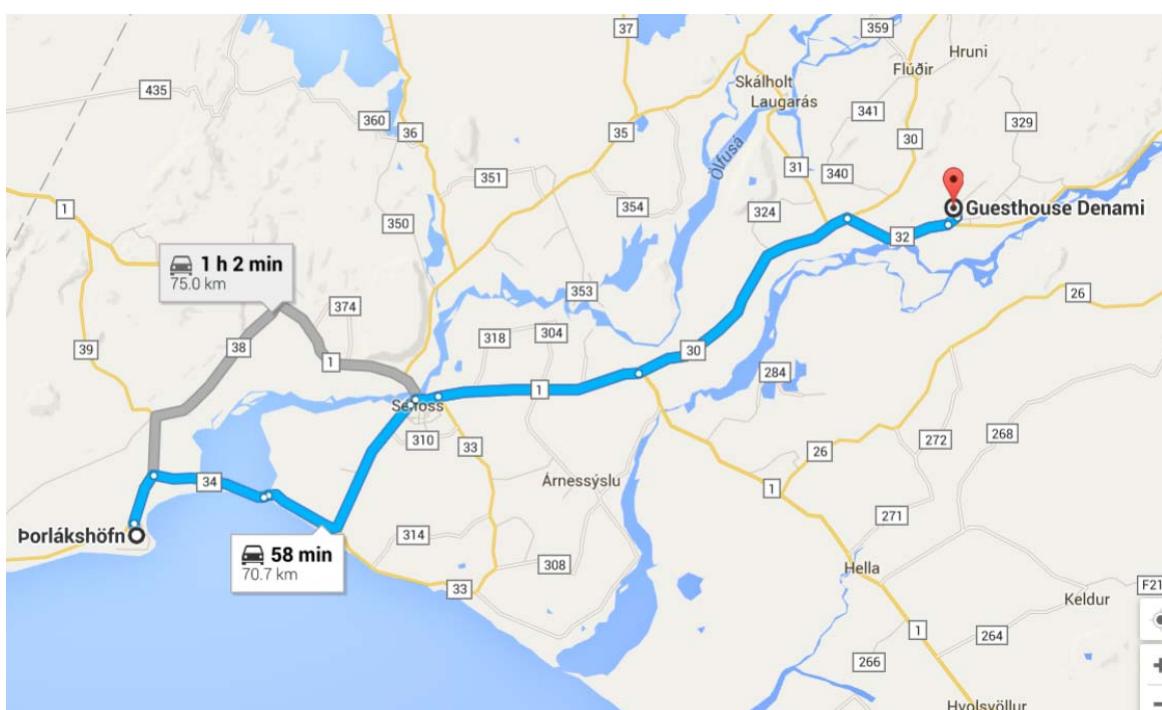
Indoor Activities: Eldheimar Volcano Museum (10, Gerðisbraut, Vestmannaeyjabær, opens at 11AM, \$14) – seems like this give a descent history of the island and the volcanic issue. This also has overview of the buried portions of the town.

The natural history museum and aquarium gets good reviews (Saeheimar Aquarium, Heioarvegur 12 900, Vestmannaeyjar, close to the ferry terminal, opens at 1PM, \$8). Other than that people could just hike around or wait for the ferry in a café or something.

3:00PM: Board the ferry and depart for the main land

6:15PM: Reach Þorlákshöfn and drive to the Guesthouse in the rift valley

7:30PM: Get to Guesthouse Denami (Háholt, Iceland), they will have a traditional Icelandic meal of lamb stew and Icelandic breads



Day 5: Wednesday, March 9th, 2016 – Waterfalls, Glaciers and Vik Beaches

7:00: Wake-up.

7:30: Make Breakfast.

8:30: Depart

9:30: Arrived at Seljalandsfoss waterfall.

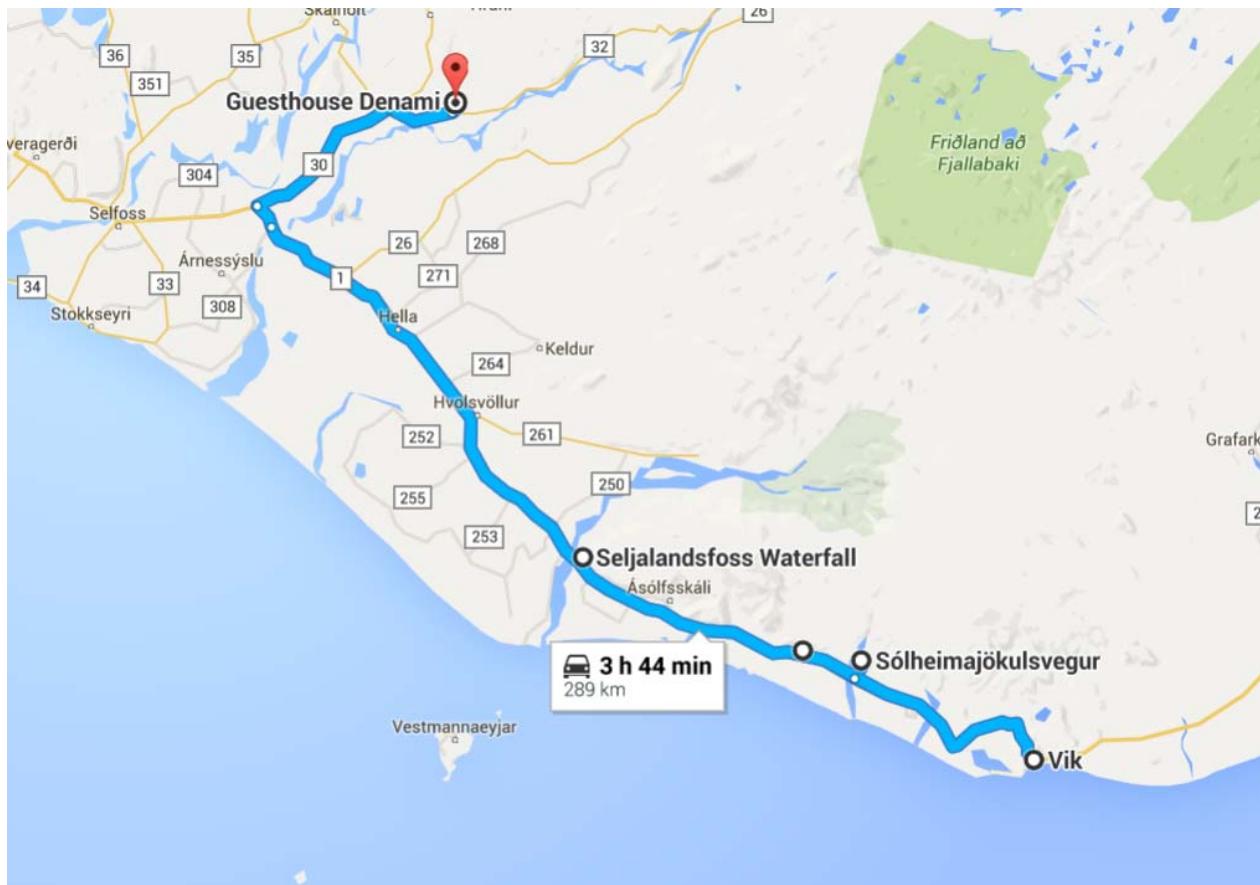
10:15: Arrived at Skogafoss waterfall.

12:00: Sólheimajökulsvegur Glacier, Lunch at the Glacier

2:30PM: Arrive in Vik walk the beaches and check out Vik.

This would be the best day for the Ice Cave tour people have mentioned.

This evening we are on our own for dinner, we will need to figure that out.



Day 6: Thursday, March 10th, 2016 – Þingvellir, Geysir, Gullfoss

7:00: Wake-up.

7:30: Make Breakfast.

8:30: Depart for Þingvellir

9:30: Arrived at Þingvellir

10:00: Walk to the Law Rock and through the rift valley.

12:00: Make lunch

1:00PM: Depart for Geysir.

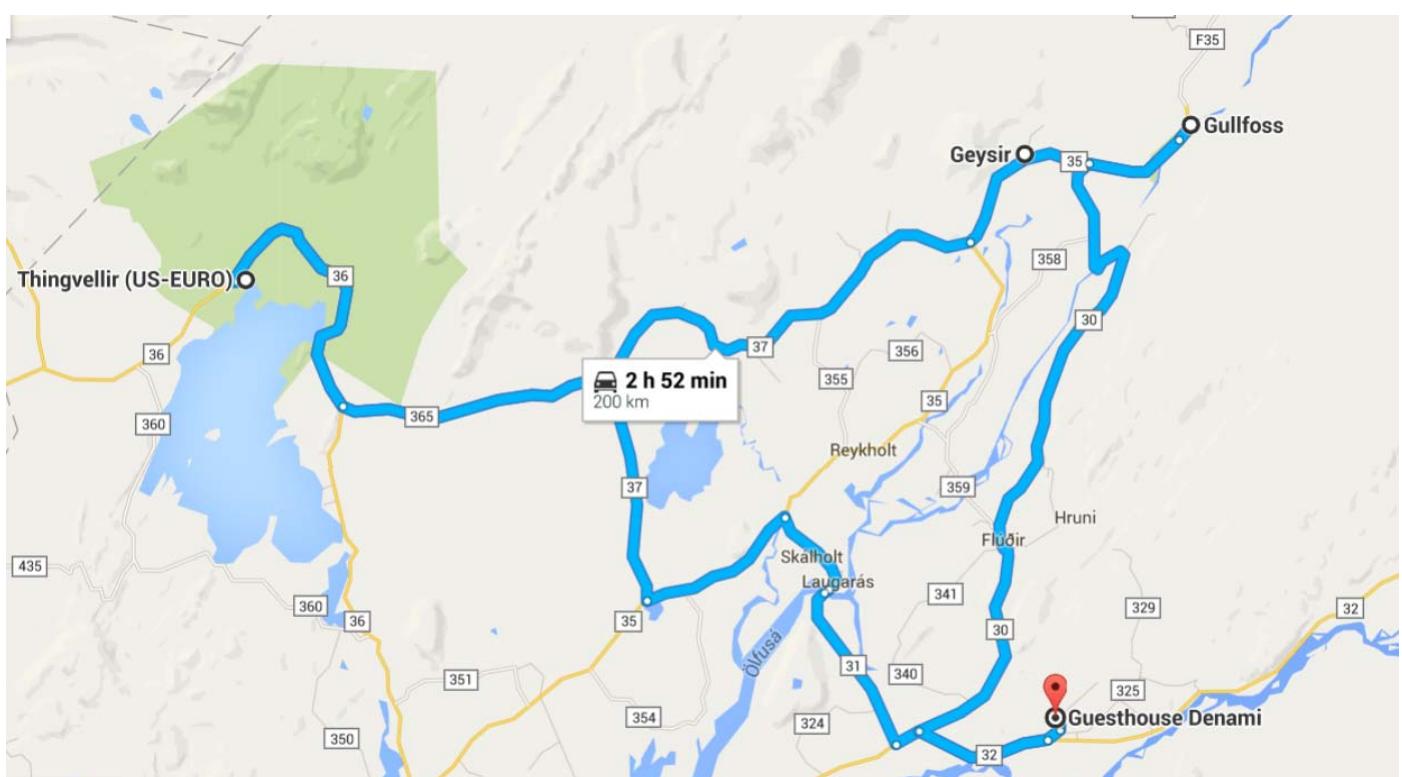
2:00PM: Arrived at Geysir (site of hydrothermal springs and geysers). Walk around the site

3:30PM: Leave for Gullfoss (Golden Waterfalls)

4:00PM: Arrive at Gullfoss visit the fall and visitor's center

5:30PM: Depart to return to the hostel

6:15PM: Get to Guesthouse Denami (Háholt, Iceland), they will have a traditional Icelandic meal of lamb stew and Icelandic breads



Day 7: Friday, March 11th, 2016 – Hellisheiði Power Plant, Raurfarholshellir Lava Tube, and back to Reykjavik

7:00: Wake-up, pack our things and load the vans.

7:30: Make breakfast.

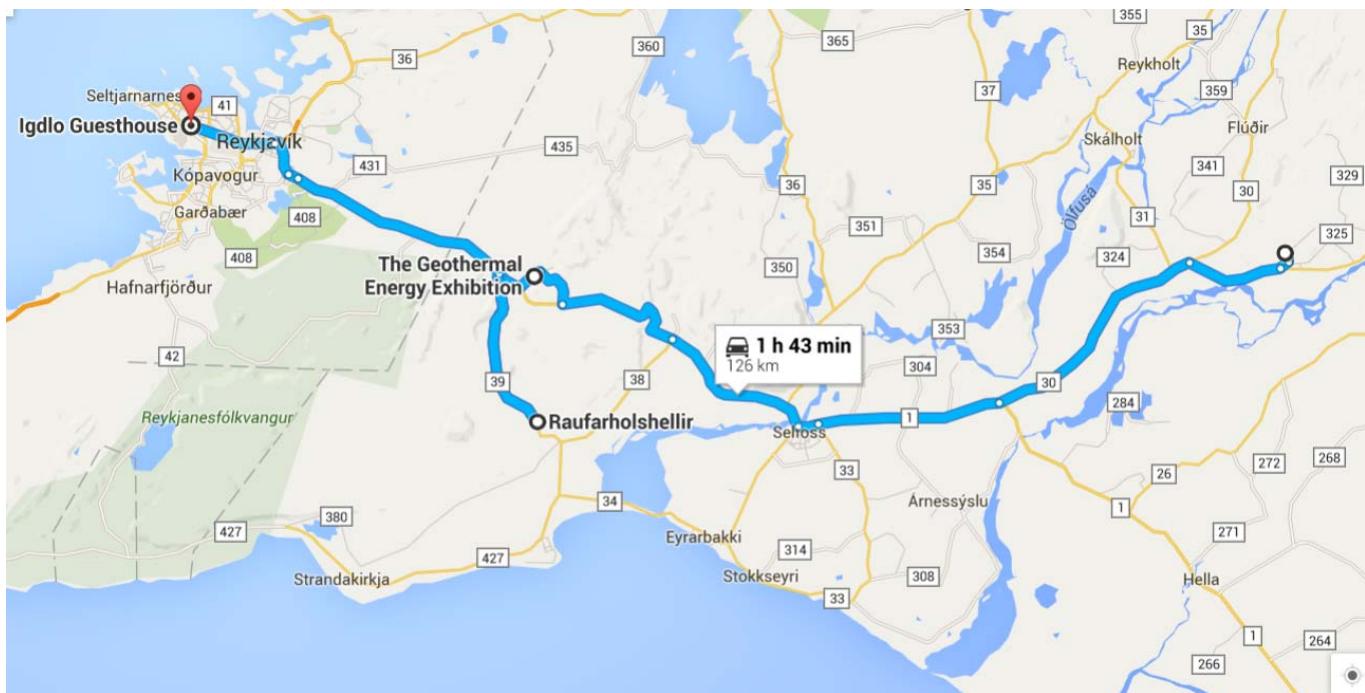
8:30: Depart for Hellisheiði Power Plant (Hellisheiðarvirkjun, Iceland)

9:30: Take a tour of the geothermal museum and a “behind-the-scenes” tour of the power plant (\$20 each).

12:00: Finished tour. Have lunch.

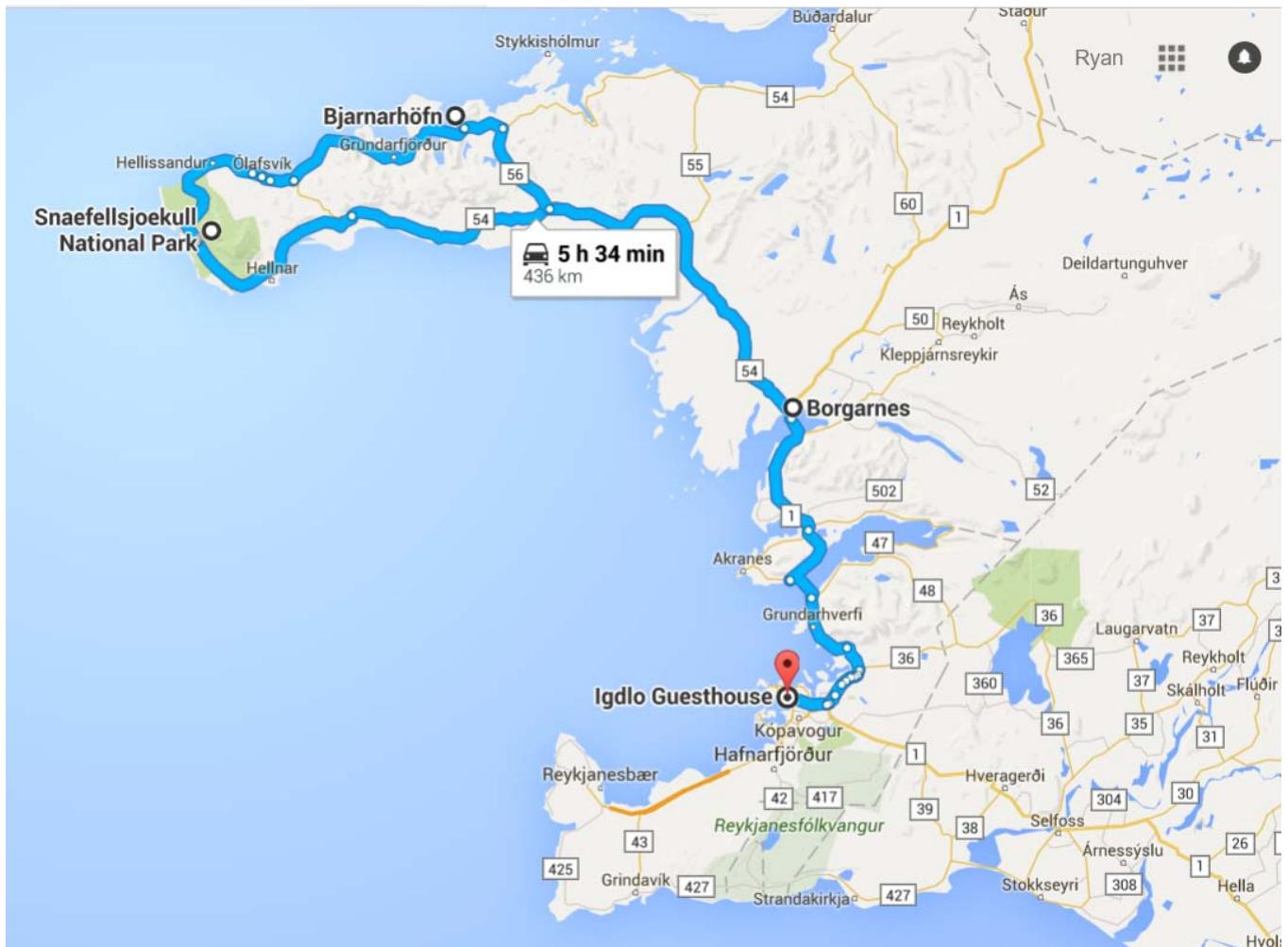
1:30PM: Arrived at Raurfarholshellir Lava Tube, ate lunch. Hike some of the lava tube. **THIS REQUIRES STURDY BOOTS AND A FLASHLIGHT (or headlamp).**

3:00PM: Returned to the van and head into Reykjavik. We will be staying in the same accommodations (Igdlo Guesthouse, Gunnarsbraut 46, 105 Reykjavík).



Day 8: Saturday, March 12th, 2016 – Borgarnes and the Snæfellsness Peninsula

- 8:00: Wake-up and have breakfast (provided by the hostel)
- 9:00: Depart for Borgarnes
- 10:00: Arrive in Borgarnes
- 11:00: Drive around the Snæfellsness Peninsula
- 1:00 PM: Snæfellsjökull Volcano – the lonely planet guide has good descriptions of stuff.
- 5:00 PM: Return to Reykjavik
- 6:00 PM: Group Dinner?



Day 9: Sunday, March 13th, 2016 – Reykjavik and return home

Also this is daylight savings time, this not observed in Iceland but it should be noted.

8:00: Wake-up and have breakfast (provided by the hostel)

9:00: Load the vehicles

10:00: Hang out in Reykjavik

We have to be checked out of the hostel by 11AM

2:30PM: Return the rental vehicles

3:00PM: Arrive at the airport

5:00PM: Boarding Icelandair Flight 645

7:30PM: Arrive in Dulles, Washington DC