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## Ontario Coroners Association Iceland & Western Scotland - Islands and Highlands September 18 – October 3, 2016

### Day 1 – Sunday, September 18

Depart Toronto Pearson International Airport for Keflavik, Iceland. Overnight flight

### Day 2 – Monday, September 19

#### **Reykjavik, ICELAND**

**B/D**

On your arrival to Iceland, you are greeted by your local English-speaking guide awaiting you in the arrival hall at Keflavik International Airport. We start with a sturdy breakfast at a hotel or restaurant in Keflavik area before we visit the famous Blue Lagoon to enjoy a refreshing bath in the blue geothermal waters, in between lava formations surrounding the lagoon. After a re-energizing bath, we drive through the lava fields to Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, where we check-in at our centrally located **Fosshotel Lind** (or similar) for the next three nights. Afternoon and evening free for leisure.

### Day 3 – Tuesday, September 20

#### **Golden Circle**

**B**

Today we visit some of Iceland's most historic and stunning sights as well as learning about the harnessing of geothermal energy in Iceland. We visit the historic sites of Þingvellir National Park, where the Icelandic parliament was founded in the year 930 AD. We hike through the Almannagjá rift and visit e.g. Lögberg, Drekkingsarhylur and Peningagjá. After our visit to Þingvellir we continue to Gullfoss waterfall (i.e. the golden waterfall) where we walk so close to the edge that we can feel the mist of the glacier water on our faces. We then visit Geysir geothermal area where Strokkur is erupting columns of water into the air every 6-8 minutes. We learn about how geothermal energy is used to grow vegetables, etc. during our visit to the Friðheimar cultivation center. The family at Friðheimar will also introduce us to the Icelandic horse, its traits and stories with a short demonstration and afterward we have the chance to visit their stables and meet the horses and their riders. Evening free for leisure.

### Day 4 – Wednesday, September 21

#### **Day of Leisure**

**B**

Despite a relatively short history as a city, modern Reykjavik is home to an impressive collection of interesting attractions and places of historic significance with much to pique the

curiosity of visitors to the city. We spend the day exploring the city on our own. Suggestions will be given later.

### Day 5 – Thursday, September 22

#### **Glasgow/Drymen, SCOTLAND B/D**

Transfer from hotel in Reykjavik to Keflavik International Airport for departure on Icelandair flight to Glasgow, Scotland. Upon arrival into Glasgow, meet your Macpherson coach and travel into Glasgow, first stop is the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum to purchase lunch and also to take in the magnificent daily organ recital at 1pm. The museum houses one of the most impressive collections of artworks, artefacts and natural history. The second stop will be at the Pollock Country Park to see the Burrell Collection. Sir William Burrell was a wealthy shipping magnate who amassed an eclectic collection and gave it to the city in 1944 but it was to be housed away from the coal pollution of the city. The Pollok family estate proved to be the perfect place to build a gallery once the clean air act was in place. If you would prefer to shop or explore a different museum, you will be free to re-join the coach at the end of the day. Transfer to Drymen where you will check into the **Winnock Hotel** for two nights.

### Day 6 – Friday, September 23

#### **Drymen/Ayrshire**

**B/D**

Departure from the hotel and travel through Ayrshire and to the area of Cumnock and Dumfries House, one time the home of the Bute family. This mansion designed by the Adams brothers contains the famous Chippendale collection all saved for the nation by intervention of HRH Prince Charles. A guided tour of the house with morning coffee served in the original kitchens. Then, time to view the pristine grounds and garden. Continue west to Alloway, birthplace of Robert Burns the great Scots Bard. Lunch here on your own, then view the Museum display and the cottage where he was born. Depart midafternoon to finish the day at the Glengoyne Distillery, one of Scotland's lowland distilleries. An excellent tour and a dram or two will ensure a lively finish to an enjoyable day and a good starter to what lies ahead as we travel northwest into the land of lochs, glens, bens and rugged coastline.

### Day 7 – Saturday, September 24

**Mull** **B/D**

Departing Drymen today, our destination is the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. We go by way of the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond then west over the Rest and be Thankful climb to our first sea loch, Loch Fyne and the Highland village of Inverary, the seat of the Duke of Argyll. Time for sightseeing then over the hills to Loch Awe on our way to Rannoch Moor, Glencoe and Ballachulish. Time at the Glencoe Visitor Centre. We now head southwest along the seaboard through Benderloch and Appin, along the line of the Great Glen Fault and the Shores of Loch Linnhe, to the Gateway to the islands the port of Oban. We board the CalMac ferry for the crossing to Craignure on the Isle of Mull and the **Isle of Mull Hotel and Spa**, our accommodation for the next two nights.

### Day 8 – Sunday, September 25

**Mull/Iona** **B/D**

Our first call today is the isle of Iona where St Columba brought Christianity to the Scotland of the day. We travel the single track road over Glen More and drive along the shores of the sea loch, Loch Scridian, some 36 miles to Fionnphort where we board the foot ferry to Iona and its historic Abbey. On our return journey we will travel to the scenic port of Tobermory then return to our hotel.

### Day 9 – Monday, September 26

**Fort William/Skye** **B/D**

This morning we depart Mull travelling by ferry to Lochaline on the mainland and then travelling through the countryside to Fort William. We will board the train travelling to Mallaig through Glenfinnan where we will travel over the famous aqueduct. At Mallaig, we board our ferry for a 30 minute crossing to the Sleat peninsula on the Isle of Skye. A drive along the garden of Skye takes us to the Skye Bridge. Crossing to the mainland, we travel along the shore of Loch Duich to Eilean Donan Castle (seat of Clan MacRae), after viewing, return to Skye and **Kings Arms Hotel** at Kyleakin for overnight.

### Day 10 – Tuesday, September 27

**Skye/Ullapool** **B/D**

Early start with a circular tour around the most northern parts of the island with unsurpassed sea views to the west, north and east, we will visit the Museum of Island Life, drive around the rugged Quairand past Kiltie Falls to Portree Broom (capital of the island). Depart Skye by the bridge then we will travel east along Loch Glascarnoch, the Braemore forest to Loch Broom on the coast and old herring port of Ullapool and the **Caledonian Hotel** for a one night stay seeing some of the most beautiful countryside in Scotland.

### Day 11 – Wednesday, September 28

**Thurso/Scrabster** **B/D**

Continue along the northwest Highlands where small freshwater lochs and sea inlet lochs abound to Durness on the Northern coastline with comfort stop enroute probably at Scourie. Our last leg today is along the northern coast to the town of Thurso and continue to our hotel. Check into the **Weigh Inn** at Scrabster for a two night stay.

### Day 12 – Thursday, September 29

**Orkney Island / Scrabster** **B/D**

Day tour of Orkney starting with a 90 minute cruise across the Pentland Firth to the port of Stromness. We will be met by a local guide who will reveal the treasures of Orkney: Skara Brae Village, Ring of Brodgar and Stone of Stenness. The capital Kirkwall and St. Magnus Cathedral will also be visited and views over Scapa Flow. In the late afternoon depart from Stromness back to Scrabster.

### Day 13 – Friday, September 30

**Pitlochry** **B/D**

Depart Scrabster, morning visit to the most northerly home of the late Queen Mother Elizabeth – Castle of Mey. The time capsule of her tenure there with excellent views of the Orkneys across the Pentland Firth. Travel the coastline to Beaulieu then over the pass to Drumnadrochit and view Urquhart Castle on the shore of Loch Ness. Continue south along the Great Glen passing Lochs Oich and Lochy to Spean Bridge. Then head across Laggan into the Cairngorm National Park, turning south along Loch Garry in the Grampian Mountains, making a stop at another distillery before arriving at Pitlochry to check in at the **Fishers Hotel** for the next two nights.

### Day 14 – Saturday, October 1

**Pitlochry** **B/D**

Today we will have a circular tour of the Cairngorm National Park taking in the Museum of Highland Life at Newtonmore, Rothiemurchus forest, Crathie Church, Braemar onto Royal Deeside, Spittal of Glenshee and end the day with a visit to the Edradour distillery.

### Day 15 – Sunday, October 2

**Drymen** **B/D**

Depart Pitlochry to the Queen's View at Loch Tummel then over the Brae's of Foss to Loch Tay, drive the shoreline to Killin and the Falls of Dochart before turning south through Glen Ogle to Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig with a stop in Callander. Late afternoon drive over the Trossachs by the Dukes Road to Aberfoyle and the Scottish Wool Centre and return to the **Winnock Hotel** for a one night stay. We will finish our tour with a wonderful Scottish Ceilidh!

### Day 16 – Monday, October 3 **HOME** **B**

