# ICELAND

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| ICELAND is closer than you think and probably also far different from what you might have imagined. Where else can you witness such marvels of Mother Nature as glaciers, steaming geysers and volcanoes, raging rivers and magnificent waterfalls, a multitude of birds, cavorting whales just offshore and many other surprises.  Iceland was settled by Nordic people in the 9th century – tradition has it that the first permanent settler was a Norwegian Viking, named Ingolfur Arnarson, who made his home where Reykjavik is situated today. The Icelanders still speak a language close to that of the Vikings, although modern Icelanders also speak many foreign languages.  Iceland is an island of 103.000 km2 (39,756 sq. miles), about one-third larger than Scotland or Ireland. It has a population of just over 300.000, almost two-thirds living in the capital Reykjavik and its neighbouring towns in the southwest.  Regardless of when you visit, be assured that the warmth shown by the Icelanders, their desire to share their culture and their efforts to make your stay as pleasant as possible will, like the spectacular landscape, not easily be forgotten.  VISIT ICELAND - The official tourism information site is:  [www.visiticeland.com](http://www.visiticeland.com/) |