



### My favourite Holiday

with Jan Turk Petrie

Jan Turk Petrie is a former English teacher with an MA in creative writing from the University of Gloucestershire.

She has just released *No God For A Warrior* (Pintail Press), a futuristic thriller set in a dark, cold Nordic city, the follow-up to *Until The Ice Cracks*.

She has also published some award-winning short fiction.



▼ The Aurora Borealis, also known as the Northern Lights, seen above Iceland.

# Majestic Iceland melted my heart

**A**S a reluctant flier, it takes a lot to get me on a plane.

However, having heard so much about Iceland and its extraordinary geology, I just had to see it for myself.

Reykjavik is deservedly a magnet for tourists with a famous foodie scene.

We stayed in the old part of the city and ate wonderfully fresh seafood.

At the Elf School, Magnús Skarphéðinsson served us tea and cakes whilst telling fascinating tales of "the hidden people" – the elves and trolls many Icelanders firmly believe in.

Wanting to explore the vast and dramatic interior of the island, we

hired a 4x4 and headed east along black volcanic roads.

We passed steaming thermal pools before reaching our first destination, a stylish hotel improbably converted from a former hostel for workers at the nearby geothermal plant.

Our next stop was a remote hotel on the Snæfellsnes peninsula, where we finally witnessed the Northern Lights – our necks ached as we watched all those eerie, pirouetting beams moving across the starlit sky.

We couldn't leave the area without hiking up to the glacier-topped volcano made famous by Jules Verne's *Journey To The Centre Of The Earth*.

Heading further north, we passed fjords and tiny red-roofed hamlets,

waterfalls and spectacular mountain ranges. Photographing everything, we utterly failed to capture the sheer majesty of the landscape.

Finally, we arrived in Akureyri, Iceland's second city, and then visited the mind-blowing volcanic Mývatn eutrophic lake reserve.

Akureyri is a pretty, peaceful town with few high-rise buildings but nonetheless its location at the head of the Eyjafjörður fjord became the inspiration for Eldísvík – my fictitious, far less harmonious, city-state of the future.

With so much still to see, Iceland has become a favourite holiday destination.

By Bill Gibb

### ▼ LIKE A TUFTED DUCK TO WATER?

Waterways Holidays has just put 2019 canal holidays on sale, with up to 25% off breaks next summer.

For example, a week in the Tufted Duck, a beautiful boat based in Lancashire which sleeps four to six people is reduced to £1650, saving £549 on peak prices.

For more information, call 01252 339023 or visit [waterwaysholidays.com](http://waterwaysholidays.com)

### ▼ IN THE LAND OF LUXURY

The Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle has been hailed cream of the crop, after scooping an accolade for Excellence in Luxury Leisure.

The prestigious Luxury Briefing Awards saw some of the world's most esteemed luxury brands recognised for their excellence, innovation and contribution to the industry.

The Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle, the private members club in the Scottish Highlands, won the Excellence in Luxury Leisure category.

The Carnegie Club was described as: "the Gucci of experiences".

To try it out for yourself, visit their website at [carnegieclub.co.uk](http://carnegieclub.co.uk)

### ▼ HOLIDAY OF YOUR DREAMS

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Price starts from £1,279pp and includes flights from Glasgow Airport with British Airways, saving up to £740 per couple.

Based on selected dates in March and April 2019 if you book by December 2.

For more, visit [netflights.com](http://netflights.com)

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## Iceland & the Northern Lights

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