

# Westmann Isles



Name of Journey: : S04 – Westmann Isles

Objectives:

- To learn about the project: Pompeii of the North
- To get acquainted with a puffin

**Imagine being woken up in the middle of the night by an alarming roar from the warning sirens, stepping out of your soft bed, looking drowsily out of your window and seeing how the ground has literally opened up and is gushing out red-glowing lava.**

Seems like something that would only happen in one of those Hollywood disaster movies, but this was exactly what faced the inhabitants of the community in Westmann Isles on a cold winter night of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1973. The eruption started, without a warning and lasted for almost half a year, drowning half of the houses in lava and laying a thick blanket of tephra over the whole island. All but one islander survived the disaster and most of them moved back after the eruption had faded away. The island is now considerably bigger, due to the grand flow of lava, and the new volcano that formed in the eruption now bears the name Eldfell.

The Tribe will stay on the Westmann Isles and visit a project called *Pompeii of the North* where houses are being dug up from the lava. There is more to do on the island, with cliffs filled with the cacophony of the seagulls and the Puffins, the turistical mascot of Iceland, digging their homes into the ground.

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| <b>Good to know before choosing:</b> |    |
| <b>How hard is it:</b>               | ** |