



### *Who They Are:*

Iceland is an island of fire and ice. One of the world's youngest nations, Iceland was first settled in the Viking age by adventurous Viking settlers. Present day Iceland is incredibly independent & nationalistic. Icelanders have fought to keep what is central to their identity- their language, customs, and heritage- while keeping pace with the rest of the world. Iceland's current high standard of living and learning are a testament to its success in recognizing the people of the island's potential.

### *What They Teach Us:*

**Happiness is a State of Mind:** While it is difficult to make comparisons between nationalities with respect to happiness. An international survey conducted in 2005 found that more than 70% of Icelanders declared themselves happy. The figure is higher than any other nation in the world and may be attributed to the people's balanced lifestyle where both work and leisure are considered equally valuable.

**A Classless Society is a Crimeless Society:** Egaltarianism (the equality of all people) is widely recognized by Icelanders as an important ideal. In regard to individual capability; the belief exists that everyone can achieve success and should live to their fullest potential. Evidence of a classless society also lies in their system of naming. No titles that point to status are utilized, instead everyone is addressed by their first name followed by their father's name & the suffix son(m) or dottir(f). The only exception to this practice is when the president or the bishop of Iceland are addressed. With the absence of economic stratification a more closely knit and relatively crimeless society exists. The spirit of Egaltarianism is even evident in the nations system of laws. Article 78 of the nation's constitution states: "Privileges reserved for nobility, titles & rank must never be enacted."

*365 Culture*  
*"Highlighting a New Culture Each Season"*

*"You can't complain about  
the sea if you suffer shipwreck  
for the second time"*

*~Proverb of Iceland*

*All Seasons of Iceland!*