### TO THE EXCITING WORLD OF GENTLE GIANTS – HÚSAVÍK ICELAND

What makes our seafaring adventures so memorable? We are owners, captains and management with decades of experience on the North Atlantic seas and our ancestral roots in the community of Húsavík and nearby Skjálfandi Bay. We have been fishing the seas here for centuries—that's an experience you can't find elsewhere.

SYLVÍA

201

.... Five generations of pioneering in the bay



GIANTS

PRODU





go whale watching!





### **Bookings & Info**

MEMBER OF ICEWHALE THE ICELANDIC WHALE WATCHING ASSOCIATION Tel. +354 464 1500 www.gentlegiants.is info@gentlegiants.is

### A Gentle Giant Family FIVE GENERATIONS IN SKJÁLFANDI BAY



Our Gentle Giant family is a close-knit group. At sea, we rely on each other. Onshore we play, but we also chip in for our local community. The locals are only a few thousand years of evolution away from our whale friends after all! One thing we do is support Völsungur, easily the best football team in the Arctic region and yet another reason for Húsavík to be proud.



Three of the owners of Gentle Giants are members of our fifth generation in the bay: Sædís Helga (15), Aþena Lind (13) and Sylvia Dís (8) are shown here testing out the Zodiac.



Gentle Giants is a proud sponsor and supporter of the local football team Völsungur...

When it comes to achieving and creating goals . . . we are there!



Our Company Gentle Giants Whale Watching Ltd. Proudly supports UNICEF CHILDREN



## Gentle Giants ensures the safety and the security of its passengers





Gentle Giants Whale Watching is a member of SAF, the Icelandic Travel Industry Association.



Gentle Giants boats and staff are fully-licensed by the Icelandic Maritime Administration.



Gentle Giants Whale Watching is a partner in the Wild North Project of sustainable tourism.



Gentle Giants staff is trained in Safety and Survival by the Maritime Safety and Survival Training Centre of Iceland.





SAFETY FIRST

Our passengers are fully insured by VÍS Insurance Ltd.



Gentle Giants Whale Watching is a member of the International Blue Flag eco-label.

## Mr & Mrs Feel Good



SPECIAL WARM overalls available FREE every day

12

XL

We care about our passengers' feelings. That is why we offer them protective clothing on board – free of charge. We have cozy, warm overalls in bright safety colors and a wide range of sizes, all especially designed for our excursions to the open sea. We also offer every passenger light refreshments on board our all our boats: Complementary hot chocolate and the traditional Icelandic twisted donut, kleina, to keep you warm and nourished. We want our passengers to have a great experience and FEEL GOOD!!

Specially designed useful things for sale on location at reasonable prices. Different colors available.



### LIKE ONE BIG FAMILY

# We proudly present our EXPERIENCED TEAM







Stefán Guðmundsson Managing Director - Captain



Peter Waltl Guide



Óðinn Sigurðsson Captain



Sigmar Ingólfsson Captain



Ass. Director - Guide - Ticket Sales Head Guide - Ticket Sales



Stefanía Þorsteinsdóttir Guide



Arnar Sigurðsson Captain



Sigurður Kristjánsson Captain



María Torralba Escobedo



Matthías Annisius Guide



Hlynur Þór Birgisson Captain



Sigrún Vala Hauksdóttir Assistant



Alexia Askelöf Guide - Ticket Sales



Brynjar Valþórsson Guide



Hilmar Þór Guðmundsson Captain



Máni Snær Bjarnason Maintenance



Sigrún Björg Steinþórsdóttir Guide - Ticket Sales



Vilhjálmur Bessi Kristinsson Captain



Sigurjón Sigurbjörnsson Captain



Hallgrímur Egilsson Marketing

### GG1 • Whale Watching see the mammals of the ocean









Experience the traditional tour from Húsavík. Our birthplace is often considered the Whale Watching Capital of Europe. Whale watching is a unique adventure at sea: Gazing at the wonders of nature in the beautiful surroundings of Skjálfandi Bay, sheltered by the stunning mountains of Vík. This is a place where our roots lie, where our ancestors used to live in peace and joy for centuries, living in total harmony with the unpredictable and untamed nature of the North Atlantic.

We have added several NEW departures in 2011.

### TIMETABLE 2011\*

May 1st May 31st.	June 1st June 30th.	July 1st Aug 10th.	Aug 11th Aug 31st.	Sept 1st Sept 15th.	Sept 16th Sept 30th	Oct 1st Oct 31st. Sat. – Sun.	
		08:45	08:45				
09:45	09:45	09:45	09:45	09:45	09:45	09:45	
	12:00	12:00	12:00				
13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15	13:15			
		15:15	15:15				
	16:45	16:45	16:45		WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS AND CURRENCIES		
	20:15	20:15			VISA MasterCard	€\$£¥CHF	

### **RATES:**

Adults: EUR 52 pr. person. Children 7–15 years : EUR 20 Children 0-6 years: FREE Each tour takes approx. 3 hours. Group discounts and tailor made tours available. See our timetable for daily tours or contact us for further information.

### INCLUDED:

A specialized guide, light refreshments (hot chocolate and an Icelandic traditional twisted donut, kleina) and warm extra clothing if needed.

### SEASON:

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Daily departures Off-season: Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Oct 31<sup>st</sup>\*\*

Other tours, excursions and schedules can be arranged upon request at our Information & Ticket Office. Early booking is recommended.

\*For your safety and comfort, we reserve the right to change schedules should weather or other conditions change. \*\*(Sat – Sun only)

## Whales of Skjálfandi Bay



Hnísa • Phocoena Harbour porpoise • Schweinswal • Marsouin common Max: 1.9 m. & 80 kg.

> 😷 Steypireyður • Balaenoptera musculus Blue whale • Blauwal • Rorgual Bleu Max: 33 m. & 190 t.

Hnúfubakur • Megaptera novaeangeliae Humpback Whale • Buckelwal • Megaptère Max: 17 m. & 48 t.

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Búrhvalur • Physeter macrocephalus Sperm Whale • Pottwal • Cachalot Max: 18 m. & 50 t.



Hnýðingur Lagenorhynchus albirostris Minke whale • Zwergwal • Petit rorqual White-beaked dolphin • Weißsnauzendelphin

• Lagènorhynque à bec blanc Max: 3.1 m. & 350 kg.

🗧 Grindhvalur 🔹 Globicephala melas Pilot Whale • Grindwal • Globi cèpale noir Max: 8 m. & 5 t.

Háhyrningur • Orcinus Orca Orca / Killer Whale • Schwertwal • Orque Max: 10 m. & 9 t.

Hrefna • Balaenoptera acutorstrata

Max: 11 m. & 10 t.

Langreyður • Balaenoptera Physalus Fin Whale • Finnwal • Rorgual common Max: 26 m. & 78 t.

Andarnefja • Hyperoodon ampullatus Northern bottlenose Whale • Nördlicher Entenwal • Hyperoodon boréal Max: 9 m. & 7,5 t.

: Sandreyður • Balaenoptera borealis Sei Whale • Seiwal • Rorgual du Nord Max: 19.5 m. & 26 t.



Leifturhnýðingur • Lagenorhyncus acutus Atlantic White-sided dolphin • Weißseitendelphin • Lagènorhynque à flancs blancs Max: 2.8 m. & 230 kg.



### NEW UNIQUE TOUR

### GG5 · Pro-Fishing A UNIQUE AND UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE!









"We spent some very exciting days in Iceland, and the top of it was the day we were fishing in Húsavík!

When we were in Iceland for the first time, we wanted to try working on a fishing boat, but we didn't find any opportunity. It was a great pleasure when we found Gentle Giants on our second trip. We didn't know exactly how much hard work fishing is. We spent 14 hours at sea, very close to the pure nature. We worked hard, and we caught an incredible amount of fish. Fishing is extremely tiring, but an amazing experience. And during the work we saw some killer whales, dolphins, puffins and many other sea birds.

We recommend this trip to anyone who is looking for a unique experience. Thank you very much for this unforgettable experience!"

Juli & Attila from Hungary



### **NEW UNIQUE TOUR**

### GG5 · Pro-Fishing put yourself to the test and keep smiling



Become an Icelandic fishing pro for a day or two. Daily from April to October, we welcome people to join us as crewmembers on our fishing boats, sharing our extensive knowledge of fishing and the sea to create an unforgettable and traditional Icelandic adventure.

We take our customers out from Húsavík to Skjálfandi Bay on daily professional fishing trips on our fishing boats. From April to May each year you could be a crew member during lumpfish season, or from June to September catch mainly cod. This is a hard-core fishing experience in the real North Atlantic seas for people who love new adventures.

We focus on the exciting and relaxing, adventurous quality of life that can be found in Iceland's beauty and wild nature, using our family's ancestral roots in the history and environment around Húsavík, Skjálfandi Bay, and Flatey Island. We tell our true family story around Skjálfandi Bay and Húsavík, generation after generation, for more than 150 years. We are an original part of the history, fishermen with salty blood running through our veins. Others may wish they had the same tradition, and we want to offer them the salty experience... a real one!

Gentle Giants Pro-Fishing will take you out on the sea with our highly experienced captains and professional crews, showing our customers how we do it and enabling them to test their seaworthiness along with our other crewmembers. This experience is for people who want to put themselves to the test and keep on smiling after a long, tough day.

FISHING	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ
Lumpfish		•					
Cod		•	•	•	•	•	•
Haddock	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pollock	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Redfish	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
European Plaice	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Common Dab	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
American Plaice	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Catfish	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Leopardfish	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Whiting	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Monkfish	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
DIFFICULTY	5	4	3	2	2	3	4

Difficulty levels are calculated by our Marine Experts living in Skjálfandi Bay for decades with vast experience fishing in the bay. The biggest contributor to the difficulty levels is the unpredictable weather conditions.



1 DAY PRO-FISHING PACKAGE: EUR 250 pr. person

**INCLUDED:** A Crewmembers position on one of our fishingboats. Full Pro-Fishing outfit; boots, wptrousers, wp-jacket, cap, wp-gloves, fleece jacket & woolen socks. A full box with food & drinks for a whole day; the fisherman lunch box. A part of the catch; filleted for own use / restaurant. Different Icelandic weather conditions. 10 – 16 hours of a hard work & adventure; dependant upon catch & weather.

#### **3 DAY PRO-FISHING PACKAGE:**

EUR 900 pr. person

**Day 1** - Domestic flight RVK – AK A transfer from AK to Husavik to a Hotel / Guesthouse – free part of the day.

**Day 2** – Early departure to the Pro-Fishing grounds – ready for adventure. Back in the afternoon, unloading the catch & preparing the boat for next day. Shower, swimmingpool or hot tub. Dinner made from the catch of the day.

**Day 3** – A guided excursion to the wonders of Lake Myvatn. Visit to the Nature Baths & Restaurant.

Waterfall of the Gods visited on the way, and then to AK airport – flight to RVK.

**INCLUDED:** A Crewmembers position on one of our fishingboats. Full Pro-Fishing outfit; boots, wptrousers, wp-jacket, cap, wp-gloves, fleece jacket & woolen socks. A full box with food & drinks for a whole day; the fisherman lunch box. A part of the catch; filleted for own use / restaurant. Different Icelandic weather conditions. 10 – 16 hours of a hard work & adventure; dependant upon catch & weather.

#### SEASON:

#### Apr 1st - Oct 31st

Note: We do reserve the rights to change schedule if mother nature is not on our side; weather & other conditions are not as expected.

# GG6 · Puffins Exclusive



In this Puffins Exclusive Express Tour, we will take you to Lundey Island to see one of the largest Puffin colonies in Iceland. This Island is only 4.5 nautical miles from Húsavík harbor. It reaches 34m above sea level and is around 200m in length and 100m wide. During the breeding season there can be found around 300 thousand puffins; close to the rich feeding grounds in the sea around the island. The Island is privately owned by farmers nearby and we will take you there in only a few minutes by boat for a close look.





### **RATES:**

Adults: EUR 39 pr. person Children 7–15 years: 50% off Children 0-6 years: FREE Each tour takes approx. 1 hour. Minimum number of five required in a standard tour, or you can rent a boat for your private trip.

#### **INCLUDED:**

An experienced captain, warm overalls and loads of puffins and smiles and a little surprise from Húsavík's only winemaker.

### SEASON:

May 15<sup>th</sup> - Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, at 09:00, 11:00 & 18:00 hours

If other departures times or arrangements are required, contact us at our Information & Ticket Office.

# GG2 · Sea Angling



Experience the exhilarating feeling of catching your own meal out on Skjálfandi Bay's rich fishing grounds. The distance to these rich fishing grounds is very short and the captain will find fish for you to catch. At the end of the trip, your catch, which will probably be cod or haddock, can be filleted by the captain, taken with you for your own cooking or, upon special request, possibly cooked afterwards in a restaurant. Thanks to our experience as professional fishermen with historically strong roots around the bay, on this tour we provide you with a **100% CATCH GUARANTEE!** 

#### **RATES:**

Adults: EUR 77 pr. person Children 0–12 years : 50% off Each tour takes 2 – 3 hours. \* Minimum number of four required in a standard tour, or you can rent a boat for your private trip.

E WATCHING

### **INCLUDED:**

An experienced captain, fishing equipment/rods, and light refreshments (hot chocolate and a traditional Icelandic twisted donut, kleina.)

### **SEASON:**

Apr 1<sup>st</sup> - Nov 30<sup>st</sup>, Friday to Sunday at 10:00 & 18:00 (or upon request)

If other departures times or arrangements are required, contact us at our Information & Ticket Office.



### GG3 · Flatey Island PUFFINS • BIRD WATCHING • WHALES





On your way to Flatey Island, experience the beautiful surroundings of Skjálfandi Bay. Flatey Island is a natural haven for birdlife and is extremely rich and diverse. It therefore attracts many people and tourists each year. The island is home to more than 30 different species of birds during the breeding season.

We offer guided excursions through the island's beautiful nature. The island is home to the Arctic tern and puffins, which you may watch up close. This is an excellent and different experience. From Flatey we head back to Húsavík and sail by the awesome mountains of Vík. If Mother Nature is feeling generous, we may even be able to we may even be able to do some whale watching on our way back! We are also happy to make adjustments to this tour to accommodate any special requests. FLATEY ISLAND is situated in Skjálfandi Bay, only 14.7 nautical miles NW from Húsavík. The island is about 2.5 km long and 1.7 km wide. It is a low-lying island and its highest peak rises about 22 meters above sea level. That's why it's called "Flat Island." Flatey Island was settled early in historic times and the number of inhabitants increased during the first decades of the 20th century. In 1942, the island reached its peak population of 120.





The inhabitants of Flatey Island mostly earned their living from fishing. The fishing grounds around the island are extremely good, and rich in species such as cod and lumpfish. The island is fertile and well vegetated, so the islanders also practiced agriculture, mostly for their own needs, and each home kept a cow, a few sheep and hens, etc. Several structures were built in Flatey Island while people lived there:

- A schoolhouse was built on the island in 1929.
- The first lighthouse was built in 1913 and rebuilt in 1963.
- A church was built on the island in the early years, but was shut down in 1884. However, in 1960 a new church was consecrated.
- A radio telegraph was put up on the island in 1931.

The community on the island was very active when the population was at its peak. However, it was hard for a small community like Flatey Island to compete with other communities that grew faster once electricity and hot water became available in homes. People started leaving the island and moving to places like Húsavík, and in 1967 the last inhabitants left. It hasn't been permanently inhabited since. However, many people visit the island each summer. Most of the old homes are kept and maintained as summerhouses.



### **RATES:**

Adults: EUR 135 pr. person.\* Children 0–12 years : 50% off Each tour takes 5 – 6 hours. \* minimum number of six required in this standard tour, or rent a boat for your private trip.

#### **INCLUDED:**

A specialized guide, light refreshments (hot chocolate and an Icelandic traditional twisted donut, kleina) and warm extra clothing if needed. Ask for tailor-made tours and arrangements in our Information & Ticket Office.

#### **SEASON:**

June 1<sup>st</sup> - August 10<sup>th</sup>. Trips made upon request. Contact us for further information.

### GG4 · Whales & Horses THE ICELANDIC HORSE AND THE WHALE





Experience the combination of traditional whale watching and the Icelandic horse. Explore the countryside close to Húsavík on an Icelandic horse with experienced equestrians at your side. The riding trip begins in Saltvík, which is just four minutes by car from Húsavík harbor, and can be taken either before or after your whale watching tour.



### **RATES:**

Adults: EUR 98 pr. person Children 0–12 years: 50% off Each tour will take approx. 3 hours on the boat and approx. 2 hours on the horse.

### INCLUDED:

A specialized guide, light refreshments (hot chocolate and an Icelandic traditional twisted donut, kleina) and warm extra clothing if needed.

### SEASON:

May 1<sup>st</sup>. – October 31<sup>st</sup>. See our Whale Watching timetable for daily tours or contact us for further information.

Tailor made tours and other arrangements can be made by contacting our Information & Ticket Office.

# Gentle Giants Proud Fleet



### **BOAT CHARTER - FOUR BOATS**

your own boss

Experience private and tailor made tours and private destinations: Travel yourself in cooperation with our crew. Ideal for individuals, families and groups. Suggest a trip or route – any idea is a good one – or let us create an itinerary for you. We want to please you with our service and experience.

VINIA



### m/v SYLVIA

Built in Akureyri 1976 Tonnage: 30 Length: 17.5 m Beam: 4.3 m Capacity: 65 pax EUR 2.455 for 3 hours

### m/v FALDUR

Built in Westman Islands 1972 Tonnage: 26 Length: 14.5 m Beam: 4 m Capacity: 45 pax EUR 1.985 for 3 hours





### m/v ATHENA

Built in Hafnarfjörður in 2000 Tonnage: 8 Length: 9.5 m Beam: 3 m Capacity: 24 pax EUR 997 for 3 hours

Specialized for sea angling & smaller groups and various activities

### m/v AXEL - zodiac

Model: 2007 Length: 4.5 m Beam: 2 m Capacity: 8 pax EUR 195 pr. hour

This boat is not equipped for sightseeing, but ideal for camera work, diving & coastal transport / beaches.

### Húsavík – Our Hometown





Húsavík is a town in northern Iceland, located on the eastern shore of Skjálfandi Bay. It was first settled in 870 AD by a Swedish Viking, Garðar Svavarsson. According to the Book of Settlement, he is said to have circumnavigated Iceland, discovering it was an island. Garðar spent one winter



in Húsavík before returning to Sweden, leaving one of his men, Náttfari, behind. Náttfari stayed in Iceland with his slaves until he died and is therefore considered to be the first Nordic settler in Iceland. The name Húsavík is one of Iceland's oldest local names.

Like a number of towns on Iceland's coast, the fishing industry has played a vital part in Húsavík's development. The first sources of fishing and fish processing are from the late 19th century. Today 70% of the export income comes from the ocean. Agriculture and farming have also been important for the inhabitants. Many meat and dairy products from Húsavík are appreciated all over the country. Moreover, Iceland's first cooperative was founded in Húsavík in 1882, serving the town and its surroundings.

The residents of Húsavík haven't only got big hearts, but warm ones too. In the region, a lot of geothermal heat can be found and for a long time it has been used to grow vegetables and plants in greenhouses, as well as for heating houses (its primary purpose). The use of geothermal heat offers a variety of opportunities and faces a bright future.

In recent years, yet another trade has grown in Húsavík – the tourist industry. It is the fastest growing sector of the economy. The biggest tourist attraction is whale watching and Húsavík has

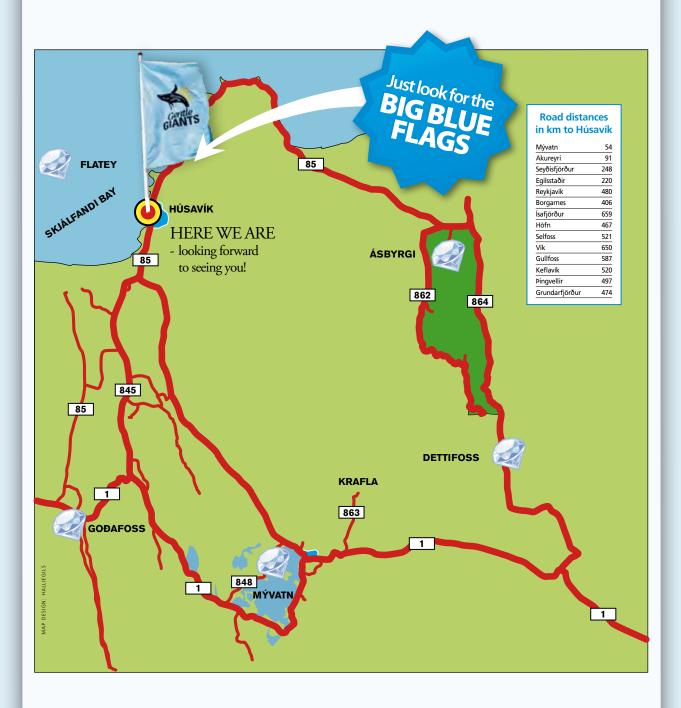
### Here we are -LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



become known as the whale watching capital of Europe. Thousands of tourists visit Húsavík annually in the hope of seeing the gentle giants of the ocean. In addition to whale watching tours, the Whale Centre, established in 1997, provides information about the life and habitat of whales around Iceland.

Húsavík's church, built in 1907, is one of the most beautiful churches in Iceland. It is one of the main symbols of Húsavík and is located in the heart of the town. The Húsavík District and Cultural Museum and the Icelandic Phallological Museum are also located in the town center and worth a visit. In the same region, many of Iceland's greatest natural wonders can be visited, including Lake Mývatn, Dettifoss waterfall, Flatey Island, and Ásbyrgi canyon.

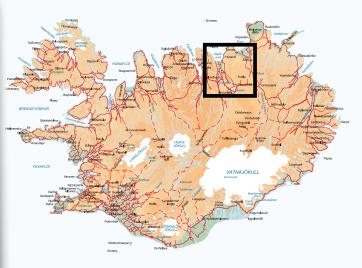
With a total population of 2,680, Húsavík is rich with culture and activities. Great sporting facilities are available, as well other activities. One of the major events in Húsavík is Mærudagar (Candy Days), a local festival held each year in summer.



## Diamonds around the corner







### 1 Flatey Island (60 minutes)

FLATEY ISLAND is situated in Skjálfandi Bay, only 14.7 nautical miles from Húsavík. The island is about 2.5 km long and 1.7 km wide, and is low-lying. The highest peak rises about 22 meters above sea level. That's why it's called Flat Island.

### 2 Ásbyrgi canyon (40 minutes)

A natural marvel, Ásbyrgi is surrounded by 90- to 100meter cliffs. According to legend, Ásbyrgi is a hoof print made by Sleipnir, the horse of Óðinn, the greatest of all Nordic gods. Ásbyrgi is a part of Vatnajökull National Park and is ideal territory for walking and hiking, although it cannot be explored to its full extent on foot.

### 3 Dettifoss waterfall (65 minutes)

Dettifoss is considered the most impressive waterfall in Europe. It is 45 meters high and 100 meters wide. Below it in the Jökulsá River is Hafragilsfoss waterfall (27 m) and above it is Selfoss waterfall (10m). These waterfalls form a unity unparalleled in the world. There is a marked walking path from Dettifoss to Hafragilsfoss.

### 4 Goðafoss waterfall (30 minutes)

Literally, waterfall of the gods! Waterfall on the river Skjálfandafljót, not far from the main road at Fosshóll in Bárðardalur valley. The waterfall can be viewed from several places, and the river enters a chasm beneath it.

### 5 Lake Mývatn (40 minutes)

Lake Mývatn is a unique source of endless discoveries and no visitor to Iceland should leave without having spent a day here. It is the fourth-largest lake in Iceland, measuring 37.3 km<sup>2</sup>. Frequent lava flows have left the lake very irregular in shape, and it is dotted with many islets and rock formations.

#### FOR MOTHER NATURE

## **Environmental Policy**



Our environmental policy reflects Gentle Giants' long-time experience and commitment to all aspects of conservation, protecting the environment and treating nature with respect. This policy is our answer to the increasing demand from our customers and global organizations for companies like Gentle Giants Whale Watching who support and contribute to the eco-system and sustainable tourism worldwide.

- GG is willing to fulfill every customer's needs, without threatening nature's present and future possibilities.
- GG only operates traditional Icelandic fishing boats that have been renovated for their current purpose. We make a special effort to protect and maintain vessels with cultural and historical importance.
- GG uses environmentally friendly products and eco-labels are preferably used for repair and maintenance of hulls and engines.
- GG uses recyclable products. The use of single use products is avoided as much as possible.
- GG puts a great emphasis on delivering all hazardous and toxic waste such as oil, paint and used batteries to assigned official collecting sites.
- GG immediately notifies the relevant authorities about any accidents that might cause environmental damage from our boats or from others.
- GG staff is updated regularly about the environmental policy of the company to include all new aspects of protecting the environment.
- GG puts effort in energy efficiency regarding the output and speed of our engines, in order to minimize pollution and disturbance in wildlife. Special precautions are taken near whales and breeding birds.
- GG always shows great caution when leaving and entering the harbor area.
- GG believes that principles in sustainability refer to three major factors: the environmental factor, the economic factor and social cultural aspects of tourism development. A suitable balance must be established between these factors in order to reach a long-term optimal use of nature's resources in the ecological process.
- GG informs passengers on its vessels of the great importance of protecting the environment in the area, its outstanding marine wildlife, stunning scenery and the air that we breathe.
- We are a proud member of the international eco-label Blue Flag.



On behalf of Gentle Giants Whale Watching Stefán Guðmundsson – General Manager.

