**Guardian crowns Iceland ‘Best European Country’ as part of Readers’ Travel Awards 2012**

Iceland has recently been crowned as the Best European Country as part of the Guardian, Observer, and guardian.co.uk Readers’ Travel Awards 2012 - the fourth occasion this year that the country has been named as a top travel destination.

According to the Guardian, Iceland has attracted lots of press coverage over recent years, which in turn has led to the country gaining a spotlight for its breath-taking landscapes and vast cultural activities. As part of the awards, the island has fought off strong competition from some of Europe’s most popular destinations, including Austria, Germany, Turkey, and Greece.

This award is the fourth that Iceland has won over recent months, achieving the ‘Best in Travel’ as part of the annual Lonely Planet ‘Reader’s Choice Awards,’ as well as being included in National Geographic Traveler’s pick of the ‘Best of the World 2012.’

To coincide with this announcement, Iceland’s leading airline Icelandair has a variety of package deals available this winter, allowing travellers to experience ‘the land of fire and ice’ under the cover of the Northern Lights.

**Package options include everything from adventure travel tours, Northern Lights holidays or relaxing weekend trips to purchase unique Christmas gifts in Iceland’s trendy capital, Reykjavik.**

**Included as part of Icelandair’s package deals are return flights from Copenhagen; accommodation in one of** Icelandair's exclusive hotels, the Hotel Reykjavik Natura, Reykjavik Marina Hotel or Hilton Reykjavik Nordica; breakfast, and - depending on the package - a day trip with an experienced tour operator.

One popular weekend break is the Golden Circle package deal, where travellers will get to experience the Thingvellir National Park, the point where United States and Europe continental plates meet; Geysir, the geometric area where hot springs come alive, and Gullfoss, one of Iceland's most magnificent waterfalls.

To find out more about weekend breaks and package deals with Icelandair, visit http://www.icelandair.com.