A LONG WEEKEND ESCAPE TO REYKJAVIK

NOVEMBER 5th - 9th 2020

Iceland . . . the Land of Fire and Ice is a country full of contrasts. From steamy hot springs to top-notch spas, spectacular scenery to art museums, this unique land is the perfect place to relax, recharge, and explore. Legends say that the ancient gods themselves guided Iceland’s first settler, Ingolfur Arnarson, to make his home in Reykjavik (“Smoky Bay”), named after the geothermal steam he saw. Today this geothermal energy heats homes and outdoor swimming pools throughout the city – a pollution-free energy source that leaves the air outstandingly fresh, clean and clear.

On this exciting, long-weekend getaway, you will dine on Icelandic specialties, including delicious seafood, ocean-fresh from the morning’s catch, highland lamb, and unusual varieties of game. It’s purely natural food imaginatively served to delight the most discerning of diners. Reykjavik is also renowned as one of Europe’s hottest nightspots, where the action in the friendly pub and club scene lasts right through the long winter nights.

But perhaps the greatest draw is the Aurora Borealis – the Northern Lights. This is the best time of year to see them because it has to be totally dark in the evening to get the best effect – and this is a country where the sun never fully sets in the summer! In the evening of our arrival day, we’ll head out to try and see the real thing (weather permitting). If the weather doesn’t cooperate with us we’ll try again the next night . . . and the next.

This weekend getaway gives you the opportunity to travel with fellow alumni and explore this rugged and breathtaking country.

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY, IS:

WASHINGTON DULLES DEPARTURE: $2999
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTURE: $2899
LAND ONLY: $2299
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: $ 490

Airfares are available from many other cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

AIRFARE: Round-trip airfare from Washington Dulles or JFK, including all customs fees and airport taxes
HOTELS: 3 nights’ accommodation in a first class hotel, including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING: All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners
GUIDES: Discover Europe tour guide throughout
ENTRANCES: Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary
LECTURES: Lectures by your faculty expert, Sarah M. Principato

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be sent to each registrant on receipt of deposit.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5th - Evening departure from your chosen gateway city, aboard your direct Iceland Air service to Iceland **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th - Early morning arrival in Iceland, where you will be met and escorted to your hotel in Reykjavik and a sumptuous breakfast buffet awaits. This morning we have a bus tour of downtown Reykjavik for a wonderful introduction to Europe’s smallest capital city! The tour covers the Old Town, the shopping districts, the Parliament, Hofdi House, Hallgrim’s church, the Harpa concert hall and much more! Most hotels know that Americans arrive early and will do everything possible to help us check in upon arrival. However, this is not always possible and if the rooms are not ready, you will store your luggage and go off on the city tour. When you return to the hotel after free time for lunch, you will then be able to go to your rooms and take a short nap before you gather for your introductory lecture. Dinner will be at the hotel and this evening after dinner, weather permitting, we will head out to attempt to view the Northern Lights. *(B, D) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th - Our excursion today takes us along the south coast of the island to Vik. At Vik, we’ll stop at the black volcanic beach south of the village - from here you can view the rock formations Dyrhólaey and Reynisdrangar. After a stop for lunch, we visit the fairytale-like Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where you can experience walking right behind the misty cascade, and the gorgeous 60-metre high Skógafoss waterfall, just a short drive down the road. Heading back to Reykjavik, we will stop at the renowned Fjoruborðið restaurant in the village of Stokkseyri, where a traditional Icelandic lobster feast awaits us (more like Langoustine than Maine lobster). *(B, D) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th - Avoiding the tourist traps of the regular “Golden Circle” tour, Discover Europe has created a customized tour of the Iceland countryside. Leaving Reykjavik, your first stop is Þingvellir National Park, site of the world’s first parliament. Here you can walk from America to Europe! You’ll then stop at the Fontana spa at Laugarvatn, a naturally occurring hot spring bath, where you will spend some time relaxing in the waters and have time for lunch (included). Continuing on to the south coast, you’ll visit the church at Skálholt, and stop to peer into the icy depths of Kerið volcanic crater, before you return to your hotel in Reykjavik for a free evening. Why not sample one of the city’s award-winning restaurants (such as the Grillið restaurant in your hotel) - making sure to reserve ahead of time for the more popular ones. *(B, L) OVERNIGHT: REYKJAVIK*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9th - This morning is free to take advantage of one of the many optional activities offered through the hotel tour desk - you can visit the Blue Lagoon, go on a whale watch, or ride an Icelandic horse, to mention just a few. Alternatively, you can visit some of the sights and museums around the city - or do a little shopping. You leave the hotel after lunch (at 2.00 pm) to transfer to the airport for your return flights to the US. *(B)*

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner*
Your Faculty Expert: Sarah M. Principato, Professor of Environmental Studies

Professor Principato is a geologist, and her research focuses on glacial geology, Quaternary history, and climate change. Students have worked with her as research assistants in Iceland and Maine, and also in her laboratory in the Environmental Studies Department at Gettysburg. She teaches classes such as Earth System Science, Natural Catastrophes and Geologic Hazards, Glacial Geology and Records of Climate Change, Geomorphology, and a first year seminar about the Geology of National Parks.

As our faculty expert and frequent visitor to Iceland, Professor Principato will discuss the geology of the rift in the tectonic plates at Pingvellir and provide insight about the glaciers and landforms in Iceland, among other topics.
Getaway to Iceland

are listed on the day-by-day departure:

Flight details (if self-arranged), to be provided

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights: □Yes  □No

Flight Information

Primary Telephone: (___) ___-_____  Email:

Name:

Emergency Contact Information

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Gettysburg College and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

Tour Cost Adjustments

1. A deposit of $500 must accompany this completed form.
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Cost Adjustments

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the Icelandic Krona by more than 10% in the 6 months prior to trip departure.
2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 20-25 participants. Should we end up with less than 20 people, Discover Europe will work with Gettysburg College to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same. 
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.

Refund Policy

1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a $200 cancellation penalty.
2. Participants who withdraw fewer than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
   - 90-61 days prior to departure: $1000 per person
   - 60 days - trip departure: no refund (unless traveler has insurance)
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the above schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Comprehensive travel insurance is not included in your tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Engaging Journeys Inc. will be providing you with details of a recommended insurance company.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant’s absence once the tour has started.
8. Your place on this tour is not transferrable.

Inclusions & Exclusions

1. All inclusions on Getaway to Iceland are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant’s chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers and items of a personal nature.

Rooming Requirements

(Please check one)

□ I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)
□ I will be sharing with:____________________

We would like a □double      □twin-bedded room

Permissions

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list. □Yes □No

Signatures

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Gettysburg College and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________________