

The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
Presents



Icelandic Adventure

July 21 - 27, 2018

\$3,629 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

*The NIU Alumni Association invites you to join us we get set to discover Iceland!
There is quite possibly no other place on earth like Reykjavik. The world's northern
most capital is a bright, colorful city, rich in cultural attractions and history, and
surrounded by the most breathtaking scenery you'll find on this planet.*

Day by Day Itinerary

Saturday, July 21 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this afternoon by scheduled service of Icelandair on the overnight transatlantic flight to Reykjavik, Iceland.

Sunday, July 22 – REYKJAVIK (B,L)

As the sun begins to rise on the Iceland coast we arrive in Reykjavik's Keflavik Airport where we'll meet our local Tour Guide and begin an introductory sightseeing tour of the world's most northerly capital. We'll start by taking a look at Reykjavik's neighboring communities as we travel through Hafnarfjorour, the town where the "hidden people" and humans live together in harmony, and see the presidential residence at Bessastaoir. Traveling into Reykjavik, we'll see the city's best-known landmark buildings, Hofdi House, the municipal reception hall where former President Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev met in October 1986 to discuss global disarmament, the Laugardalur sports and recreation area, Hallgrimskirkja Church and the grounds of the University of Iceland before ending our tour with a visit to the Saga Museum, which brings to life renowned figures and major events in Icelandic history. Afterward, we'll enjoy lunch before traveling to our downtown hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure. Despite Reykjavik's relatively short history as a city, modern Reykjavik is home to an impressive collection of interesting attractions of historic significance with much to pique the curiosity of visitors.

Monday, July 23 – REYKJAVIK (The Golden Circle) (B,L)

Today we will capture the essence of Iceland in all its awesome beauty as we tour the 190-mile circular route known as the "Golden Circle." Leaving Reykjavik, we'll travel to Thingvellir National Park, a place of tremendous importance to both Iceland's geological and historical inheritance. It is here where the tectonic plates that divide the continents of North America and Euro/Asia can be identified, and we'll walk along the Almannagja fault to the place where Europe's oldest national legislative assembly, the Icelandic Parliament, was established in the year 930. Then we're headed toward the Geysir geothermal area with its multitude of hot springs. Although Iceland's "Old Faithful" hasn't performed well

in recent years, the more reliable "Strokkur" has been drawing attention as it spouts a column of water every five minutes or so to a height of 60 feet. Just a few miles down the road we'll come to what is perhaps Iceland's best-known natural wonder, the dramatic Gullfoss Waterfall. On our return to Reykjavik, we'll descend towards the fertile farmlands of the southwestern plain and stop to visit the Fridheimar Horse Farm for an insight into one of the finest horse breeds in the world, the Icelandic horse; a breed that has been intertwined with the culture and history of the Icelandic nation throughout the centuries.

Tuesday, July 24 – REYKJAVIK (The Wonders of Snaefellsjokull) (B,L)

Today we venture out to the Snaefellsnes peninsula to view the Snaefellsjokull Glacier, renowned for its mystical powers that have captured the imagination of people all over the world ever since Jules Verne wrote "The Journey to the Centre of the Earth." Then we'll continue our journey along the coast past the beautiful beach at Djupalonssandur to visit the lively fishing village of Olafsvik. Granted its charter in 1687, Olafsvik is Iceland's oldest-established trading town. From here we'll travel to the old Bjarnarhofn Farm estate where we'll have an opportunity to sample traditional Icelandic shark and peek at the old church dedicated to St. Nicholas. Afterward, we'll begin our return journey to Reykjavik with the majestic and mystical Snaefellsjokull Glacier towering at the west end of the peninsula.

Wednesday, July 25 – REYKJAVIK (The South Shore Adventure) (B,L)

Today we'll explore Iceland's "South Shore." The Ring Road east of Reykjavik quickly ascends to a volcanically scarred mountain pass where there are views of the steaming crevasses and moss-covered scoria lava fields. Along the way, we'll stop to view Mount Hekla in the distance. Mount Hekla was once believed to be the entrance to hell, due to its eruptions followed by months of noisy rumbling, taken to be the sound of tormented souls. From here we'll enjoy the panoramic descent which takes us to the fertile green farmlands of the south plain. We'll stop in the village of Skogar to visit the meticulously managed Folk Museum and then view

the Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss Waterfall, one of Iceland's best photo opportunities. Then we're headed further east past the fascinating sea cliffs of Dyrholaey to the small village of Vik. Set along a dramatic stretch of coastline, we'll walk along the black sand beach to see the colonies of arctic terns on the rocky cliffs and to view the famous "blow hole" where the sea swells produce a massive column of water. On our return journey to Reykjavik we'll pass through the village of Hvolsvollur for an up-close view of the Solheimajokull Glacier.

Thursday, July 26 – REYKJAVIK

(Whales of Iceland)

(B,RD)

This morning we'll return to Reykjavik's waterfront to visit Whales of Iceland, the newest and largest whale exhibition in Europe. We'll learn about these giants of the sea in an interactive and modern environment. The year-round exhibition features life-size models of 23 whale species that have been seen in Iceland's coastal waters, as well as man-made skeletons of select whales. Even the leviathan of the sea, the blue whale is on display in full size. There is no better way to learn about whales than seeing these giants up close in full-size. Following our visit, the afternoon is at leisure to explore Reykjavik at your leisure. Whatever you choose to do, everything you desire is within easy reach as Reykjavik's compact city center places most destinations within walking distance. If you're seeking a slower pace, get to know the locals in a cozy coffee house. Of course, there is always shopping nearby, and you won't want to forget to bring home traditional Icelandic souvenirs. Art enthusiasts should visit the National Gallery and the



Museum of Photography, while music aficionados can visit the northernmost opera house in the world. Outside the city you'll find the Blue Lagoon, Iceland's premier geothermal spa. Icelanders and tourists alike are drawn here by the lagoon's bright blue, mineral-rich pool, where you'll have an opportunity to relax in the steaming geo-thermally-heated waters.

Friday, July 27 – REYKJAVIK / CHICAGO (B)

As all good things must come to an end, so too does our Icelandic Adventure. Early this afternoon we depart Reykjavik and travel to Keflavik Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories to last a lifetime and celebrate the beginning of new friendships made along the way!

***** Welcome Home *****

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of Icelandair.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- Accommodations at the CenterHotel Midgardur.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotel.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$225 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Guide, and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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