



Seljalandsfoss by Diana Robinson

ICELAND



Expedition Iceland: Glaciers, Volcanoes, and the Midnight Sun

Professional Development for STEM Education Leaders

June 19-27th 2017

Born of fire and ice, Iceland is unlike any place you've ever seen, and this STEM based expedition introduces you to the rugged landscape, rich cultural history, and dynamic earth forces through the eyes of industry, community, conservation, and research. You'll behold spectacular geologic formations in national parks on this exploration of Southern Iceland. Seek out diverse avian and marine life along black sand beaches, glacial lakes and towering rookeries. Discover the trendy capital, Reykjavik, and fishing villages whose quirky and charming people will inspire you with their creativity. Walk across blue-white glaciers and undulating lava fields. Float past a glittering iceberg or soak in a geothermal pool while exploring its source. Explore the oral and written history of the Vikings, through Saga Storytelling and tales of the hidden *huldufólk*, whose tiny gnome houses dot the countryside. All the while you'll enjoy maximum exploring time during the long, leisurely days of the Midnight Sun.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site set on the continental drift between the American and Eurasian tectonic plates, where the ancient Icelandic Alþingi parliament meet.
- Float among icebergs at the Jokulsárlón Glacial Lagoon.
- Sample Iceland's "New Nordic" cuisine which enhances traditional dishes with creative cooking techniques.
- Witness spouting hot springs and bubbling mudpools of Geysir, Goðafoss waterfall, Vik's black sand beaches, and the jagged coastline of the East Fjords.
- Engage the geothermal industry to explore the science of efficient energy production
- Convene on the topics of carbon sequestering, Iceland's unique Genetic landscape, and dynamic flora and fauna, inclusive of microbial geothermal dynamics

ITINERARY

BLD = Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 1 - Overnight Flight to Iceland

DAY 2 - Vatnsholt

Upon your arrival at Keflavík International Airport we hit the ground running. After breakfast, our first stop offers a unique glimpse into the efficient use of geothermal energies while offering a moment to recuperate from our overnight flight. Visit the Blue Lagoon, with a bonus opportunity to enjoy an amazing soak. Following we will continue onto Orkuverið Jörðin, Power Plant Earth. Here, we will be introduced to what is to come, as you step onto the Mid Atlantic Ridge, the boundary of the North American and the Eurasian tectonic plate margins. En-route we will detour to look at some pillow lavas that were extruded when this part of the Reykjanes Peninsula was submerged in the late Pleistocene. Visit the cliffs by Reykjanes lighthouse with breathtaking views across the North Atlantic and to Eldey Island, the island of fire that emerged from the ocean in the most recent sub oceanic eruption in the area. Then continue further to the Krisuvík geothermal field. *Overnight Vatnsholt Guesthouse (BLD)*

DAY 3 - Vatnsholt

Today you will visit the famous natural sights of Þingvellir, Geysir and Gullfoss. Þingvellir is one of the most interesting historical and geological places in Iceland and there you can witness the rift of the European and North American tectonic plates. You will now visit Friðheimar farm where you learn how the geothermal energy is used for greenhouse heating and observe a horse show with the unique Icelandic horse. After lunch at the greenhouse continue on to Geysir, located in Haukadalur. It is the most famous spouting hot spring in the world and the origin of the international word 'geyser'. Geysir's bowl stretches 18 m across and when it erupted regularly would spout to heights of up to 60 m. Today it does not erupt without human intervention, but a nearby hot spring, Strokkur, spouts about every ten minutes. Gullfoss, in the Hvítá River, is Iceland's most famous waterfall, and has long been regarded as one of the most beautiful in the world. *Overnight Vatnsholt Guesthouse (BLD)*



DAY 4 - Þórsmörk

This morning we will venture to explore the history of the Icelandic Horse. Every breed of horse is the direct result of the needs and desires of the culture that has created it! Over the last millennium, the Icelandic horse has been a mainstay of Iceland - as both a work and transportation asset. What's especially interesting about watching the Icelandic Horse is its light feet, amazing balance, and ability to master five gaits rather than just the traditional three. Following, those who have pre-booked a riding tour (at additional cost) will enjoy a ride that will include a 1 ½ - 2 hour journey around the farm, through a small river, a lava field, and along wide meadows. Enjoy a nice view of the volcanic mountains surrounding the Hengill volcano. *Not Riding? Visit to Hveragerði Geothermal Park for a natural clay foot bath in the park following a soak for your feet in one of the hot springs.* After the riding tour, enjoy Icelandic seafood soup made from local ingredients. After lunch, we continue our journey for a visit the Saga Museum in Hvolsvöllur where we will learn about the interesting historical figures and events that took place in the area. On the way to Þórsmörk glacier valley we will drive through the Saga areas. *Overnight at Volcano Huts (BLD)*

DAY 5 - Þórsmörk

This morning you will enjoy a moderate hike and a picnic lunch in Þórsmörk. Þórsmörk is a unique wooded valley that lies sheltered between two glaciers, Mýrdalsjökull and Eyjafjallajökull. It is a place of extraordinary natural beauty and stunning contrasts of gentle woodlands and rugged glaciers. There is also an optional three hour hike to the eruption site of Fimmvörðuháls mountain ridge that erupted in 2010. *Overnight at Volcano Huts (BLD)*

DAY 6 - Kirkjubaejarklauster

Today you will say farewell to Þórsmörk and cross the Krossá River for an exciting adventure. Great care must be taken when entering/exiting Þórsmörk, especially when crossing that river. On the way back to your accommodations stop at Seljalandfoss to hike behind the waterfall. Drive along the south shore. Begin with a visit to Eyjafjallajökull center to learn about the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption. En route, stop to see Skógafoss waterfall, 60m high and counted among the most breathtaking sites in the country. Later arrive at Sólheimajökull, a glacier tongue about 8 km long and 12 km wide, coming from the southwest of the glacier Mýrdalsjökull. There try out a glacier walk on the ice (all glacier gear provided). Visit the cliffs of Dyrhólaey and Vík Village, located below the Mýrdalsjökull Glacier and the still active Katla Volcano. Our day will end with a pre-sunset exploration of the world-famous Reynisfjara shore, near the village Vík in Myrdalur on Iceland's South Coast, is widely regarded as the most impressive black-sand beach in Iceland. Reynisfjara is a black pebble beach and features an amazing cliff of regular basalt columns resembling a rocky step pyramid, which is called Gardar. Out in the sea are the spectacularly shaped basalt sea stacks Reynisdrangar. The area has a rich birdlife, including puffins, fulmars and guillemots. *Overnight at Klauster Area. (BLD)*

DAY 7 – Kirkjubæjarklauster

Visit Skaftafell National Park. This park is located between high mountains, Lómagnúpur and the Oræfajökull Glacier, an extinct volcano that peaks at Hvanndalhnjúkur, Iceland's highest point at 2,119 m. Skaftafell is a wooded area surrounded by expanses of sand desert deposited by glacial rivers. Upon arrival take a hike to the waterfall Svartifoss. After the hike visit the Glacier Lagoon and take a boat tour amongst the floating icebergs. Since 1950 the glacier tongue of Breiðamerkurjökull has retreated and a lagoon, gradually increasing in area, was created. The lagoon is very deep, at least 283 m. The edge of the glacier carves into the lagoon and icebergs of different sizes are created. Navigating through the natural ice sculptures and the blue green ice is an unforgettable adventure. *Overnight at Klauster Area. (BLD)*

DAY 8 – Reykjavik

Today, drive along the south coast of Iceland arriving in Reykjavik for a visit to the National Museum and walking tour of the city. After having the opportunity to explore a variety of site and natural environments of Iceland, we will convene for a 1 hour discussion (approximately 4:30pm) representing key areas of the sciences of Iceland such as Microbial Geothermal Research, Volcanology, and Biodiversity. Following our talk at 6pm we will continue to Keflavik for our Farewell dinner (crab and shellfish feast) at restaurant Vitinn in Sandgerði. *Overnight at Fosshotel Lind (BD)*

DAY 9 – Afternoon Departure

We will enjoy free time this morning in the city, before we transfer to the airport for our flight home.



For More Information or To Register:

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CONTACT:

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206-604-5715 (cell)

Land Pricing

\$4,390.00 (per person)

Based on Double Occupancy
Single Supplement: \$595.00

Price is based on minimum participation of 22. (Should the group be *smaller than 22*, the anticipated rate will be \$4,975.00 pp.) This program is all-inclusive and includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature are not included.

Airline Estimate:

\$848.00

Date	Departure City	Arrival City
06/19/2017	New York, JFK	Reykjavik
	9:09 pm	7:00 am
06/27/2017	Reykjavik	New York, JFK
	8:30 am	10:40 am

Group transfers between the airport and hotel are included in your program cost. These transfers are scheduled at specific times based on group air reservation. You may elect to make your own air arrangements, please note, if some individual flights are not scheduled to arrive in time for the group transfer, we can provide information about alternative arrangements at an additional cost. Upon registration, we will work to support your air options.

The Fine Print

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.

Payment Schedule

Deposit due:	January 19, 2017
Full balance due:	March 17, 2017