Exploring Iceland

David Bercovici
Frederick William Beinecke Professor of Geophysics
Dear Yale Traveler,

Travel with Yale on a special small group journey to explore a land of astonishing natural beauty and diverse wildlife: Iceland: July 14-24, 2018. To introduce myself, I am the Frederick William Beinecke Professor of Geophysics and am delighted to be representing Yale as lecturer on this wonderful program.

Discover Iceland’s remarkable natural history and rich cultural heritage as we traverse an astonishing land. We will start in Borgarbyggo’s scenic environs where we will tour the stunning Snaefellsnes Peninsula with its lava field, fishing villages, bizarre rock formation, and thousands of nesting cliff birds. Along the way, call on a farm with famed Icelandic horses, tour folk museums, waterfalls, mudflats, national parks, enjoy 3 nights in the region’s charming capital, Akureyri, and visit a geothermal exhibit at Iceland’s largest power plant. End this wonderful journey with two nights in Iceland’s capital with time slotted for leisurely exploration.

This delightful program will be limited to a small group. Call Yale today at 203-432-1952 to hold your space on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

All the best from Yale,

David Bercovici
Frederick William Beinecke
Professor of Geophysics

www.yaleedtravel.org/iceland18
Yale Study Leader

David Bercovici

David Bercovici is the Frederick William Beinecke Professor of Geophysics. Professor Bercovici has been at Yale since 2001, and prior to that he was a professor for 10 years at the University of Hawaii. His undergraduate degree is from Harvey Mudd College and he received his PhD from UCLA, after which he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod. His research ranges from flow and convection in planetary interiors, to volcanic eruptions and lava flows, to carbon sequestration and energy. Professor Bercovici teaches the very popular Yale College courses "Natural Disasters" and "The Origin of Everything" and has taken undergraduates on "natural disaster" field trips to Hawaii, Dominica, and Martinique, to explore areas prone to earthquakes, tsunami, hurricanes, and especially volcanic activity. He looks forward to the trip and sharing his passion for Iceland's natural beauty and fascinating geology with alumni and their families.

Upcoming Trips

Alaska’s Coastal Wilderness
July 1-8, 2018
Professor Vladimir Alexandrov

Russia In Revolution (1918)
Moscow and St. Petersburg
July 22-30, 2018
Professor Jay Winter

Yale Week in Venice
October 13-20, 2018
Professor John Paoletti

Cuba Legacies & Landscapes
October 19-29, 2018
Professor Reinaldo Funes-Monzote

Book Corner

Ring of Seasons: Iceland, Its Culture and History
Terry G. Lacy
A longtime resident of Reykjavik, Lacy weaves tales of family life, anecdote, lore and history into this illuminating personal portrait of Iceland.

The Great Weaver from Kashmir
Halladór Laxness
First published in 1927, this first major book by the esteemed Icelandic writer Halladór Laxness (Independent People) propelled Iceland into the modern world. An experimental novel, it tells the story of a young poet who flees the confines of his island nation for the complexities of post-WWI Europe.
ITINERARY
JULY 14-24, 2018

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Wednesday, July 11
(date tentative)
Join the group at 4PM EST for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Bercovici in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

DEPART U.S. FOR REYKJAVIK, ICELAND
Saturday, July 14

ARRIVE REYKJAVIK/ BORGARBYGGO
Sunday, July 15
Upon our early morning arrival in Iceland’s capital, we meet our Tour Director and enjoy a scenic drive north, stopping for breakfast along the way. Then we take an excursion to the thermal areas of Deildartunguhver and Hraunfossar Falls; and visit the Settlement Center, an interactive museum detailing the story of Iceland’s earliest settlers, including that of famed 10th-century Viking Egil Skallagrimsson. After reaching out hotel mid-afternoon, we have time to relax before this evening’s briefing on the journey ahead followed by a welcome dinner. (B/D)

BORGARBYGGO/AKUREYRI
Tuesday, July 17
We travel towards the northeast corner of Iceland today, and to the fjords of Akureyri, Iceland’s northern capital. Along the way we stop at Grasbrok Crater for scenic views, and at a Gauksmyri farm featuring famed Icelandic horses – small, hardy, and with long manes. We also tour Glaumbaer, a folk museum featuring authentic turf houses. Upon arrival in Akureyri, we take a guided coach and walking tour of this urban gem before checking in at our hotel. (B/D)

AKUREYRI/LAKE MYVATN
Wednesday, July 18
Today we travel to beautiful Lake Myvatn. One of the world’s natural wonders, Lake Myvatn and its environs of bubbling mud flats, lava fields, and lunar-like volcanic craters comprise a stunningly beautiful national park. Our explorations begin with a walk up to the fascinating Hverfjall crater, a local landmark. Later we see the region’s unique “pseudo craters,” the boiling mud pots at Namaskard, the bizarre lava formations at Dimmuborgir, and the flat volcano system at Krafla. Our last stop is the incredible Glacial River Canyon National Park, yet another of Iceland’s natural wonders, where we walk to jaw-dropping Dettifoss, Europe’s most powerful waterfall and Iceland’s “Niagara.” After this day of stunning scenery, we return to our hotel in time for dinner on our own tonight. (B/L)

AKUREYRI/JÖKULSÁRGJÚFUR NATIONAL PARK
Thursday, July 19
This morning we visit Hljodaklettar Echo Cliffs where we explore the labyrinth of “echoing rocks” created by the spiral basalt formations of arches and canyons here. We travel next to Asbyrgi, a huge canyon enveloped by towering walls; in the middle of the partially wooded canyon sits a huge hoof-shaped rock called “The Island.” We continue on to Husavik, where mid-afternoon we embark on a bird-watching cruise to Puffin Island to see the thousands of seabirds here (based on seasonality): puffins, black guillemots, fulmars, and Arctic terns. Then en route back to Akureyri, we stop at Godafoss, the “waterfall of the gods” named for the carvings of Norse gods discarded here when the country was declared Christian a thousand years ago. (B/D)

AKUREYRI/REYKJAVIK/ SELFOS
Friday, July 20
This morning we fly to Reykjavik; upon arrival we coach to Thingvellir

Visit the Hellisheidi Power Plant to see the geothermal exhibit.
National Park, known both for its historic import and as the place where the fissure between the geological plates of North America and Europe is most evident. It’s also a gem of nature, with canyons, caves, waterfalls, and ponds surrounded by snow-capped mountains. We learn about the historic parliament founded here in 930 ce, and walk along a gorge into the rift valley itself. After a lunch of wild freshwater trout at a lakeside hotel, we depart for famed Great Geysir and Gullfoss, Iceland’s immensely popular “golden” waterfall. Then we drive down to the southern coast to the beautiful agricultural area of Selfoss.  (B/L)

**SELFOS/VIK**  
*Saturday, July 21*
This morning we walk along the black-sand beach at Reynisfjara, lined with columnar basalt-filled caves. Next we visit picturesque Seljalandsfoss, Iceland’s most visited waterfall, followed by a stop at the Skogar Folk Museum, which depicts traditional life in Iceland. From here we walk to nearby Skogafoss, one of Iceland’s most popular waterfalls, known for its rainbows on sunny days. After lunch on our own at the museum, we continue on to lovely Vik, Iceland’s southernmost town, where we’re free to explore on our own and to shop for items of locally produced wool. En route to our hotel, we stop by the Solheimajokull “sliding” glacier, so named for its rapid advance in the 1990s.  (B/D)

**SELFOS/REYKJAVIK**  
*Sunday, July 22*
Heading back to Reykjavik today we travel through “saga” country, the setting of one of the country’s famous medieval stories. We stop along the way to see the geothermal exhibit at the Hellisheidi Power Plant, Iceland’s largest. Upon arrival in Reykjavik, we have lunch at a local restaurant then embark on a city tour of the Icelandic capital. Home to more than half of Iceland’s population, Reykjavik ranks as one of the world’s safest and cleanest cities. Later, we check in at our well-located hotel in the city center. Dinner tonight is on our own in this stylish city.  (B/L)

**REYKJAVIK**  
*Monday, July 23*
Today is at leisure to explore and enjoy Reykjavik as we please; those who wish can join in an optional tour to the Blue Lagoon for a soothing bath in geothermal waters rich with silica, sulfur, and other minerals.

The city is a sophisticated European urban center with museums and galleries; theater, symphony, and dance; boutiques and restaurants. Tonight we celebrate our adventure over a farewell dinner.  (B/D)

**DEPART FOR U.S.**  
*Tuesday, July 24*
This morning is free, perhaps for some last-minute shopping. Early this afternoon we depart for the airport and our return flights to the U.S.  (B)

*Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.*

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**What Is Included:**
- Program of lectures and discussions with Yale Professor David Bercovici
- 9 nights’ accommodations in First Class hotels
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- 20 meals: 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 dinners
- Services of a Tour Director
- Welcome & Farewell Dinner (including glasses of domestic wine/beer)
- Gratuities for the tour director, local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
- Assistance and porterage at the airports
- Bottled water and private motorcoach transportation
- Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assistance

**What Is Not Included:**
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, medical expenses, etc.
- Any insurance
- Any meals or beverages that are not specified in the itinerary
- Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package
- Expenses caused by factors beyond our control like rail and airplane delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, taxes, lost luggage, etc.
Hotel Kea
Opened in 1944, Hotel Kea stands in the center of Akureyri, Northern Iceland's capital, and offers a restaurant and bar, internet access, and laundry and dry cleaning services. Each of the 104 guest rooms has a private bath with hair dryer, mini-bar, tea- and coffee-making facilities, TV, and phone.

Program Cost
The base cost for this program, per person, based on double occupancy:
$7,395 including air from Boston, New York, Washington, DC
$347 airline taxes and fees additional.

Single Supplement:
$995 (limited availability)

Please note: This tour involves considerable walking on uneven terrain in a natural environment. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy this tour to the fullest.

Hotel Husafell
Situated at the edge of Iceland's central highlands in the heart of Husafell and boasting stunning views, this sustainably designed, modern hotel offers a restaurant and bar, laundry service, and complimentary Wi-Fi internet access. Each of the 48 guest rooms has a private bath with hair dryer, mini-refrigerator, tea- and coffee-making facilities, TV, and phone.

Hotel Selfoss
This bright, modern 99-room lodging sits on the banks of the Ólfusá River amidst South Iceland's stunning natural beauty. The hotel offers a restaurant; bar and lounge; café; spa with steam room, sauna, thermal hot pool, and massage services; laundry and dry cleaning services; and internet access. Guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, mini-bar, in-room safe, TV, and phone.

Hotel Grand Reykjavik
The Grand Hotel Reykjavik is situated in a quiet area close to Laugardalur Park. The modern 311-room hotel offers a restaurant, bar, spa with steam room and sauna, hair salon, laundry and dry cleaning services, and complimentary shuttle service to downtown Reykjavik. Guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, mini-bar, tea- and coffee-making facilities, complimentary Wi-Fi Internet access, in-room safe, mini-fridge, TV, and phone.

Accommodations

Hotel Kea

Hotel Husafell

Hotel Selfoss

Hotel Grand Reykjavik

Reserve Your Trip to Iceland Today

Book online: www.yaleedtravel.org/iceland18
Exploring Iceland  
July 14-24, 2018  
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To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to YET ($200 is non-refundable due to administrative fees). Final payment is due April 10, 2018.

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Terms and Conditions
HEALTH AND MEDICAL ISSUES
We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, on uneven terrain in a natural environment and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and Yale Educational Travel (“YET”) assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

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Discover the astonishing beauty of Iceland.

Travel the breadth of the country, getting an up-close view of its incomparable landscapes and urban life.

Encounter stunning, unique natural beauty, from canyons and volcanic craters to vast lava fields and powerful waterfalls.