EXPLORING ICELAND
May 10-20, 2018

11 days from $5,047 total price from Boston, New York, Wash, DC
($4,645 air & land inclusive plus $402 airline taxes and fees)

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for the Columbia Alumni Association Travel Study Program
Dear Fellow Columbian,

Travel with the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) from May 10-20, 2018, on an exclusive small group journey exploring Iceland, a land of astonishing natural beauty and diverse wildlife. Highlights include a tour of the Snaefellsnes Peninsula; charming Akureyri; Godafoss, “waterfall of the Gods,” and Dettifoss, Iceland’s “Niagara;” Lake Mytvan’s mud flats, lava fields, and volcanic craters; and Thingvellir National Park. Conclude your adventure in lively Reykjavik, with free time to explore its many museums and galleries.

The CAA is a global network connecting Columbians of all schools to one another and to the intellectual and social fabric of Columbia University, even after graduation. It links over 330,000 alumni through more than 100 Regional Clubs and Shared Interest Groups, online resources, and over 200 thought-provoking programs around the world. The CAA Travel Study Program is one of the benefits offered to Columbia alumni and is an opportunity to continue one’s Columbia education through new intellectual, cultural, and geographical horizons.

Space is limited to just 24 guests and will fill quickly. Please contact the Alumni Travel Study Program at travelstudy@columbia.edu or 866-325-8664 for more details and to reserve your place on this fascinating tour of Iceland!

Sincerely,

Donna H. MacPhee ’89CC, P: ’17CC
Vice President for Alumni Relations
President, Columbia Alumni Association

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY RESERVATION FORM: EXPLORING ICELAND

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______$500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Exploring Iceland departing May 10, 2018. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and send, with completed reservation form, to: Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program, P.O. Box 930, Riverside, CT 06878. Phone: 866-325-8664; fax: 203-724-0844; e-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu; website: http://alumni.columbia.edu/travel.

Full Passport Name ________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender _______
Badge Name _________________________________________ School/Degree/Year ___________________________
Full Passport Name ________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender _______
Badge Name _________________________________________ School/Degree/Year ___________________________
Address _________________________________________ City ______________________ State _____ ZIP _________
E-mail ___________________________________________ Columbia UNI ___________________________
Home Phone (______)______________________________ Cell Phone (______)________________________________

Please book my/our air from ______________________________ I/We request a Business Class upgrade ❑
I will share a room with ___________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ❑

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activites for Exploring Iceland, May 10-20, 2018, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) ________________________________________________________________ Date________________

Method of Payment ❑ Check ❑ American Express ❑ Discover ❑ MasterCard ❑ VISA
Account # __________________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date _______________
Name of Cardholder ________________________________________________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.
Day 1: Depart U.S. for Reykjavik, Iceland

Day 2: Arrive Reykjavik/Borgarbyggo

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 our hotel mid-afternoon, we have time to relax before this evening’s briefing on the journey ahead followed by a welcome dinner. 

Day 3: Borgarbyggo/Snaefellsnes Peninsula

Today we encounter the stupendous scenery of the Snaefellsnes Peninsula. We begin with a walk along the shell sand beach at the abandoned fishing village of Budir, surrounded by a vast lava field. We also explore the caves and bizarre rock formations along the rugged shore at Arnarstapi, site of thousands of nesting cliff birds. After stopping for lunch – a traditional fresh seafood soup – at a rustic oceanfront restaurant, we visit Djupalonssandur where we see the haunting remains of abandoned coastal farms.

Day 4: Borgarbyggo/Akureyri

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 Grabok Crater for scenic views, and at the 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.

Day 5: Akureyri/Lake Myvatn

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

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for Reykjavik
2-3 Borgarbyggo Hotel Husafell First Class
4-6 Akureyri Hotel Kea First Class
7-8 Selfoss Hotel Selfoss First Class
9-10 Reykjavik Hotel Reykjavik Centrum First Class
11 Depart Reykjavik for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

It’s a surprising, even astonishing land; one of massive glaciers and rumbling volcanoes, bubbling mud holes and powerful waterfalls; hugely abundant bird life and just 300,000 people; and where the sun never sets for six splendid weeks. It’s also perfect for exploring in a small group, as we discover traveling the breadth of the country and getting an up-close view of this natural “wonderland.”

Cover Photo: On Day 7 we visit the beautiful – and popular – Gullfoss waterfall.
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, the explosive crater at Viti, 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.

Day 6: Akureyri/Jökulsárgljúfur National Park
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 developed 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

Day 7: Akureyri/Reykjavik/Selfoss This morning we fly to Reykjavik; upon arrival we coach to Thingvellir 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

Iceland boasts 8-10 million puffins.
**Day 8: Selfoss/Vik** This morning we walk along the black-sand beach at Reynisfjara, lined with columnar basalt-filled caves. Next we visit picturesque Seljalandfoss, 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 Solheimajökull “sliding” glacier, so named for its rapid advance in the 1990s. B,D

**Day 9: Selfoss/Reykjavik** 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

**Day 10: Reykjavik** 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

**Day 11: Depart for U.S.** 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

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; flight within itinerary
- 9 nights’ accommodations in First Class hotels
- 20 meals: 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of a Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: May 10, 2018

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<th>City</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>Boston, New York, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Baltimore, Denver, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Seattle</td>
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<td>Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco</td>
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<td>Land Only (transfers not included)</td>
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $402, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $995. All prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed. Business Class upgrade on round-trip international flight per person: $1,495 from Boston, New York, Washington, DC (Dulles); $2,195 from Chicago, Minneapolis; $2,395 from Denver, Seattle (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrades are in addition to the costs above.

For reservations and information, please contact the Columbia Alumni Association Travel Study Program at 866-325-8664, or fax 203-724-0844, or e-mail travelstudy@columbia.edu
Join Us on an Exclusive Tour to Iceland!

Limited to 24 Guests

Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program
P.O. Box 930
Riverside, CT 06878

Guaranteed Small Group: 24 Guests