ICELAND

Natural History of Iceland

MAR 436/436L (4 Credits)

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Tentative Travel Dates: Late May | Estimated Travel Fee: $3,800

Sample Itinerary

DAY 1 | Fly to Reykjavík, Iceland
Fly from Boston to Reykjavík.

DAY 2 | Explore Reykjavík
Tour of the city to include the iconic Harpa performance center, Laugavegur shopping district, Hallgrimskirkja church, and Perlan hot water reservoir with views of the city, lunch, and dinner.

DAY 3 | The Golden Circle
Breakfast, then drive The Golden Circle route with stops at Thingvellier Nat'l Park, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Althing (the historic national parliament of Iceland), Geyser hot spring, Kerid Crater and lake, and waterfalls. Lunch on the road and then return to Rekjavik for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4 | Volcanoes and lava fields
Breakfast, drive south of Reykjavík to the Reykjanes Peninsula to hike in the most recent lava fields from ongoing volcanic eruptions in Iceland. Depending on volcanic activity, visit either the Reykjanesfolkvangur nature preserve or Mount Keilier. Return to Reykjavík for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5 | Drive north to Akureyri
Breakfast, then drive to Akureyri. Along the way, explore waterfalls, craters, and the most powerful hot water spring in Europe. Experience a tour of the ice caves of Langjökull, the second largest glacier in Iceland. Dinner and overnight in Akureyri.

DAY 6 | Myvatn
Breakfast and drive to the Lake Myvatn region. You will explore Godafoss waterfall, Dimmuborgir lava fields, and Karfla volcano (which erupted just 20 years ago). Also, in Namafjall you will see a spectacular volcanic landscape with hot springs, boiling mud pools, and fumaroles. Return to Akureyi for dinner and overnight.

DAY 7 | Whale watch & snorkeling
Breakfast, board boat for whale watching and snorkeling, return to Akureyri for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8 | Diamond Circle
Breakfast and Diamond Circle tour with puffin cliffs, large waterfalls, and Asbyrgi National Park. Return to Akureyri for dinner and overnight.

DAY 9 | Snorkeling in Nesgja & Litlaá
Breakfast, drive north to Husavik, snorkel between the European and the American tectonic plate, see hydrothermal springs under water, return to Akureyri for dinner and overnight.

DAY 10 | Hólar
Breakfast, then explore culture and history in Hólar, including the Episcopal See of Nothern Iceland, Hólar Cathedral, and the Nyibaer turf house. Lunch and tour an aquaculture facility, drive to Saudarkrodur marine lab, explore an intertidal region and return to Akureyri for dinner and overnight.

DAY 11 | University of Akureyri, Fisheries
Breakfast, University of Akureyri tour, fisheries visit, lunch, and return to Akureyri for dinner and overnight.

DAY 12 | Return to Reykjavík
Breakfast, pack, drive back to Reykjavík, lunch, visit Viking museum, dinner, and overnight.

DAY 13 | Fly back to the U.S.
Return flight to Boston.