



Photo by Alan Morgan



## ICELAND

Red Rocks Community College  
 Energy, Geology, and History in Iceland  
 July 26 - August 4, 2014



### SUMMER COURSES

PHY 208 Field Studies: Energy  
 GEY 208 Field Studies: Geology  
 HIS 247 20th Century World History

Iceland is an island of contrasts: a land of glaciers, erupting volcanoes, and the midnight sun. Geology and its northerly latitude combined to shape Iceland's unique culture and ancient Viking history. Still the most sparsely populated country in Europe, Iceland's uninhabited interior is an arctic desert punctuated with mountains, glaciers, volcanoes, and waterfalls. This 11-day program explores Iceland's unique geology, history, and culture with visits to a variety of environments including bursting springs, towering waterfalls, blue lagoons, and the fascinating capital city of Reykjavík.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness the incredible sights of towering waterfalls and bursting geysers.
- Hike across glaciers and inactive volcano sites.
- Visit local power plants to gain an understanding of thermal energy production.
- Swim in bathing pools surrounded by colorful Rhyolite mountains.
- Explore the capital city of Reykjavík.
- Listen to the folk stories and sagas that make up Iceland's unique cultural history, including the legend of the hidden people.

## ITINERARY

### JULY 26 - DEPART U.S.

### JULY 27 - HELLA

Upon your arrival at Keflavík International Airport you will be met by your guide. After breakfast, visit the Víkingaheimar with a replica of a Icelandic Viking ship. Next, drive around the peninsula and 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 Krísuvík geothermal field. Head to the hotel with an informative stop at Hellisheiðarvirkjun geothermal Power Plant. *Overnight at Arnes Hostel. (D)*

### JULY 28 - HELLA

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 where you can witness the rift of the European and North American tectonic plates. Visit Friðheimar farm and learn how the geothermal energy is used for greenhouse heating. Observe a horse show with the unique Icelandic horse. Continue 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 doesn't 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. In the afternoon head back to same accommodation. *Overnight at Arnes Hostel. (BD)*

### JULY 29 - ÞÓRSMÖRK

After breakfast, drive back out of the valley and stop at Seljalandsfoss to hike behind the waterfall. Then drive along the south shore where your first stop will be at Eyjafjallajökull visitor center where you will watch a film about the Eyjafjallajökull eruption in 2010. En route, stop for the chance to see the Skógafoss waterfall, 60 m high and counted among the most breathtaking sites in the country. Later pass Sólheimajökull, a glacier tongue about 8 km long and 12 km wide, coming from the southwest of the glacier Mýrdalsjökull. There you get to try out a glacier walk with all glacier gear provided. Visit Dyrhólaey cliff where a puffin colony can be found. Continue to Kirkjubæjarklaustur area where you stay for four nights. *Overnight at Klausturhof Guesthouse. (BLD)*

### JULY 30 - KIRKJUBÆJARKLAUSTUR

Today we travel on less travelled interior of Iceland. Start with the beautiful track Öldufellsleið to an area called Fjallabak South, driving along the east and north side of Mýrdalsjökull Glacier, through the black and mysterious desert of Mælifellssandur with green mountains all around. Visit beautiful canyons and valleys and hike to the warm nature pool Strútslaug. Return to your accommodation in the afternoon. *Overnight at Klausturhof Guesthouse. (BLD)*

### JULY 31 - KIRKJUBÆJARKLAUSTUR

Visit Skaftafell National Park. This park is located between high mountains, Lómagnúpur, and Oræfajökull Glacier, an extinct volcano that peaks at Hvannadalshnjúkur, Iceland's highest point at 6,952 feet. Skaftafell is a wooded area surrounded by expanses of sand desert deposited by glacial rivers. Upon arrival, hike to the Svartifoss Waterfall. 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 928.5 feet. 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 Klausturhof Guesthouse. (BD)*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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### AUGUST 1 - KIRKJUBÆJARKLAUSTUR

Day tour into Laki craters and hike to the top of Laki mountain. *Overnight at Klausturhof Guesthouse. (BD)*

### AUGUST 2 - KIRKJUBÆJARKLAUSTUR

Follow the route of Fjallabak North mountain track passing Eldgjá, fire gorge, that erupted in 1783. Proceed to Landmannlaugar Nature Reserve and hike around the area. Those who dare can hop into the warm nature pool. Picnic lunch in the area. Continue along the highland road and pass Hekla, one of Iceland's most active volcanoes. *Overnight at Hrauneyjar highland center or similar. (BLD)*

### AUGUST 3 - REYKJAVÍK

Drive through the area of Þjórsárdalur Valley that gets its name from the glacial river running through it, Þjórsá. In the valley, there are beautiful waterfalls and ruins of 20 old farms been found. Visit one of these farms, Stong, excavated in 1939 and believed to have been buried under pumice and ashes from the Hekla eruption of 1104. You'll also visit Búrfell Hydroelectric Power Station. Arrive early in Reykjavík capital and visit the National Museum of Iceland before checking in at the accommodation. This evening enjoy a farewell Viking feast. *Overnight at KEX Hostel. (BLD)*

### AUGUST 4 - DEPARTURE

Free time this morning before transferring to the airport for the flight home. (B)



PHOTO BY LISA PALMESE-GRAUBARD

## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$3,295** (based on minimum of 15 participants)

Estimated international airfare out of Denver: \$1,275

Single Supplement: \$600

\$500 deposit due April 15

Payment of \$800 due by April 25

Final payment due by May 27

## THE FINE PRINT

Rates are based on triple and quadruple occupancy. A \$500 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than April 15, 2014. This deposit is refundable until April 23, 2014 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Cancellations after April 23, 2014 will result in loss of full deposit. A payment of \$800 is due by April 25, 2014. Final payments are due no later than May 27, 2014. Cancellations received after that date are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information, call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.