

ICELAND EXPEDITION



YOUNG ALUMNI TRIP

AUGUST 10 - 13, 2017

Land package:
From \$998

ICELAND
EXPEDITION



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Dear Young Alumni and Friends:

Join the Michigan State University Alumni Association on this exciting 5-day journey and explore Iceland in the company of like-minded MSU alumni.

Get to know Iceland's most famous natural treasures, experience black beaches, glacier views, stunning coastlines, magnificent bird cliffs, delightful towns, incredible waterfalls, erupting geysers, tectonic plates and take a plunge into the healing mineral waters of the Blue Lagoon.

Walk in the footsteps of your favorite Game of Thrones characters and take time to visit the striking wilderness chosen to represent the regions north of the Seven Kingdoms or journey to the dramatic gorge at Thingvellir - the stomping ground of the White Walkers and the Wildlings.

Participate in optional activities or plan your free time with new friends. The program offers a great balance of planned and educational activities and time for independent exploration, time to relax, and create an adventure all your own.

We hope you will be able to join us for this amazing experience! Book early to reserve your space on this very popular tour. Book your journey on-line at www.alumniworldtravel.com/msu-ice.html or call our tour operator, AESU at 800-638-7640.

We look forward to having you travel with us.

Sincerely,

Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Association
Phone: 888-697-2863



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WHAT DO I GET



COVERAGE

When you book your young alumni trip with us the necessities of travel are taken care of.

These include:

SUPERIOR TOURIST CLASS HOTELS
ALL LAND TRANSPORTATION
DAILY BREAKFAST
SPECIAL CULTURAL DINNERS
KNOWLEDGABLE TOUR DIRECTOR
LOCAL HISTORIANS & NATURALISTS

(See more in the itinerary on page 4)

EDUCATIONAL & ADVENTUROUS

Whether you can't wait to immerse yourself in the beautiful sites of the most northern capital in the world and the tranquility of the infamous Blue Lagoon or you're more inclined to explore during your freetime and partake in an optional glacier walk, this tour provides a beautiful balance of historical education and complete sensory and cultural immersion into the vivacious life of this country.

THE VERDICT?

Don't miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime to explore the places you have been dreaming of or reading about in your text books. Make some new best friends from around the world and create memories that will keep this journey alive forever.

It's not rocket science, group travel is a safer way to explore the world. This trip provides you with an exciting approach to learning and taking in all the history and culture around you. Open your mind, see the world and have the most fun you've ever had.

JUST GO!

ICELAND EXPEDITION

5 DAYS

ABOUT THE TRIP:

Get to know Iceland's most famous natural treasures, experience black beaches, glacier views, stunning coastlines, magnificent bird cliffs, delightful towns, incredible waterfalls, erupting geysers, tectonic plates and take a plunge into the healing mineral waters of the Blue Lagoon. Walk in the footsteps of your favorite Game of Thrones characters and take time to visit the striking wilderness chosen to represent the regions north of the Seven Kingdoms or journey to the dramatic gorge at Thingveillir - the stomping ground of the White Walkers and the Wildlings. Blame it on those long winter nights or perhaps the endless summer days, or the exceptional quality of locally produced beer and schnapps; Reykjavik's legendary nightlife or "jammith" as the locals refer to it, has gained a reputation for being one of the hottest places to party in the world today!

HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome Orientation and cocktail party* City sightseeing tour * Golden circle tour * Old Town Center tour * Reykjavik bar crawl * Gullfoss waterfall * Strokkur fountain geyser
* Thingveillir National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site) *
The Blue Lagoon* ... AND MUCH MORE!

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

(Not included in package price)

Optional South coast excursion with glacier walk

We drive from Reykjavik through the fertile farmlands of South Iceland, heading towards the majestic mountains towering over the coast, among them the snow shrouded Hekla and the ice capped volcano Eyjafjallajokull, last active in 2010. We continue through the region where one of the best known of the Icelandic classical sagas, Njal's Saga, is set. The South Shore is one of the most popular regions of Iceland for a number of reasons: The waterfalls Seljalandsfoss and Skogarfoss tumbling over high rock escarpments; the stone arch Dyrhalaey with its sheer cliffs, the picturesque setting of Vik village, a row of glaciers towering over the scenery and the Reynisdrangar rock pillars (some say they are petrified trolls) decorating the black beach of Reynihverfi. Late in the day we head back to Reykjavik after a memorable day. Duration: 10 hours.

Please check with your tour director for detailed schedules. Some options may require a minimum number of participants to operate. Rates for options are per person, approximate and subject to change.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 3 nights at superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- Daily continental breakfast
- Welcome cocktail and orientation with private tour director
- Reykjavik bar crawl
- Guided Old Town Center tour
- Airport transfers with purchase of AESU group airfare
- Full day 'Golden Circle Tour' including
 - Gullfoss waterfall
 - Geysir & Strokkur hot springs
 - Thingveillir National Park UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Fish & Chips farewell dinner
- The Blue Lagoon Geothermal Spa

PLUS:

- Private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour
- All scheduled sightseeing
- All ground transportation by private motor coach, as per itinerary
- All service charges and local taxes

ICELAND EXPEDITION

ITINERARY

DAY 1 FLIGHT TO REYKJAVIK

Embark on an overnight journey to Iceland's capital city.

Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 ARRIVE REYKJAVIK

Arrive in Iceland, "Land of the Midnight Sun" and transfer to the hotel. If arriving on a group flight, our expedition starts with a short city sightseeing tour of the northernmost capital in the world. Our tour includes the old town center, the Parliament, Cathedral and much more. Afterwards we check into our hotel. This evening, join a welcome orientation and cocktail with the tour director. Later on we are invited to a Reykjavik bar crawl.

Meals: In-flight, Welcome cocktail

DAY 3 REYKJAVIK * Golden Circle Tour

The Golden Circle Tour is probably Iceland's most popular day tour as it includes three of the best known attractions. The golden waterfall Gullfoss, is one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe with thousands of tons of icy water thundering majestically into a deep canyon. The Geyser area has numerous hot springs and geysers, including the famous Strokkur. Thingvellir is the site of the world's oldest democratic parliament founded in 930 and the beautiful canyon running through the park is the dividing fault line between two of the earth's tectonic plates.

We return to Reykjavik for an evening at your leisure. Don't miss out on Reykjavik's legendary night life.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 REYKJAVIK * Optional day tour to the south shore with glacier walk

Enjoy a free day to explore Reykjavik or opt to join a tour to the south shore. We pass through the fertile farming lands and villages of south Iceland, rich in Viking history and heritage and a view of the infamous Eyjafjallajökull and Hekla volcanoes. We take a walk behind the splendid wall of water of Seljalandsfoss waterfall, then hike on the ancient ice of Sólheimajökull glacier with a professional certified guide. Afterwards take a leisurely stroll along the black sand beach of Reynisfjara with its famous basalt columns and caverns. See the Reynisdrangar cliffs; basalt rock stacks that rise from the sea. Icelandic legends say that they are naughty trolls turned into rock by the rising sun. We end

this great sightseeing tour with a stop at the Skógafoss waterfall. Walk up to the thundering waterfall for a bird's eye view of the tumbling water and rainbows. At tonight's farewell fish 'n chips farewell dinner we plan our next adventure with new-found friends.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Optional Activity: South shore excursion and glacier walk

DAY 5 FLIGHT HOME

Pack a separate bag for our visit to the Blue Lagoon on the way to the airport. The Blue Lagoon is a geothermal spa just outside of Reykjavik, where one can find ultimate relaxation in the healing mineral waters, surrounded by lava fields and snow-capped mountains. The facilities include modern changing rooms and showers, an indoor geothermal pool, a winter garden and a restaurant. Later we continue to the airport as it is time to say farewell.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BEFORE YOU GO

HOW DO I BOOK?

Booking your trip is easy! To make your reservation click the "CHECK AVAILABILITY" button on any trip page to book your trip online, or you can call us at 1.800-638-7640 if you have any questions.

DO I NEED A PASSPORT? A VISA?

Travel to EUROPE: If you are an American or Canadian citizen, you only need a Passport. The easiest way to get a passport is through your local post office, County Court House, or Passport Agency. When applying, be sure to take with you: your genuine birth certificate, which includes the registrar's signature and a raised seal; two recent photographs that are 2" x 2", full face view, black/white or color; and ID, like your Driver's License. You may need a Visa for our tours if you are not an American or Canadian citizen. If you are a citizen of another country, you must contact the appropriate consulates for each nation on the itinerary; and you must obtain these visas on your own.

Travel BEYOND Europe: Check on Visa requirements (incl. American or Canadian citizens) with the respective consulate or embassy. Some countries may charge for a tourist visa on entry or a departure tax on leaving the country.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I NEED?

We recommend \$50-\$80 per day, depending on your spending habits. That money covers items of a personal nature, laundry, beverages with meals (except for coffee/tea at breakfast, water at dinner, and occasionally a glass of wine), meals not included on tour, and expenses for free-time activities (metro tickets, taxis, entrance fees). This amount does not include money for souvenir/gift shopping. We strongly recommend bringing a credit card (Visa, American Express, and Mastercard are the most widely accepted) as well as an ATM card. Check with your bank prior to departure to ensure your ATM card is usable overseas.

SHOULD I PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE?

We highly recommend travel insurance. (Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate.) If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or click on this link: <https://www.mhross.com/index.php/consumer/portal/AESU3922MD>

HOW MUCH LUGGAGE SHOULD I TAKE?

Due to limited space on the tour motor coach, you may only bring ONE suitcase and ONE carry-on. Limit your suitcase size to no larger than 29" x 20" x 10" and your carry-on to no larger than 8" x 16" x 21". Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Keep in mind that throughout the duration of the tour, you are responsible for your own luggage, so do not pack more than you can carry. Laundry facilities are available in major cities.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

The easiest way to make your tour stressful is to over pack! See more details in Planning & Packing section on your trip's Toolbox pages. Download our suggested packing list.

WHAT ABOUT PACKING DOCUMENTS?

Never pack your passport! Always keep it with you. The same goes for cash and credit cards. Pack 2 extra passport photos if possible (in the event that you misplace your passport); photo copies of your passport's personal data pages, your flight itinerary and e-ticket information; a listing of your credit card; and copies of any personal IDs. This info will be extremely valuable should you lose any actual documents. Always keep actual documents on your person, and never in your checked suitcase.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

WHAT ARE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?

European trips: We stay in superior tourist class hotels, 3-star or 4-star, all with private bath/shower. Our hotels have been especially selected for their European atmosphere, friendly hospitality, cleanliness and location. TOUR ROOMING POLICY: AESU & AESU Alumni World Travel Graduation tours: All rates based on per/person 2-share basis. Two persons booking together as roommates receive a 2-share room. Solo travelers will be accommodated in a 2-share room, depending on availability. This share basis means, if you travel on your own, you do NOT have to pay a single supplement.* AESU special tours & AESU Alumni World Travel Young Alumni tours: If you are traveling alone and do not want a single room, we will attempt to arrange for a 2-share room. If this is not possible, we will make arrangements for a single room and charge the applicable single supplement. The overnight ship from Italy to Greece offers 4-share cabins. Some tour companies offer budget programs that stay in remote cabin campsites utilizing sleeping bags or occasional hotels with 4 or more sharing a room with no bath. We do NOT believe that this is the best way to spend a night in Europe. You'll be furnished a complete hotel address list with your final documents. Properties are subject to change and any substitutions would be the equivalent of those listed. *Single supplement only applies if single accommodations are requested. Independent hotel reservations, certain special tours always apply a single supplement. Please check your itinerary and also see roommate question regarding Young Alumni Programs.

I DON'T HAVE A ROOMMATE, WHAT DO I DO?

European trips: Going solo is not a problem with AESU. Many of our participants don't have a travel companion when booking a trip. If you're traveling alone, we will arrange for you to share a room (same gender) at NO EXTRA COST. Our hotels are superior tourist class, ALL with private bath/shower. Usual accommodations are two sharing a room, however, if you prefer to stay in a single room, our reservations agent can make arrangements for a single at the applicable single supplement rate. (See above regarding exceptions.)

I KNOW SOME MEALS ARE INCLUDED, BUT WHAT ABOUT SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

Tours include breakfast daily, lunches & dinner as per itinerary. If you are a vegetarian, or have special dietary needs, please inform your tour director as soon as you arrive. All included meals are pre-paid, so a substitute meal is always up to the goodwill of the establishment. We cannot guarantee that all special requests will be granted, but, in the past, most restaurants have been cooperative. Please keep in mind that substitute meals may not be as varied as they are at home.

DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?

Check with your doctor or the CDC (www.cdc.gov/travel) to find out if vaccinations are required. If you suffer from any form of illness, be sure to have an adequate supply of medicines before departing on your trip. You must advise us of any important medical condition you may have, before departure.

DOES AESU SUPPORT ECO TRAVEL?

Every traveler shares a common responsibility to preserve our planet's environment and respect its people. AESU enthusiastically endorses ASTA's 10 Commandments, which effectively reaffirm that responsibility. Let's live by these Commandments, to ensure our world's beauty is preserved for our generation and for generations to come. Thank you for the opportunity to travel together and to discover our remarkable world in a responsible manner. Over a decade ago AESU founded "TRAVEL FOR GOOD" — many years before large travel companies became active in environmental travel.

Link to US State Department Travel Website
<http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html>

FOR MORE FAQ'S VISIT OUR WEBSITE

BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$4-5 per day for tour director; \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY EUROPE: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. All cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$300 per person cancellation fee. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. In addition to \$300, cancellation between 60-31 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 30-16 days 40%. Cancellation within 16 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Medical health and accident insurance is compulsory, PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 2:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond AESU's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. Trip cancellation insurance should be purchased by the individual traveler in the event cancellation of the tour is compelled by circumstances beyond our control. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, AESU's liability shall be limited to a FULL REFUND of all payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. AESU reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.

ASSOCIATION DISCLAIMER

The Association is not the Tour Operator. The Association is not responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or car rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control. The Association acts only as agent for the participants with respect to travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, the Association shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, governmental intervention or other causes beyond its control. The Association shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure; in which case the entire payment may be refunded without further obligation on its part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all of the conditions set forth above.