Iceland: Fire and Ice

GEOTHERMAL WONDERS, GLACIERS AND WATERFALLS

September 1 to 8, 2017

a program of the stanford alumni association
Born of fire and ice and laden with relentless geological drama, Iceland is a revelation of elements, sculpted landscapes and volcanic wizardry. Buttressed by soaring basalt cliffs that are home to millions of nesting seabirds; carpeted with wildflower-strewn tundra; punctuated with mountains, lakes and glittering glaciers; and populated by a hardy and hospitable people, this larger-than-life land offers one of travel’s greatest adventures. We are fortunate to have on hand faculty leader Kate Maher, associate professor of geological sciences and an expert in geothermal power, to help us better understand how Iceland uses its abundant natural resources to continually improve the pursuit of sustainable energy. Journey to this wonderfully wild land with us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**DISCOVER** Iceland’s stunning natural beauty as we make our way around the Golden Circle.

**EXPERIENCE** natural geothermal power visiting the Hellisheidi Power Station, during a dip in the Blue Lagoon, and while tasting “hot spring bread.”

**VENTURE** into a man-made ice cave to view the incredible interior of Landjökull, Europe’s second-largest glacier.
"It was so much more than I expected. I laughed, I cried at the beauty of my surroundings and I learned about so many things new to me. Who could want more?"

ROSEMARY SIMMONS, ICELAND TO GREENLAND, 2016

Faculty Leader

As a native of the Pacific Northwest, KATE MAHER developed an early fascination with mountains and rivers and a passion for the environment, reinforced while she spent several years as an alpine ski racer and later as a professional mountain biker. Upon joining Stanford as an assistant professor, Kate led a large research project that brought her to Iceland investigating what happens when carbon dioxide emitted from Icelandic geothermal power plants is re-injected underground into the basaltic rocks rather than into the atmosphere. During our program, Kate will guide our discovery of Iceland’s unique geologic features and how they inform our understanding of earth’s systems, ranging from plate tectonics and geothermal systems to impacts of climate change on ecology and food systems.

— At Stanford: associate professor, geological sciences, School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences, since 2007; affiliate, Precourt Institute for Energy
— Distinguished lecturer, Global Climate and Energy Project, 2012
— Mendenhall Postdoctoral Fellow, U.S. Geological Survey
— Recipient, James B. Macelwane Medal, American Geophysical Union, and Allen V. Cox Medal for Mentoring of Undergraduate Research, Stanford
— BS, environmental earth sciences, Dartmouth College
— MS, civil and environmental engineering, UC-Berkeley
— PhD, earth and planetary sciences, UC-Berkeley
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 & 2
U.S. / REYKJAVIK, ICELAND
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving in Iceland on Saturday morning and transferring to our hotel in Reykjavik (or “Smoky Bay”). This afternoon on our orientation walking tour, admire Reykjavik’s Hallgrímskirkja Cathedral, designed by Iceland’s most beloved architect, Gudón Samúelsson, and continue to the Einar Jónsson sculpture garden and museum. This evening, gather for a welcome reception and dinner at our hotel. ALDA HOTEL (9/2: D)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
REYKJAVIK / GOLDEN CIRCLE
After a visit to Gljúfrasteinn—home and workplace of Halldór Laxness, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955—set out on an unforgettable drive around Iceland’s famous Golden Circle. Our first stop is Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site that lies in the rift valley between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. After a lunch of local specialties, including “hot spring bread” baked for more than 24 hours in the warm earth, see Strokkur, Iceland’s most active geyser, as well as Geysir, which erupts infrequently (sometimes with breaks of several years) but is famously the first geyser known to modern Europeans, thus becoming the root for the English word. Finish the afternoon admiring the beautiful Gullfoss, or “Golden Waterfalls.” ALDA HOTEL (B,L)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
SOUTH COAST
Start the day with a visit to the Hellisheiði geothermal power station for a presentation on sustainable energy, followed by a scenic drive through fertile farmlands and numerous glacial rivers en route to Seljalands-

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
REYKJAVIK / BLUE LAGOON
Enjoy a private guided tour of the spectacular Harpa Conference Center, located in Reykjavík’s old harbor, as well as a visit to the Nordic House, a cultural institution designed by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. For the remainder of the afternoon soak in the healing waters of the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa rich in minerals, while sipping a local beer or cocktail. ALDA HOTEL (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
HVALFJÖRDUR / LANDJÖKULL
This morning, drive along Hvalfjörður, a stunning fjord that is the locale of one of the largest whaling stations in Iceland and also served as a naval base for the British and American navies during World War II. Continue to Húsafell where we take a ride onto Landjökull (“land glacier”) in a specially modified snow
truck and go on a guided tour inside a man-made ice cave to witness the blue ice at the heart of this ice cap glacier.
ALDA HOTEL (BL)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
REYKJAVIK / OPTIONAL: ISHESTAR
Delight this morning in a guided curator-led tour of Iceland’s art history at the National Gallery of Iceland. Lunch and the remainder of the afternoon are free for independent exploration of Reykjavik, or choose an optional horseback ride (at additional cost). Starting from the Ishestar Riding Centre and led by experienced staff, we will ride through Heidmörk Nature Reserve astride Icelandic Horses that are accustomed to riders of all levels. This evening, rejoin our group for a farewell reception and dinner at the Grill Market, run by a member of the National Icelandic Team of Chefs.
ALDA HOTEL (BL)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
REYKJAVIK / U.S.
Check out of our hotel today and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
Trip Information

D A T E S
September 1 to 8, 2017 (8 days)

S I Z E
36 participants (single accommodations are limited—please call for availability)

C O S T *
$6,695 per person, double occupancy
$7,590 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

I N C L U D E D
6 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 2 dinners • Welcome and farewell receptions • Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities • All tours as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

N O T I N C L U D E D
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs

• Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Optional horseback riding • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

A I R A R R A N G E M E N T S
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Delta Airlines between San Francisco and Reykjavik is approximately $1,100 as of September 2016 and is subject to change without notice.

W H A T  T O  E X P E C T
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous and at times physically demanding and busy. Most of our touring is done by motor coach, the longest drives being up to 3 hours. Some excursions involve short walks. Much of the walking takes place outdoors on volcanic terrain, where paths can be rocky and uneven. Some tours require climbing up and down stairs. Our visit to Landjökull starts in a specially modified snow truck that drives us onto the glacier itself. Snow boots, warm jackets, hats, gloves and scarves are advisable while we’re on the glacier and inside the ice cave. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?iceland2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $500 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour.

Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
"In my experience, the quality of the Stanford trips is top notch! They go to very interesting places and attract a great group of people to go along. They also provide the extra bonus of an interesting and knowledgeable faculty leader to keep us learning and growing. This is a great combination… keep it up!"

NED BARNHOLT, ’65, MS ’67, PATAGONIA EXPEDITION, 2014

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