



**STUDY
ABROAD
ASSOCIATION**



**MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY**



ICELAND

Focus: Iceland Geology/Natural Science

Length: 9 Days

Dates: March 18 - 26, 2025



WHY STUDY ABROAD ASSOCIATION?

Since 2009, SAA has been committed to customizing the most in-depth and affordable short-term, faculty-led study abroad and service learning experiences. We have been working with colleges and universities across the United States to assist in achieving their international education goals. All programs revolve around our core values of Quality Education, Affordability, Sustainability, Customer Service, and Health and Safety.



Affordability

Our goal is to provide global experiences to as many students as possible. Faculty-led programs allow students, especially those who cannot study abroad for a long period, greater access. A worldlier point of view and deeper understanding of people should be attainable to every student in the US.



Health and Safety

Safety is our number one priority. To ensure our travelers are completely protected throughout the program, we carry a \$5m liability insurance policy and also provide an all-inclusive travelers health insurance policy, comprehensive risk management procedures and training before the program starts. Additionally our programs include 24/7 on-ground emergency support and assistance.



Quality Education

All SAA programs are built on the foundation of education. We offer unique programs in various areas of study, including programs in underserved academic fields, such as: STEAM, Business, Allied Health and Culinary Arts. Every SAA program is crafted to achieve the goals of the faculty and institutions we're working with. Our extensive global academic network includes university partnerships, local faculty and subject-area experts, business owners, entrepreneurs, medical professionals, artists, NGOs, anthropologists, scientists, engineers, musicians, chefs, historians, community leaders, sustainability experts and more!



Customer Service

A dedicated SAA Team will assist you during the entire process. We fully understand the details and extent of work that go into organizing faculty-led programs, so we are available to assist you at every point of your process.



Sustainability

We promote sustainability with all our programs, visiting local communities and projects in need, as well as establishing long-lasting relationships and positive impacts with everyone we collaborate with.



US Based

We are a fully insured and accredited US organization with the advantages of having direct operations in more than 30 countries. All payments can be made in US dollars via check or wire transfer to our US bank account.



YOUR PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY 1 - DEPARTURE - Tuesday, March 18

Depart Home for Reykjavik, Iceland

DAY 2 - REYKJAVIK - Wednesday, March 19

Arrive in Reykjavik, Iceland

On-ground Briefing

Tour of Reykjanes Peninsula

Transfer to the Hotel in the Area of Borgarnes

Check-in & Refresh

Welcome Dinner at the Hotel- *The group will be taken for an authentic dinner with a wide variety of menu options to cater all diets.*

Hotel Á or Similar

Meals Included: Dinner

DAY 3 - SNAEFELLSNES - Thursday, March 20

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Snaefellsjokull National Park - *The geology of Snæfellsnes Peninsula is diverse with formations from almost every era of Iceland's past. The more prominent formations in and around the National Park mainly date from geologically "modern" times back to the last ice age. The hills to the north of the glacier, around Bárðarkista, are of volcanic palagonite tuff, formed during eruptions under the glacier or below the surface of the sea. Svalþúfa is most likely the eastern section of a crater that erupted under the sea, while Lóndrangar is a volcanic plug.*

Meals Included: Breakfast

*Hotel Á or Similar

DAY 4 - GOLDEN CIRCLE - Friday, March 21

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Transfer to Thingvellir National Park - *Situated between two continental plates, Thingvellir National Park is one of Iceland's most historically significant, sacred and naturally beautiful sites.*

Geysir Hot Spring, Mud Pits & Gullfoss Waterfalls

Meals Included: Breakfast

DAY 5 - GOLDEN CIRCLE - Saturday, March 22

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Kerid Crater - *With distinctive red volcanic rock slopes, measuring 170 meters wide, 270 meters in circumference and 55 meters deep, Kerid crater lake is a 3,000 year old volcanic crater lake in South Iceland, the perfect golden circle detour. The actual lake itself is relatively shallow, between 7 and 14 metres, depending on rainfall and other factors, but as a result of minerals from the surrounding soil, the water is a unique and strikingly vivid aquamarine shade of blue.*

Fridheimar Greenhouses Guided Tour- *Gain a unique insight into the processes of greenhouse horticulture and the use of geothermal heating in Icelandic horticulture with a visit to Fridhemar. Enjoy the special experience of entering a greenhouse with its fragrant tomato plants – and then sitting down to a feast of the famous and delicious Fridheimartomato soup with freshly baked bread – with tomato plants all around.*

Laugarvatn Fontana Geothermal Pool - *Relax in the geothermal pool and enjoy the numerous hot pots and break a sweat in the wooden sauna. If you dare, jump into the ice cold lake before going to the sauna!*

*Hotel Stracta or Similar

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner at Fridheimar Greenhouses



YOUR PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY 6 - SOUTH COAST - Sunday, March 23

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Keldur Turf Houses - *The turf houses have played an important role in Icelandic lives thanks to the insulation and warmth they provide. Keldur is listed amidst one of the only very few preserved turf houses often known as Sod Houses. It is definitely a worth visiting place that reflects the true Icelandic traditions that have been preserved over the years and still reflect the authenticity of Iceland. Grass-roofed houses are a part of Iceland's persona and legacy that were built to protect the Vikings through the rough and harsh northern climates.*

Sólheimajökull Glacier - *Rising temperatures mean that Sólheimajökull is melting, receding annually by the length of an Olympic swimming pool. Learn about the challenges scientists face and what is being done to protect the glaciers*

Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss Waterfalls

*Hotel Laki or similar

Meals Included: Breakfast

DAY 7 - SKAFTAFELL & GLACIER LAGOON - Monday, March 24

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Transfer to Skaftafell National Park

Fjallsárlón & Jökulsárlón Ice Fields – *Fjallsárlón and Jökulsárlón glacier lakes stream down from the massive Vatnajökull ice cap, the second largest mass of ice in Europe. Vatnajökull National Park, which covers no less than 14% of Iceland, was recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage List and it's the largest of its kind in Europe.*

Short Hike to Svartifoss Waterfall - *Svartifoss (Black Fall) is one of the most popular sights in the park. It is surrounded by dark lava columns, which gave rise to its name.*

Guided Glacier Hike in Vatnajökull National Park and Visit an Ice Cave

*Hotel Laki or similar

Meals Included: Breakfast

DAY 8 - REYKJAVIK - Tuesday, March 25

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Transfer to Reykjavik with Stop at Famous Reynisfjara Black Sand Beach

Explore Hellisheiði Power Plant - *The geothermal power plant of Hellisheiði in Iceland successfully manages to bind CO2 into rocks and could provide a solution for other industries in Iceland and beyond.*

Check in & Refresh - *Hotel Cabin or Similar
Visit to a School *TBD*

Farewell Dinner & Program Closing

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

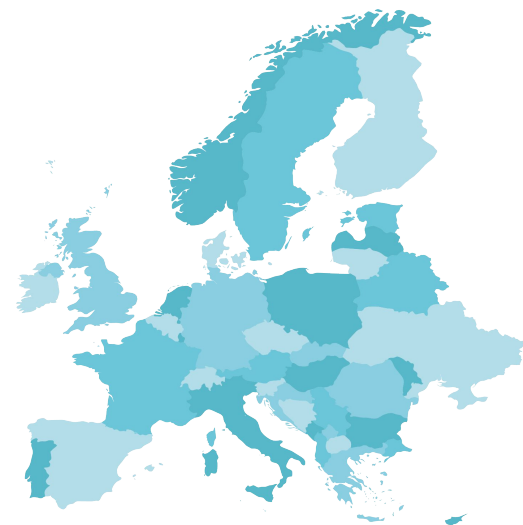
DAY 9 - RETURN - Wednesday, March 26

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Airport Transfer

Depart Reykjavik, Iceland for Home

Meals Included: Breakfast





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

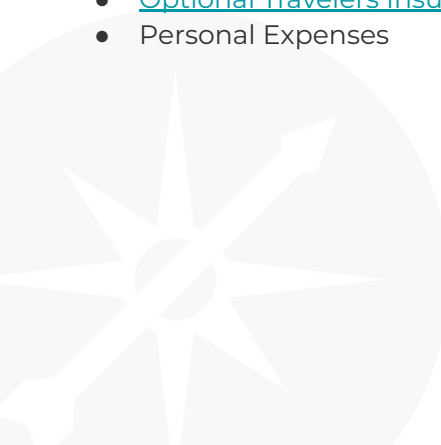
- Snæfellsjökull National Park
- Explore Hellisheiði Power Plant
- Tour of Reykjanes peninsula.
- Geysir hot spring and mud pits and Gullfoss
- Waterfalls
- Kerid Crater
- Fridheimar Greenhouses
- Sólheimar ecovillage & Keldur Turf House
- Sólheimajökull Glacier
- Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls
- Guided Glacier Hike in Vatnajökull National Park and Visit an Ice Cave
- Fjallsárlón & Jökulsárlón Ice Fields
- Short Hike to Svartifoss Waterfall
- Reynisfjara black sand beach
- Visit to a school TBD

PROGRAM INCLUDES

- 7 Nights of Accommodation
 - 2-6 people per room for participants, each with their own bed and ensuite bathroom
 - Single for faculty/program leader with ensuite bathroom
 - Free wifi and daily continental breakfast (day 3-9)
- All Ground Transportation
- Welcome & Farewell Dinners
- Historical & Cultural Walking Tours
- Full Time On Site Program Director Available 24/7 in case of Emergencies
- 24/7 On-Ground Emergency Support

NOT INCLUDED

- Meals Not Specified
- Passport and Visa Fees (if applicable)
- Single Room Upgrade Costs for Participants
- Classroom/Meeting Space
- Optional Activities and Suggestions
- [Optional Travelers Insurance and/or CFAR/IFAR](#)
- Personal Expenses



HOUSING AND FLIGHT IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Each participant must book their own flight.
- Plan to arrive in Reykjavik no later than 10 am on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.
- If you want to arrive the day before, note that transportation to the hotel and the night's lodging is an extra cost to you.
- Flight travel insurance is NOT included in the trip cost, but is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED in the event of cancelled or delayed flights. There are numerous companies that sell the insurance and several websites compare costs between them. Be sure to check this out soon after purchasing your ticket as there may be expiration dates.
- As soon as you have your flight information, email your complete itinerary to Pilar: pilar.martland@montana.edu
- NOTE: Health insurance through GeoBlue IS INCLUDED in the trip cost and is handled through MSU.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND PAYMENT DETAILS



Please note these important details related to this program. Many of these deadlines and policies are tied to accommodations and on-site arrangement needs.

<p>Enrollment Confirmation Deadline:</p> <p>September 9, 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180 days prior to departure the institution will send SAA the initial roster of participants • If the program does not meet the minimum number of participants by this date, the program can be cancelled without penalty • Upon receipt of the roster, SAA will send the deposit invoice for the number of participants on the roster
<p>Drop/Add Deadline and Deadline for any special housing requests:</p> <p>December 2, 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 days prior to departure is the last date to add/drop participants, including, students, faculty, or guest • 100 days prior to departure is also the deadline when any special housing requests must be made, such as a single-room upgrade
<p>Passport Information and Details Due</p> <p>January 6, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 days before departure SAA needs to receive passport details for all participants in order to confirm reservations on-site
<p>Withdrawal Deadlines:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal or cancellation > 100 days before departure (December 8, 2024) SAA shall refund the deposit paid per person • Withdrawal or cancellation 99-80 days before departure (December 9 - 28, 2024), SAA shall retain the deposit per person and will return any other recoverable costs available • Withdrawal or cancellation 79 days before departure (December 29, 2024) to the arrival day, no refund shall be provided
<p>Program Payment Deadlines:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 days prior to departure \$500 per person is due and payable by October 7, 2024 • 90 days prior to departure, the second payment in the amount of 50% of the remaining amount is due and payable by December 9, 2024 • 60 days prior to departure, the third and final payment in the amount of the remaining amount is due and payable by January 10, 2025