Iceland Landscapes of Fire and Ice

July 8 - 22, 2017 (15 days) with Carleton Professors Mary Savina (’72) & David Lefkowitz (’85)
Dear Carleton College Alumni and Friends,

Sitting astride the mid-Atlantic ridge, Iceland is one of the world’s most geologically active and, therefore, spectacular places. I invite you to explore it with two Carleton professors, geologist Mary Savina (‘72) and artist David Lefkowitz (‘85), on this comprehensive, two-week journey.

Traverse astonishing landscapes of waterfalls, glaciers, geysers, hot springs and volcanoes, plus bird colonies, towns and farms. Prof. Savina will help you understand how these landscapes are formed, while Prof. Lefkowitz will share his perspectives on how an artist interprets both the natural and cultural worlds. Also accompanied by an expert Icelandic guide, you will learn about connections among Icelandic history, Icelandic culture, and the landscape.

The pace of this tour allows you to experience Iceland in-depth. In addition to beginning and ending in the charming capital of Reykjavík, you will be based at two comfortable hotels on the southern and northern coasts for several nights apiece. This exclusive Carleton tour is limited to 26 participants, so I encourage you to reserve your space soon!

Sincerely,

Sarah Ladner Maris (‘85)
President, Carleton College Alumni Association

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**Itinerary**

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

**Saturday, July 8, 2017: Depart Home**

Depart the U.S. on flights to Keflavík International Airport (KEF).

**Sunday, July 9: Arrive Keflavík, Iceland | Reykjanes Peninsula | Reykjavík**

Those arriving at Keflavík on the suggested flight will be met and transferred as a group. Enjoy an excursion to the Reykjanes peninsula to see old lava flows, volcanic mountains, hot springs, solfataras, and bird life. Stop at the famous Blue Lagoon, a “natural” geothermal pool in the middle of a lava field, where you might choose to take a refreshing dip in the warm, mineral-rich water. An indoor pool and geothermal sauna are also on-site. Continue on to Reykjavík, where we will check into our hotel. Dinner is on your own tonight. *Overnight at Fosshotel Rauðará for two nights.* (B,L)

**Monday, July 10: Reykjavík**

Today is free to independently explore Reykjavík, Iceland’s charming capital city. Your faculty leaders will suggest museums and galleries, or you may wish to simply relax and wander the waterfront. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner. (B,D)

**Tuesday, July 11: Reykjavík | Golden Circle | Hella**

This morning we visit Thingvellir, the old parliament site where the national assembly was founded in A.D. 930 (and continued until the late 1800s, when it moved indoors to Reykjavík). Thingvellir is also a place of geological interest, where the continental plates of North America and Europe come to the surface. Continue on to Skálholt Church, built on the site where southern Iceland’s first bishopric was founded in the 11th century. Visit a greenhouse called Friðheimar, located in Reykholt, where tomatoes are grown year-round despite Iceland’s long, dark winters. After lunch, including a taste of the crop, we continue our drive to the geothermal fields of Geysir for a walk around the hot springs. Nearby is Gullfoss waterfall, which travels 18 miles from the glacier Langjökull in the north to fall more than 100 feet into the canyon of Hvítá. Drive to the town of Hella, where we will check-in to our hotel and have dinner. *Overnight at Stræta Hotel Hella for five nights.* (B,L,D)
Wednesday, July 12: Hella | Westman Islands | Hella

Today we take a ferry to Heimaey, one of the Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar), where we hope to see the puffins at Stórhöftdi. We will walk up to the crater of nearby Eldfell volcano, which erupted in 1973, nearly filling the harbor (see John McPhee’s *Control of Nature*), and visit the old fort Skansinn. Enjoy an independent lunch and free time this afternoon to explore Heimaey (perhaps visiting “Pompeii of the North”) before we return by ferry to the mainland. Weather permitting, there will be an opportunity to draw and watercolor with David’s expert assistance in the afternoon. (B,D)

Thursday, July 13: Hella | Vatnajökull National Park | Hella

Today we drive along the South Coast, passing small villages and crossing the Laki Lava. The 216-square-mile Eldhraun is believed to be the world’s largest flow from a single eruption in historical times. The 1783 eruption that produced the lava affected climate all over the world and devastated the Icelandic population. Drive over huge fields of glacial sands (Sandür) to Vatnajökull, Europe’s biggest glacier, which covers about 8% of Iceland. Weather permitting, we will see Iceland’s highest peak, Hvannadalshnjúkur (6,922 ft.). After lunch, stop at the beautiful Svinafellsjökull glacier tongue, one of the many outlet glaciers of the massive Vatnajökull glacier; and continue on to Jökulsárlón, one of Iceland’s deepest lakes, for a boat ride among its icebergs. Return along the coast to our hotel. (B,L,D)

Friday, July 14: Hella | Thjórsárdalur Valley | Hella

In the valley of Thjórsárdalur we follow an easy hiking path upriver to Gjáin, a beautiful, green oasis. Its waterfall is one of several along the river Rauthá, and at the bottom and on its walls are beautiful lava formations. Not far away is Hjálparfoss, a two-stepped waterfall dropping into a round pool near the confluence of the rivers Thjórsá and Fossá. Continue on to the Viking farm Stöng, a reconstructed period homestead roofed with turf. The valley of Thjórsárdalur is dominated by Hekla, Iceland’s second most active volcano, which buried Stöng and other farms in A.D. 1104. (B,L,D)

Saturday, July 15: Hella | South Shore | Hella

Explore Iceland’s south shore today, stopping first at Seljalandsfoss waterfall, a narrow ribbon of water that can be viewed from all sides. Drive through the area most affected by the 2010 eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano and visit the Eyjafjallajökull Visitor Center, which includes a film about the eruption. Afterwards visit Skógafoss, the last in a series of 20 waterfalls on the Skógá River, and visit Skógasafn folk museum. Drive to Vik í Mýrdal, a pleasant coastal village with a population of 300, where we have lunch independently and the opportunity to visit the Vik Wool Shop. Reynisfjara is a beach of black volcanic rock situated between Vik and the rock formations at Dyrhólaey. Just offshore are the sea stacks of Reynisdrangar (“night trolls”), and in the headlands above is a huge, stratified bird colony with kittiwakes on the lower level, puffins nesting in the middle slopes (in summer), and fulmar near the top. Visit the Njala Saga Centre in Hvolsvöllur before returning to our hotel in Hella. (B,D)

Sunday, July 16: Hella | Kjölur Highland Road | Akureyri

Take a scenic drive this morning through the interior highlands along Kjölur Road, which will give us a taste of Iceland’s desert-like center, on our way northward. The “hub” of the Kjölur route is Hveravellir, an enticing geothermal area of fumaroles and multicolored hot pools, where we have the opportunity to take a dip in one of the springs. Visit the Skagafjordur Heritage Museum, and continue driving to Akureyri, capital of the north, where we check-in to our hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Kea for four nights.* (B,L,D)

Monday, July 17: Akureyri

With about 16,000 inhabitants, Akureyri is Iceland’s largest town after Reykjavík, beautifully located near the head of the fjord. Begin today with a city walk, including the botanical garden, the “old town,” and the Lutheran Church with its panoramic view. The balance of the day is at leisure. (B)

Tuesday, July 18: Akureyri | Siglufjörður | Hofós | Hólar | Akureyri

Today, explore the mountainous Tröllaskagi Peninsula, which has the highest peaks outside the central highlands. Drive along scenic Eyjafjörður fjord, through the fishing villages of Dalvík and Ólafsfjörður, with superb views (and perhaps some bird watching) along the way. A new tunnel takes us to Siglufjörður, an idyllic fishing village barely 24 miles from the Arctic Circle. From 1900 to 1970, Siglufjörður was the herring capital of the North Atlantic, but today is a quiet home to 1,500 people and we will visit its herring museum with an option to also visit
the Folk Music Center (additional cost). After an independent lunch, take in dramatic scenery on a drive to Hofnös, a small village whose natural harbor is one of the oldest trading ports in Iceland, dating back to the 16th century. After a visit to the Iceland emigration museum, our final stop of the day is Hólar, in the Hjaltadalsalur valley, which was the seat of the bishop and the main regional center from A.D. 1106-1801. Return to Akureyri, over Öxnadalshieithi mountain road. (B,D

Wednesday, July 19: Akureyri | Gothafoss | Lake Mývatn | Dettifoss | Akureyri

This morning we drive east of Akureyri to Gothafoss (“waterfall of the gods”), where statues of pagan gods were thrown into the water in A.D. 1000, and onward to the Lake Mývatn area, featuring abundant bird life, a variety of volcanic and geothermal features, and a wealth of walking trails. At Skútustadagis we walk around some of the region’s numerous pseudo-craters. Continue on to Dimmuborgir to see its amazing rock formations, and to the lunar-like crater Hverfjall. It is about 20-30 minutes’ walk up to Hverfjall’s rim, from where you can admire the view around Lake Mývatn. Visit the colorful geothermal fields at Námaskarð, the caldera Krafla, the Crater Lake Víti ("hell"), and the powerful Dettifoss waterfall before returning to Akureyri. (B,L,D)

Thursday, July 20: Akureyri | Borgarfjörður | Deildartunguhver | Reykjavík

Return to the south today, through old lava fields and sculpted valleys and fjords to Borgarfjörður. Marvel at Deildartunguhver, one of the world’s most powerful hot springs, producing 52 gallons of hot water per second; and at Hraunfossar, where crystal clear water seems to appear from nowhere beneath the 1,000-year-old lava field and fall into the muddy glacial river. A ten-minute walk up the river takes us to Barnafoss, where the glacial river has carved strange rock formations. End the day in Reykjavík, where we check in to our hotel and gather this evening for a farewell dinner. Overnight at Grand Hotel Reykjavík for two nights. (B,L,D)

Friday, July 21: Reykjavík | Snæfellsnes | Reykjavík

Take a day trip from Reykjavík to Snæfellsnes peninsula. On route we stop in the coastal town of Stykkishólmur to visit the “Library of Water,” an art installation by Roni Horn (http://www.libraryofwater.is/landing.html) that comprises three collections, focusing on Icelandic water, words, and weather reports. On the Snæfellsnes peninsula we encounter spectacular scenery, and its wildlife includes seals and myriad sea birds. Visit the idyllic fishing village of Arnarstapi, and explore Vatnshellir lava tube cave and Berserkjahraun lava field (which has Saga significance). (B)

Saturday, July 22: Reykjavík | Depart Keflavík | U.S.

Those departing on the suggested flight will be transferred as a group from Reykjavík to Keflavík International Airport (KEF) for flights homeward. (B)

Carleton College Faculty Leaders

Mary Savina (’72) is Charles L. Denison Professor of Geology at Carleton College, where she earned undergraduate degrees in history and geology. Her specialties—geoarchaeology, landscape history, and environmental geology—combine these interests nicely. Mary received the 2013 Undergraduate Research Mentor award, presented by the Geosciences division of the Council on Undergraduate Research. When she first visited Iceland several years ago, she was enchanted by the combination of active geologic landscapes (volcanoes and glaciers!) and the deep historical roots of Iceland culture. Two return trips cemented her fascination with the country. Mary has taken Carleton students (and, in some cases, alumni) to other active geologic landscapes in Greece, Tasmania (Australia), New Zealand, and the Mojave and Sonoran deserts of the American Southwest. She has also found good excuses to travel to Australia, Europe, and central Alaska, generally finding opera performances wherever she goes, in addition to fascinating building stones, landscapes, and people. In her spare time, Mary studies voice and sings in a choir.

David Lefkowitz (’85) is a visual artist and Professor of Art at Carleton. Lefkowitz’s work in painting, installation, and mixed media (including cardboard, sticks, sheetrock, and Styrofoam) addresses paradoxes of perception both monumental and mundane. Much of his work explores the blurry boundary between the human-built environment and the natural world. Recent solo exhibits include “Other Positioning Systems” at the Rochester Art Center, “The Nirthfolde Visitors Bureau” at the Northfield (MN) Arts Guild, and “Austerity Plans” at the Soo Visual Art Center in Minneapolis. His paintings of trompe l’oeil wall fixtures appeared in “Lifelike” at the Walker Art Center the spring of 2012. Lefkowitz is represented by Carrie Secrist Gallery in Chicago. To see more of his work go to www.davidlefkowitz.net or www.secristgallery.com/exhibitions/2011-10-22_david-lefkowitz
What to Expect

Carleton travelers will want to be flexible. The itinerary is set well ahead of time and may need to be adapted on the fly for changes in weather, ease of access, transportation, or other factors. In July, we can expect temperatures in the mid 50s to 60s F, a monthly rainfall average of about 1" in Reykjavík, and 20 hours of daylight (plus an hour or so of “dawn and dusk”). The old traveler’s adage “dress in layers and prepare for anything” is especially appropriate, as rain comes and goes and temperatures vary depending on our destination(s). The bus trips are broken up with short walking stops, and there will be daily walks (approx. 1-3 miles, or 1-2 hours, total per day), as much as 1 mile at a time. All walks can be done at an easy pace, and aside from walking up (and down) a few small cinder cones there is not much elevation gain/loss. Gratuities are not a tradition in Iceland and are not expected or encouraged.

Suggested Flights

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Airline/Flight City/Airport</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>Iceland Air #656 Minneapolis (MSP) 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Keflavík (KEF) 6:30 am (July 9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>Iceland Air #657 Keflavík (KEF) 4:45 pm</td>
<td>Minneapolis (MSP) 6:05 pm</td>
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Tour Prices (Per Person)

Double Occupancy (20 to 26 participants) ............................................. $7,845
Double Occupancy (15 to 19 participants) ............................................ $8,545
Single Supplement .................................................................................. $1,195

Single-room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability). Prices are based on 15 participants. With fewer than 15 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

Your Trip Includes:

- Faculty leaders Mary Savina and David Lefkowitz;
- Thirteen nights’ accommodations as per the itinerary;
- Group arrival and departure transfers on tour dates, based upon the suggested flights;
- Surface transportation by air-conditioned motor coach, with bottled water provided;
- Ferry transportation as indicated in the itinerary;
- Breakfast daily, 7 lunches and 10 dinners (including welcome and farewell dinners with cocktails);
- Lunches and dinners include a soft drink and dinners include beer or wine;
- All excursions and entrance fees as per the itinerary;
- English-speaking Local Guide/Tour Manager;
- Local taxes and service charges;
- Baggage handling at hotels where available;
- Comprehensive pre-departure information, including a suggested reading guide, travel guide, and packing list.

Prices Do Not Include: Airfare; passport and visa fees; inoculation fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; alcoholic beverages (except as noted above); taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour, airport transfers for those not traveling on the suggested flights.

Air Arrangements & Transfers: Round-trip airfare between home and Keflavík (KEF) is not included. Group transfers between the airport and hotel on arrival and departure are included based on the suggested flights to the left. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

Passenger Cancellation Penalties: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by Alumni Adventures. Cancellations received at least ninety one (91) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of five hundred dollars ($500) per person. Cancellations received between sixty five (65) and ninety (90) days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to fifty percent (50%) of the tour cost. Cancellations received sixty four (64) days or less before departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. (An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.)

Prices, itinerary and leaders are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

For questions and reservations please contact:

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Terms & Conditions

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In the absence of negligence on the part of Operator, the participant agrees that Operator has no responsibility or liability to the participant for damage to, or loss of property, or injury to, or death of persons due to any act, omission or negligence of any carrier, hotel, restaurant, bus carrier, tender service, sightseeing company, or any other persons rendering any of the services or ground portions of the itinerary. The participant further waives any claim against Operator and Sponsors for any such damage, loss, injury or death. Operator and Sponsors shall not be responsible for any additional expenses, delays, substitution of equipment, and/or any act or omission whatsoever by the suppliers of such services, their agents, servants and employees, and the participant hereby waives any claim arising there from. Operator and Sponsors reserve the right to accept or retain any participant at any time. 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