Dear Vassar Travelers,

This letter is a cordial invitation to join me and my wife, Meg Stewart, and other Vassar alumnae/i on a long weekend getaway to the awe-inspiring island of Iceland. This captivating geological wonderland offers the opportunity to explore dramatic phenomena: colossal glaciers, active volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, glacial rivers, cascading waterfalls, moss-covered lava fields, and glacial lagoons by day.

Renowned for its spellbinding beauty and stunning landscape, Iceland is the only place on Earth where one can stand atop the Atlantic Ocean’s submarine mountain chain - for the island is the only place where the chain peaks up above sea level! From this perch, we can see classic illustrations of glacial and tectonic processes. We’ll visit Þingvellir National Park (pronounced “THING-vet-lihr”) a UNESCO World Heritage site that is an active tectonic boundary, and on the Golden Circle tour we’ll watch as Iceland’s “Old Faithful,” the Strokkur geyser, erupts in a spray of steamy waters every five to ten minutes.

Iceland in February? The Atlantic’s Gulf Stream sends a steady supply of warm water up past Iceland, making it warmer than would be expected in a land at this latitude. Consequently, Iceland’s coastal waters host an abundance of birds and marine mammals. For those eager to see puffins and whales, Iceland is paradise. What’s more there’s no better time to experience the dancing lights of the Aurora Borealis.

By merging, both academically and aesthetically, direct experience of a unique and otherworldly landscape, this program offers a unique experience with opportunities to learn about Iceland’s geological, ecological, and historical significance. I hope you will join Meg and me on this journey to a land of spectacular phenomena.

Since space is limited, I warmly encourage you to reserve your place quickly.

Sincerely,

Jill Schneiderman
Professor of Earth Science
Day 1, Thursday February 11th
Evening departure from Boston or New York, where we board our direct Iceland Air service to Iceland.

Day 2, Friday February 12th
Early morning arrival in Iceland; we will be met at the airport and escorted to our hotel in Reykjavik, where a sumptuous breakfast buffet awaits us. This morning we tour Reykjavik for a wonderful introduction to Europe’s smallest capital city! The tour covers the Old Town, the shopping districts, the Parliament, Hofdi House, Hallgrim’s church and much more! Most hotels know that Americans arrive early and will do everything possible to help us check in upon arrival. However, this may not always be possible and if the rooms are not ready, we will store our luggage and go off on our city tour. When we return after lunch, you will be able to go to your rooms and take a short nap before we gather for our introductory lectures. Dinner will be at a restaurant near the hotel and this evening we will embark upon our first attempt to view the Northern Lights. (B, D)

Day 3, Saturday February 13th
Today we capture the essence of Iceland - the Golden Circle tour. Our first stop is Þingvellir National Park, site of the world’s first parliament. Here we will walk from America to Europe! We continue on to see the majestic dual-folding Gullfoss waterfall and gaze upon geysers, which spout steam with amazing force. We’ll pass close by the Eyjafjallajokull Volcano, which recently caused so much chaos with European air traffic, and stop to peer into the icy depths of Keri volcanic crater. This evening we’ll enjoy a traditional Icelandic lobster feast at a local restaurant on our way back to the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4, Sunday February 14th
A free day. Explore the galleries and museums of the city, enjoy the tax-free shopping or pamper yourself in one of the many local spas. There will also be a variety of optional activities available; from taking a snowmobile safari to the top of a glacier, to riding an Icelandic pony or going in search of puffins and whales. (B)

Day 5, Monday February 15th
Today we take a brief tour of the exotic, moonlike Reykjanes peninsula, first stopping at Bessastadir, the official estate for Iceland’s President. Then we bathe in the renowned Blue Lagoon, an azure pool of mineral-rich warm water amid a lava field. There are wonderful facilities to shower and change at the site before we continue to the airport for our return flights to Boston or New York. (B)

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy, is:

| Boston or New York departure: | $1980 |
| Single supplement: | $290 |

Prices are available from many other departure cities. Please call for details.

Inclusions:
- Airfare: Roundtrip airfare from Boston or New York, including all customs fees and airport taxes.
- Hotels: 3 nights’ accommodation in a first-class hotel. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching: All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals: 4 breakfasts and 2 dinners.
- Guides: Services of a local tour guide throughout the tour.
- Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary.
- Lectures: Lecture by your Vassar College study leader, Jill Schneiderman, and a special presentation on the Aurora Borealis by a local expert.
Jill Schneiderman has taught since 1995 in the Department of Earth Science and Geography, where her courses explore the relationship between human beings and the physical environment. She and her students address questions such as: How have physical environments shaped the development of human cultures? How have humans modified the physical world through development practices? How have human belief systems and attitudes shaped environmental practices? She is the editor of, and contributor to, *The Earth Around Us: Maintaining a Livable Planet* (2003), *For the Rock Record: Geologists on Intelligent Design* (2009), and *Liberation Science: Putting Science to Work for Social Justice* (2012).

Active in Vassar’s Science, Technology and Society, Environmental Studies, and Women’s Studies programs, Jill led students to the desert southwest during spring break study trips in 2010 and 2012. In 2014, she traveled with 30 Vassar students to the Jordan River watershed. As a Fulbright Fellow at the University of the West Indies, she conducted research in Trinidad on gender and water issues. Jill lives in Poughkeepsie with her wife Meg Stewart, an earth science teacher who will join the trip and share the Iceland adventure with Vassar alums and their families.
1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Instructions to aid you can be found overleaf.
3. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
4. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
5. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., and Vassar College, their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
6. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. A deposit of $500 must accompany this completed form.
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to trip departure.

TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:
1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the
   currency of the countries visited on your tour by more than 10% in the 6 months prior to trip departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Participants who withdraw more than 60 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a $200 cancellation penalty.
2. Participants who withdraw less than 60 days and more than 30 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a $1000 cancellation penalty.
3. Participants who withdraw less than 30 days prior to the day of tour departure will not receive a refund unless they have purchased travel insurance.
4. Trip cancellation insurance is not included in your Discover Europe tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip.
5. All cancellation requests must be received in writing (either by mail or e-mail).
6. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant’s absence once the tour has started.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

1. All inclusions on The Northern Lights are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant’s home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

(Please check one)

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights:
☐ Yes ☐ No
From: ☐ Boston ☐ New York
Flight details (if self-arranged):

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name(s): __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: ______________ State: _____ Zip:_________
Home Telephone: (_) ____________

PERMISSIONS

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list. ☐ Yes ☐ No

SIGNATURES

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Vassar College and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

Signature: __________________________ Date: ____________

Signature: __________________________ Date: ____________