Dear Vassar Travelers,

I am thrilled to invite you to join my husband, Jeffrey Cohen, and me on an exhilarating trip to Iceland, a place of such rare natural beauty and rich culture and history it almost defies description. Jeffrey and I spent time in Iceland in April 2016, after a sabbatical semester of world travel and study. The picture on page three shows us standing before the beautiful Skógafoss Waterfall on Iceland’s south coast—an optional day trip available to you while in Iceland.

As an anthropologist, I have spent time in a lot of places and with a lot of people in the world, but Iceland and her people captivated me in a unique way. Part of Iceland’s allure is its landscape, whose stark beauty has been the backdrop for many films and tv series including *Batman Begins* and *Game of Thrones*. Iceland’s moss-covered lava fields and sweeping tundra are also home to mythic elves, fairies, and trolls, who are as vivid in Icelanders’ imagination today as they are in Iceland’s famous legends and literary sagas. A product of the same volcanic activity that created the Northern Atlantic, Iceland is also a geologic wonder where you can stand atop the still active Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and take a short walk between two different continents. Iceland’s spectacular waterfalls, colossal glaciers and rivers, volcanoes, geysers, and geothermal springs provide matchless vistas, produce 85% of Iceland’s energy needs, and, in the case of the geothermal springs, make for idyllic places to relax after a day spent getting to know the country and its people.

February is one of the best months to experience the light show put on by the Aurora Borealis. 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. This temperate winter weather attracts an abundance of birds and marine mammals to Iceland’s coastal waters. Meanwhile, the geothermally heated sidewalks of Reykjavik make for easy exploration of the shopping districts, museums, clubs and pubs of Iceland’s capital city.

This program offers an exceptional opportunity to learn about Iceland’s geology, ecology, history, and culture, as well as the contemporary experiences of Iceland’s people. I hope you will join me on this journey to the Land of Fire and Ice!

Colleen Ballerino Cohen
Professor of Anthropology and Women’s Studies

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**The Cost of This Itinerary, Per Person, Double Occupancy, Is:**

- **New York or Boston Departure:** $2370
- **Land Only:** $1720
- **Single supplement:** $ 290

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

**The Following Services are Included:**

- **Airfare:** Roundtrip airfare from New York or Boston including all customs fees and airport taxes
- **Hotels:** 3 nights’ accommodation in a first-class hotel with all hotel taxes and service charges included
- **Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 dinners
- **Guides:** Services of a local tour guide throughout the tour
- **Lectures:** Lecture by your Vassar faculty host Colleen Ballerino Cohen
- **Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Information on purchasing coverage will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.
**Thursday, February 15th** - Evening departure from your chosen gateway city, where you board your direct Iceland Air service to Iceland. **Overnight: Plane**

**Friday, February 16th** - Early morning arrival in Iceland will be met at the airport and you will be escorted to your hotel in Reykjavik, where we have arranged for your rooms to be ready for immediate check-in upon arrival. You’ll sit down to enjoy a sumptuous breakfast buffet while your luggage is taken to your room and your tour guide organizes the check-in. After breakfast, you’ll have time to unpack and freshen up from the overnight flight before heading out for a bus tour of Reykjavik. A wonderful introduction to one of Europe’s smallest capital cities! The tour covers the Old Town, the shopping districts, the Parliament, Höfði House, Hallgrim’s church, the Harpa concert hall and much more! When we return to the hotel, you will be able to go to your rooms and relax before you gather for the introductory lecture. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. and end at around 9:30 p.m. This evening you will embark upon our first attempt to view the Northern Lights.  (B, D)

**Saturday, February 17th** - Avoiding the tourist traps of the regular “Golden Circle” tour, Discover Europe has created a customized tour of the Iceland countryside. Leaving Reykjavik, you first head north to the shores of the Hvalfjörður (literally the Whale Fjord). Turning inland, you follow the course of one of Iceland’s largest salmon rivers, the Láxa í Kjós, and stop to view the spectacular waterfall, the Þórufoss. It’s a short drive from here to Þingvellir National Park, site of the world’s first parliament. After a stop for lunch, you’ll spend the afternoon relaxing in the waters of the Fontana spa at Laugarvatn, a naturally occurring hot spring bath. Continuing on to the south coast, you’ll visit the church at Skálholt, and stop to peer into the icy depths of Kerið volcanic crater. This evening you’ll enjoy a traditional Icelandic lobster feast (more like langoustine than Maine lobster) at a local restaurant before returning to our hotel. (B, L, D)

**Sunday, February 18th** - 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 whales. Your tour guide will also offer a special, optional “South Coast” tour. (B)

**Monday, February 19th** - This morning we drive down the exotic, moonlike Reykjanes peninsula. This is one of the newest parts of the country and is still growing! Here we will see pools of boiling mud, the air heavy with the smell of sulfur, and be able to walk on top of the North Atlantic Ridge - the only place in the world where this is possible. We’ll stop in the thriving fishing port of Grindavik and enjoy a traditional fisherman’s lunch here before we continue to the nearby airport for return flights to the U.S. (B, L)

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner*
General Instructions:
i). Please type or print.
ii). Make checks payable to Discover Europe, Ltd.
iii). Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
iv). Complete both sides of this form.
v). Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe with your deposit of $500 per person. Keep the top section for your records.

Detailed Instructions:
1. Passenger Details
i). Name(s). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Include your “Known As” or preferred name, if applicable.
ii). Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.
iii). Address. If you have a different address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.
iv). Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you require any special meals.
v). Health Information. A certain amount of walking is involved in this trip. Check the itinerary with your physician to ensure a safe and comfortable journey. Travelers requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion.

2. Emergency Contact
This information is essential.

3. Independent Flight Arrangements
If you are arranging your own flights, please provide your complete flight information, giving the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked. (Please note that extra charges for transportation to and from the destination airport may be incurred). If you need help arranging connecting flights from your local airport to an international departure city, we will be happy to arrange those for you. There is a nominal charge of $40 per ticket for this service.

4. Rooming Requirements
Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested.
i). If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
ii). A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.

Passenger Details Authentic Iceland (0215/VSI)
Passport Name:

1. Title First Middle Last
2. Title First Middle Last
Known As: 1. ______________________ 2. ______________________

1. Passport Number Expiration DOB
2. Passport Number Expiration DOB

Address: __________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: ______
E-mail: __________________________________________
Preferred Telephone: (___) ____________ work/cell/home circle one
Secondary Telephone: (___) ____________ work/cell/home circle one

Special Dietary Requirements: ____________________________
Health Information: __________________________________
Year of Graduation from Vassar: ________________________
Other Comments or Notes: ______________________________

Trip Details
Departure Date: ____________ Return Date: ____________
Departure Airport or City: _____________________________

Please return this form to:
Discover Europe, Ltd.
95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431

Your Host, Colleen Ballerino Cohen, Professor of Anthropology and Women’s Studies
Colleen Ballerino Cohen is Professor of Anthropology and Women’s Studies. She has served as Chair of the Anthropology Department, and was a founding member and Director of, the Women’s Studies and Media Studies Programs. She is a proud fifth-generation California native, with roots extending to the Mexican historical period. Her research in the British Virgin Islands and Cuba focuses on nationalism and identity, gender, tourism, and expressive culture. She has published numerous books and articles and produced several ethnographic films on Caribbean festival, Caribbean popular culture, and the relation between tourist development and nation-building. Professor Cohen has led numerous Vassar Travel Programs to Cuba, the Yucatán, and Oaxaca, and she looks forward on this trip to using her extensive knowledge of small island states, of folklore, gender, tourism, and popular culture to give travelers a sense of the historical and cultural factors that make up Icelanders’ understandings of themselves and their country. She also anticipates that her eighteen years’ experience teaching Alpine skiing will guide her in “layering” for Iceland’s February climate!
**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**GENERAL**
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., 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.
7. Conduct During the Tour: You are also responsible for respecting the authority and following the directions of the tour guide and the laws of the countries in your itinerary. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the tour if, in our sole discretion, your condition or behavior renders you unfit for the tour or unfit for continuation once the tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the tour. You should decide not to participate in certain parts of the tour or use certain goods included in the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the tour or goods.

**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 Icelandic Krona by more than 10% in the 6 months prior to trip departure.
2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 25-30 participants. Should we end up with less than 25 people, Discover Europe will work with Vassar College to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.

**REFUND POLICY**
1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 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 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
   - 90-61 days prior to departure: $1000 per person
   - 60 days prior to trip departure: no refund (unless traveler has insurance)
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the above schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. Note that the c airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Comprehensive travel insurance is not included in your tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Vassar Travel will be happy to provide information describing the services of a recommended insurance company, which will fully detail the coverages, provisions, limitations, and exclusions of the insurance offered.
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 *Authentic Iceland* 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.

**ROOMING REQUIREMENTS** (Please check one)
- [ ] I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)
- [ ] I will be sharing with: ____________________________
We would like a [ ] double  [ ] twin-bedded room

**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: ________________