Dear Vassar Travelers,

It’s with great pleasure that we invite you to spend Valentine’s Day Weekend in Iceland: a glimpse of the shimmering northern lights in Europe’s most remote country may just set your heart ablaze.

For Gabriel, this is a land of unending inspiration, where the moss-covered lava fields and craggy mountains brim with stories – from the blood-feuds of the Viking Age to the rumors of elves today. For Mita, while she is a stranger to Iceland, as a European historian she teaches about European identity on the supposed “margins,” a theme she has explored on other Vassar Travel Programs to France and Spain.

Though traveling to Iceland in February may seem daunting, don’t fret! The Atlantic Gulf Stream sends a steady supply of warm water past the island, making it warmer than you would expect at this latitude. A delightful consequence of this temperate winter landscape is the abundance of birds and marine mammals that populate Iceland’s coastal waters.

The capital city of Reykjavík offers an eclectic and vibrant culture, overflowing with live music, literature, and microbreweries. In fact, Reykjavík was the first non-native English-speaking city to be named a UNESCO City of Literature: it’s said that one in ten Icelanders will publish a book in their lifetime. Aside from its cozy coffee shops and dynamic nightlife, Reykjavík also offers a stunning view of the ocean and the perfect winter atmosphere – quiet, calm, carefree.

Alumnae/i host, Gabriel, is a recent Vassar graduate who has made Iceland his home. He’ll give you a firsthand experience of Reykjavík and is always eager to share his adventures – at once bizarre and joyous – in Iceland: including interviewing the prime minister, surviving frostbite, and spending the night in a traditional Icelandic turf house. Faculty host, Mita, will discuss the Icelandic versions of a phenomenon of the last several years: the Scandinavian crime novel. We will consider the relationship between crime literature, Icelandic culture, and the Icelandic landscape. Our in-country guide, Linda L’Etoile (who has led the Vassar trips every year since 2014), will share her expertise on the history, geology, politics, and culture of Iceland throughout our journey together.

We look forward to joining you in a land of wonders.

Mita Choudhury
Professor of History and Women’s Studies

Gabriel Dunsmith ’15
Writer, musician, storyteller

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**The Land of Fire & Ice**

**February 14th - 19th 2019**

**The Cost of this Itinerary, per Person, Double Occupancy, Is:**

- **Boston or New York Departure:** $2980
- **Land Only:** $2330
- **Single Supplement:** $550

Airfares are available from many other cities. Please call for details.

**The Following Services are Included:**

- **Airfare:** Round-trip airfare from Boston or New York, including all customs fees and airport taxes
- **Hotels:** 4 nights’ accommodation in first class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- **Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- **Meals:** 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners
- **Guides:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout
- **Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary
- **Lectures:** Lectures by your Vassar faculty hosts

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.

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**Discover Europe Ltd.**
95 Adams Street
Keene, NH 03431
USA

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w - www.discovereuropeltd.com
t - (toll free) 866-563-7077
f - (fax) 603-563-7137
Thursday, February 14th - Evening departure from your chosen gateway city, aboard your direct Iceland Air service to Iceland. **Overnight: Plane**

Friday, February 15th - Early morning arrival in Iceland; you will be met at the airport and 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 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, the Harpa concert hall and much more! When we return to the hotel, you will have time to relax before you gather for a lecture and dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) Overnight: Reykjavik**

Saturday, February 16th - Your excursion today takes you along the south coast of the island. At Vik, you’ll make a stop at the black volcanic beach south of the village - from here you can view the rock formations Dyrhólaey and Reynisdrangar. After a stop for lunch, you visit the fairytale-like Seljalandfoss waterfall, where you can experience walking right behind the misty cascade, and the gorgeous 60-metre high Skógafoss waterfall, just a short drive down the road. Heading back to Reykjavik, you’ll stop at the renowned Fjaðrárgljúfur restaurant in the village of Stokkseyri, where you’ll enjoy a traditional Icelandic lobster feast (more like Langoustine than Maine lobster). **(B, D) Overnight: Reykjavik**

Sunday, February 17th - This morning you head north out of the city and drive around the coast, following the shores of Hvalfjörður (literally the Whale Fjord) and inland to Reykholt. Here you stop to marvel at the Deildartunguhver natural hot spring (the largest in Europe) and then visit the new Krauma Geothermal Spa, where you will have time to have lunch and to soak in the natural hot spring waters. From here it is a short drive to your hotel, where you will have the opportunity to relax before dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Borgarnes**

Monday, February 18th - You spend the day today on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, home to the Snæfellsnes National Park and the Snæfellsnes Glacier. You’ll experience the amazing birdlife, the lush valleys and lava fields that make up this area of unique natural beauty. You’ll drive around the peninsula, exploring Dritvík Cove, Londrangar Cliffs as well as Hellnar and Arnarstapi Cliffs with its bursting bird-life and the small villages on the coast. You’ll stop in Stykkishólmur, a picture-perfect fishing village overlooking Breiðafjörður Bay. Here, you can take a walk up the small hill overlooking the harbour, Súgandisey, for a wonderful panoramic view of the town, sea and surrounding mountains. You might like to try and test your strength at the stones of the black volcanic beach of Djúpalónssandur like the seamen in past times. You’ll return to your hotel for dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Borgarnes**

Tuesday, February 19th - This morning you drive south, passing the city of Reykjavik and take a tour of the exotic, moonlike Reykjanes peninsula. This is one of the newest parts of the country and is still growing! Here you will see pools of boiling mud, the air heavy with the smell of sulfur, and active fumaroles. Reykjanes is the only place in the world where the North Atlantic Ridge rises up above sea level. We’ll stop in the thriving fishing port of Grindavik and enjoy a traditional fisherman’s lunch here before continuing to the nearby airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B, L)**

**Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner**
Your Hosts: Gabriel Dunsmith & Mita Choudhury

Gabriel Dunsmith ’15, an Environmental Studies major at Vassar, runs the blog “Nætur: Dispatches from Iceland,” which explores landscape, nature and culture in the Far North. When not studying Icelandic, he spends his time playing the mountain dulcimer, a traditional Appalachian instrument. His writing has been published in The Guardian, Earth Island Journal, Moyers & Co., and Vassar’s own Quarterly. Gabriel lives in Reykjavík and works as a copyeditor for Heathline Media.

Mita Choudhury received her BA from Haverford College (1985), an MA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1988), and her PhD from Northwestern University (1997). Her areas of research involve gender, political culture, and religion in Old Regime France. She is the author of Convents and Nuns in Eighteenth-Century French Politics and Culture (Cornell, 2004) and The Wanton Jesuit and the Wayward Saint (Penn State, 2015).

REGISTRATION FORM

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:
1) Please type or print.
2) Make checks payable to Discover Europe, Ltd.
3) Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
4) Complete both sides of this form.
5) 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:

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.

Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed up the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.

Address. If you have a different address, please provide us with the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.

Special Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.

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.

Emergency Contact
This information is essential.

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.

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.

PATIENT DETAIL FORM FOR THE LAND OF FIRE & ICE (0214/VSI)

Passport Name:
1. Title   First  Middle  Last
2. Title   First  Middle  Last

Known As: 1. 2.

Passport 1#: Exp.Date: DOB:
Passport 2#: Exp.Date: 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:

OTHER COMMENTS OR NOTES:

VASSAR CLASS YEAR:

TRIP DETAILS

DEPARTURE DATE: RETURN DATE:

DEPARTURE AIRPORT OR CITY:

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY TRIP TO:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Discover Europe, Ltd.
95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431
**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**GENERAL**
1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Instructions to aid you can be found on 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 waiver 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.
7. Conduct During the Tour: You are 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, at 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. Should you 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 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 fewer 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 fewer 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 - 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 least expensive 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. All cancellation requests must be received in writing.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant’s absence once the tour has started.
8. Your place on this tour is not transferrable.

**INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS**
1. All inclusions on *The Land of Fire & Ice* 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 chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers and items of a personal nature.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Primary Telephone: (_____) ______________________

**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), to be provided at least 90 days prior to departure: ____________________________

**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 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: __________