February 14th - 19th 2020

Dear Vassar Travelers,

Iceland . . . the Land of Fire and Ice is a country full of contrasts. From steamy hot springs to top-notch spas, spectacular scenery to art museums, this unique land is the perfect place to relax, recharge, and explore. Legends say that the ancient gods themselves guided Iceland’s first settler, Ingolfur Arnarson, to make his home in Reykjavik (“Smoky Bay”), named after the geothermal steam he saw. Today this geothermal energy heats homes and outdoor swimming pools throughout the city – a pollution-free energy source that leaves the air outstandingly fresh, clean and clear.

On this exciting getaway, you will experience the best of both the city life and the countryside. We will start by traveling north, up the west coast, to spend two nights in the Icelandic countryside. Characterized by extinct (and sometimes active!) volcanoes and cascading waterfalls nearly everywhere you turn, the geological forces that created this extraordinary island are dramatically on display. In the dark countryside, we’ll also be able to enjoy the beautiful dark northern skies, and have a chance to spot the famous Northern lights.

We then visit the capital city, Reykjavik, to experience the city’s vibrant culture and learn about the region’s Viking heritage. Reykjavik is also renowned as one of Europe’s hottest nightspots, where the action in the friendly pub and club scene lasts right through the long winter nights.

You will dine on Icelandic specialties, including delicious seafood, ocean-fresh from the morning’s catch, highland lamb, and unusual varieties of game. Bathe in the hot springs, and explore the natural wonders of Iceland on this adventure to the Land of Fire & Ice.

Dr. Colette Salyk
Assistant Professor of Astronomy

The Cost of this Itinerary, Per Person, Double Occupancy, is:

- Boston or New York Departure: $2860
- Land Only: $2210
- 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: 5 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Guides: Discover Europe tour guide throughout
- Entrances: Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary
- Lectures: Lectures by Vassar faculty host

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.
Friday, February 14th - Evening departure from your chosen gateway city, aboard your direct Iceland Air service to Iceland. **Overnight: Plane**

Saturday, February 15th - Early morning arrival in Iceland; you will be met at the airport for the journey to your hotel. Skirting the city of Reykjavik, we will drive around the coast, crossing the Hvalfjörður (literally the Whale Fjord) and on to your hotel in Borganes, where breakfast awaits. After checking in at the hotel, we’ll take a short excursion to visit the new Krauma Geothermal Spa, where you will have time to have lunch and to soak in the natural hot spring waters to wash away the effects of jet-lag. On the way back to the hotel, we’ll stop to marvel at the Deildartunguhver natural hot spring (the largest in Europe). Relaxed and refreshed, we’ll enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel this evening. This hotel is ideally situated for viewing the Northern Lights, being free of the light pollution found in the city. If the Lights are performing the hotel has an automated phone system to alert guests. **(B, D) Overnight: Borgarnes**

Sunday, February 16th - Today we explore the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, home to the Snæfellsnes National Park and the Snæfellsnes Glacier. Experience the amazing scenery, the lush valleys and lava fields that make up this area of unique natural beauty. We’ll drive around the peninsula, exploring Dritvík Cove, Lóndrangar Cliffs as well as Hellnar and Arnarstapi Cliffs and the small villages on the coast. We’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. On your return to the hotel, Professor Salyk will give a lecture on the Northern Lights before dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Borgarnes**

Monday, February 17th - After breakfast, we head back south following the shores of the Hvalfjörður and turn inland to Þingvellir National Park, site of the world’s first parliament. Here you can walk from America to Europe! We continue on to Reykjavik, where we will check in to our hotel before heading into the city center for lunch and a bus tour of Reykjavik, giving you 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! The evening is free to sample a local restaurant, go on a walking tour of downtown Reykjavik with a local storyteller, soak in the local thermal baths, or head out of the city on a tour for another chance to see the Northern Lights. **(B) Overnight: Reykjavik**

Tuesday, February 18th - Your excursion today takes you along the south coast of the island. At Vik, we’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, we visit the fairytale-like Seljalandsfoss 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, we’ll stop at the renowned Fjöruborðið 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**

Wednesday, February 19th - This morning is free to take advantage of one of the many optional activities offered through the hotel tour desk - you can visit the Blue Lagoon, go on a whale watch, or ride an Icelandic horse, to mention just a few. Alternatively, you can visit some of the sights and museums around the city - or do a little shopping. You leave the hotel after lunch (at 2 p.m.) to transfer to the airport for your return flights to the US. **(B)**

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner
Professor Colette Salyk studies the formation of planets using both ground- and space-based telescopes. In particular, she observes the birthplace of planets – called protoplanetary disks – in the hopes of understanding how the universe can produce such a vast array of different types of planets. For example, she wonders why is it that the process of plate tectonics, which dramatically shapes the geology of Iceland, doesn’t occur on any other planets in the solar system?

Colette Salyk received her BS in Planetary Science from MIT, and her PhD in Planetary Science from Caltech. She has used telescopes around the world, including in Arizona, Hawaii, and Chile, as well as in space (although she hasn’t gotten to travel there). At Vassar College, Colette teaches courses in Planetary Science, observational Astronomy, and introductory Physics. She is also the Director of Vassar’s Class of 1951 Observatory, where students are using Vassar’s telescope to discover new planets. As someone who works at the intersection of Astronomy and Planetary Science, Colette is excited to explore both the land and sky in Iceland. She also hopes that bringing an astronomer along will help summon the Northern lights for us all.

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 return to Discover Europe with your deposit of $500 per person, if this has not already been paid. 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.

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.

ADDRESS. If you have a temporary address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS. Please let us know if you require any special meals both for the hotels and the airlines.

HEALTH INFORMATION. It is very valuable for us to know ahead of time if you require any special assistance. Discover Europe tours are always paced for comfort, but inevitably there is also a certain amount of walking involved. Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with the tour group and not cause delays. Please consult with your physician if you have any questions regarding your ability to participate fully.

TRIP DETAILS
Please fill in the name of the trip you wish to register for, the departure date and your departure airport or city.

EMERGENCY CONTACT
This information is essential.

INDEPENDENT FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS
1. If transatlantic flights are not already included as part of your tour package, Discover Europe will be very happy to book these for you. The fee for this service is $40 per ticket.
2. 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. Transportation to and from the hotel for arrival and departure arrangements that are separate from the group can be made at an additional cost. It is essential that we receive your complete flight information at least 60 days prior to your trip departure.

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS
Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms. 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.

Note: A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.

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
1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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, 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. 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 (if it has not already been paid).
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.
2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 20-25 participants. Should we end up with less than 20 people, Discover Europe will work with Vassar 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.
4. Late registrations (received within 60 days of departure) may also incur extra fees and charges as discounted rates for hotels and airfares may no longer be available so close to departure. Participants will be made aware of any such charges before their registration is accepted.

**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 per person.
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 or less prior to departure: no refund
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. 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. Information describing the services of a recommended travel insurance company will be made available to you upon registration by Vassar College.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing by Discover Europe, Ltd.
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 transferable.

**Inclusions & Exclusions**
1. All inclusions 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.

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**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 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: ______________