

Stanford TRAVEL/STUDY

ICELAND

July 25 to August 2, 2022

Explore Reykjavík, the world's northernmost capital, and stop at Thingvellir National Park, the Strokkur geyser and Gullfoss, or "Golden Falls," on the acclaimed Golden Circle route of geological highlights. Take a guided tour inside the Langjökull glacier, hop aboard a specially designed amphibian boat to approach the massive icebergs of Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon and check out the crystalline structure of Reykjavík's Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre, inspired by Iceland's sparkling landscape. Soak in the therapeutic waters of the world-famous Blue Lagoon, a mineral-rich geothermal spa set in a black lava field, and sample hot spring bread, baked in the ground for 24 hours using only geothermal heat. Admire the moody beauty of Reynisfjara Beach, whose black volcanic sands contrast dramatically with the Reynisdrangar—basalt sea stacks that shoot up strikingly out of the ocean.

FACULTY LEADER

Ayla Pamukçu

Ayla joined Stanford's geological sciences department as an assistant professor in fall 2019. She received her BS in geophysical sciences and a minor in Near Eastern languages and civilizations at the University of Chicago. She subsequently spent a year in Turkey as a Fulbright Scholar, studying geoarchaeology, and then served as a research assistant while continuing her undergraduate research on supereruptions at the University of Chicago. She attended graduate school in the department of earth and environmental sciences at Vanderbilt University, where she studied the evolution and eruption of supereruptive magmas for her MS and PhD. She then held several postdoc positions (Brown, Princeton, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution), during which she expanded her research.

Ayla's work involves observations and data spanning a range of scales and perspectives, from geology in the field to lab observations of microscopic crystals. She loves bringing this multifaceted information together to unlock the history of volcanoes. She also finds the coexistence of humans with nature in Iceland inspiring. She is excited to learn more about how people have learned to live in the shadow of natural threats and the approaches they have developed to use the natural resources around them in positive ways. Though Iceland is a small island, its geology, particularly its volcanism, is complex and fascinating. In her lectures, Professor Pamukçu will address the general geology of Iceland, its volcanic and climatic history and the geothermal energy industry there.

ITINERARY

Monday, July 25

Reykjavík, Iceland

Arrive in Reykjavík (or "Bay of Smokes") and transfer to our hotel for an early-morning check-in and breakfast. This afternoon on our orientation walking tour, admire Reykjavík's Hallgrímskirkja cathedral, designed by Iceland's most beloved architect, Guðjón Samúelsson, and continue to the Einar Jónsson sculpture garden and museum. This evening gather for a welcome reception and dinner with fellow travelers. HOTEL BORG (B,D)

Tuesday, July 26

Reykjavík

Following a morning lecture at our hotel, drive to Perlan, a Reykjavík landmark and museum featuring a rotating glass dome with stunning views of the surrounding area. Visit the building's observation deck and exhibitions and watch Áróra, a planetarium show about the northern lights. After lunch travel to the Hellisheiði power plant, which produces electricity for more than half of the population of Iceland, mainly by harnessing geothermal energy. Dinner this evening is on our own. HOTEL BORG (B,L)

Wednesday, July 27

Reykjavík / Langjökull

This morning drive to Húsafell, where we take a ride onto Langjökull ("Long Glacier") in a specially modified snow truck and go on a guided tour inside a man-made ice cave to witness the blue ice at the heart of this ice cap glacier. After a gourmet lunch in a restaurant with beautiful views of the remote countryside, stop at the Hraunfossar and Barnafoss waterfalls to admire their natural beauty. Return to Reykjavík for an independent evening. HOTEL BORG (B,L)

Thursday, July 28

Reykjavík / Golden Circle / Vík

Set out on an unforgettable drive around Iceland's famous Golden Circle. Our first stop is Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site that lies in the rift valley between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Dig up and taste hot spring bread, baked over 24 hours in the warm earth, and experience how Icelanders have been harnessing geothermal power since long before power plants came into existence. After a lunch of local specialties, see Strokkur, Iceland's most active geyser, as well as Geysir, which erupts infrequently (sometimes with breaks of several years) but is famously the first geyser known to Europeans, its name thus becoming the root for the English word. Finish the afternoon admiring the beautiful Gullfoss, or "Golden Falls," then head to the charming coastal town of Vík, our home for the next two nights. HOTEL KRÍA (B,L,D)

Friday, July 29

Vík / Jökulsárlón

Drive two hours to Diamond Beach, passing through the vast Eldhraun lava field, the largest on earth since the end of the Ice Age. Journey through beautiful scenery toward Vatnajökull, the largest glacier in Europe, and see the Öræfajökull volcano and Iceland's highest peak, Hvannadalshnjúkur. Hop on board a speedy Zodiac or amphibian boat to see up close the massive icebergs of the magnificent Jökulsárlón ("Glacier Lagoon"). Be awestruck by the beauty of the blue-and-white ice floating peacefully toward the ocean. Walk to nearby Diamond Beach to observe chunks of ice floating by, washing up to shore and sparkling on the black sand. With a bit of luck, see seals at play. After lunch enjoy magnificent views of Skaftafell National Park on the drive back to Vík and enjoy dinner together at our hotel. HOTEL KRÍA (B,L,D)

Saturday, July 30

Vík / Reykjavík

Start the day with a visit to the black beach of Reynisfjara, near Vík, to admire its basalt-column cliffs, often dotted with puffins, and the basalt sea stacks sitting just offshore. Continue to the fascinating folklore museum in Skógar to see how Icelanders lived through the centuries. A historian will discuss with us the importance of the Vikings to Icelandic history and creativity and explain how functional items became works of art. After lunch at a local farmhouse, continue through fertile farmlands and across

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numerous glacial rivers to Seljalandsfoss, a 197-foot-tall waterfall that visitors can walk behind. Return to Reykjavík, check back in to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure. HOTEL BORG (B,L)

Sunday, July 31

Reykjavík

Following a morning lecture at our hotel, visit the U.S. Embassy and meet with staff working in Reykjavík. Then spend the afternoon soaking in the healing waters of the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa rich in minerals, while sipping a local beer or cocktail. HOTEL BORG (B,L)

Monday, August 1

Reykjavík

Enjoy a guided tour of the spectacular Harpa conference center, located within walking distance of our hotel in Reykjavík's old harbor area. Lunch and the remainder of the afternoon are free for exploring or to take part in an optional horse-riding excursion in the countryside near Reykjavík. This evening rejoin our group for an Icelandic farewell reception and feast at one of Reykjavík's celebrated restaurants. HOTEL BORG (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 2

Reykjavík / Home

Check out of our hotel today and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

INFORMATION

Covid-19 and Travel

With travel requirements and local Covid-19 conditions changing weekly, travel protocols for specific destinations will be shared with confirmed travelers closer to departure. To read more about Travel/Study's general approach to ensuring traveler health and safety, visit our [Covid-19 Travel page](#).

Size

This trip is limited to 38 participants. Travel/Study is committed to providing a low-density experience on all programs and will implement protocols to do so, including social distancing on transportation as well as during lectures, meals and excursions. Single accommodations are limited.

Cost*

\$8,995 per person, double occupancy

\$10,695 per person, single occupancy

*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add \$300 per person.

Included

- Educational program with lecture series and predeparture materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities
- 9 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 4 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions

- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- On-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- General medical, accident and evacuation insurance

Not Included

- Your personal flights to and from the program
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- Baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements

You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

What to Expect

We consider this program to be moderately strenuous and at times physically demanding and busy. Most of our touring is done by motor coach, the longest drives being up to three hours. Much of the walking takes place on volcanic terrain, where paths can be rocky and uneven. Some tours require climbing up and down stairs. The visit to Langjökull starts in a specially modified snow truck that drives us onto the glacier itself. Snow boots, warm jackets, hats, gloves and scarves are advisable while we're on the glacier and inside the ice cave. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility

We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is \$300 more than the members' price. The nonmember fee is waived for anyone traveling as a paid guest of a current member, as well as for emerita or emeritus faculty and staff. To purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership.

Deposits, Payments and Cancellations

A \$1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is due 120 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a \$500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and we resell your place(s), in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with general medical, accident and evacuation coverage, as well as on-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage, under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage and/or baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be included in your confirmation materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your insurance within 14 days of receiving your welcome email.

Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates include arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We also reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, nor Stanford University, nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect at the time the brochure is published and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk.

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