



ICELAND: *July 15 - July 24, 2018*

The Golden Circle & Ring Road

SV **SAGINAW VALLEY**
SU **STATE UNIVERSITY**

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

Registration Opens
Monday, August 21, 2017

- * Walk-in registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
- * Phone registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
- * Mail/Dropped registration will be processed after 10:00 a.m.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Iceland: The Golden Circle & Ring Road

July 15 through July 24, 2018

Immerse yourself in all the worldly beauty that Iceland has to offer. Some of Earth's most astounding and extreme landscapes can be found in Iceland where every corner of the country offers something new. Learn about fascinating maritime history and taste traditional fare as you journey from the culturally rich capital to the most remote parts of the coast. Glacier-fed waterfalls, boiling mud pools, moss-covered cliffs - see it all on this whirlwind journey through "The Land of Fire and Ice."

This 10 - Day Trip Includes:

- Eight nights in handpicked hotels *
- Eight breakfasts, one lunch, five three-course dinners with beer or wine, one schnapps tasting, and two traditional food tastings
- Ground transportation from SVSU to Detroit airport and from the airport back to SVSU on the return trip.
- Guided sightseeing and select entrance fees
- Included Akureyri Fjord whale watching excursion
- Go Ahead's Trip Protection Package valued at \$429
- Pre-trip dinner at SVSU**

* We have not yet finalized flights for this trip. If we do have an early flight to Iceland on the 15th, we will book a block of rooms near the airport. There will be an additional charge of approximately \$60 per person. Information will be sent closer to departure.

** We will offer a pre-trip dinner about two weeks prior to departure where you will meet fellow OLLI travelers and receive your travel documents. We will go over trip logistics, cover any questions you may have and talk to our travel host via conference call.



Trip Providers

This educational travel experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with Go Ahead Tours. Founded in 1990, Go Ahead Tours offers over 85 itineraries to 60 countries across the globe. They are part of Education First, the world's largest private education company whose mission is "to break down the barriers of language, culture, and geography that divide us." Go Ahead was the travel provider for our Tuscany, Canadian Rockies, Charleston to Savannah, Germany and Spain trips.

About Our Lodging

We will stay in three and four diamond accommodations, handpicked by our trip provider Go Ahead Tours to ensure quality and comfort. A list of our hotels will be given to you closer to departure.

- 1 night • Overnight Flight
- 2 nights • Reykjavik
- 1 night • South Coast Region
- 1 night • Egilsstaðir
- 2 nights • Akureyri
- 1 night • Snæfellsnes Peninsula
- 1 night • Reykjavik

Trip Highlights

- The cosmopolitan appeal of Reykjavik, the world's northernmost capital
- The "Golden Waterfall" cascading over 100 feet into a craggy canyon
- Jet-black pebbles and basalt columns on the famous Reynisfjara Beach
- Looking for seals on a cruise through the Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon
- The stark lunar landscape surrounding Lake Mývatn
- Whale watching cruise on the Akureyri Fjord
- Admiring the untouched landscape of Snæfellsjökull National Park

Optional Excursion:

You will receive additional details about the Blue Lagoon Spa optional excursion on day two after registration. You will be able to register for this closer to departure. Note: We did build the whale watching excursion into your package on day seven. (This is usually offered as an optional).





■ Day 1: Sunday, July 15

This is a travel day. We will depart SVSU by motorcoach to Detroit airport. Our flights have not been finalized yet, but plan on an overnight flight to Reykjavik.

■ Day 2: Monday, July 16 - (Reykjavik)

Welcome to Iceland! Get a feel for Reykjavik, often called “the greenest city on Earth,” with your Tour Director leading the way. We’ll see the iconic Höfði House, Perlan Restaurant, and the presidential residence at Bessastadir. Other highlights for this day include a visit to Hallgrim’s Church and the University District. We will pass through the Old Town Center, Parliament House, and modern City Hall and get a glimpse of the artwork of Ásmundur Sveinsson and Einar Jónsson, both famous Icelandic artists. This afternoon you will have free time to enjoy Reykjavik **OR** take the optional excursion to the Blue Lagoon Spa. Additional information for this excursion will be available after registration. We will gather this evening with fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. (D)

■ Day 3: Tuesday, July 17 - (Golden Circle)

Leave the bustle of Reykjavik behind as you travel around the Golden Circle, a ring of some of Iceland’s most magnificent natural wonders. We will stop at Thingvellir National Park to see the Althing, an open-air governmental assembly that was established in 930 and continued to meet until 1798. Our lunch will be at Fridheimar Farm, where the produce is grown fresh in a greenhouse heated by geothermal energy. After lunch, we will explore the Great Geysir Geothermal Area located in the Haukadalur Valley and discover Gullfoss, or the “Golden Waterfall,” a natural wonder and one of the most powerful waterfalls in Europe. (B,L)

■ Day 4: Wednesday, July 18 - (South Coast)

We start the day with a sightseeing tour of the South Coast. Along the coast we’ll view a lowland region of lush farmland, striking waterfalls, beaches, glaciers, and picturesque villages. We will plan a photo stop by the Eyjafjallajökull Volcano to marvel at breathtaking views (weather permitting). This day also includes coastal mountain scenery as you travel to the Seljalandsfoss Waterfall for a short walk behind the falls. In the afternoon we will visit the Skogar Museum to learn more about Iceland’s cultural heritage, and marvel at the Sólheimajökull Glacier and iconic black sands of Reynisfjara Beach. (B,D)

■ Day 5: Thursday, July 19 - Egilsstaðir

Today we travel east toward the town of Egilsstaðir, admiring the stunning landscape and stopping for a boat cruise en route. In the morning we will pass the Eldhraun Lava Field and Skaftafell National Park. In the afternoon we will cruise through the Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, keeping our eyes open for seals. Continuing on our route to Egilsstaðir, we will stop for photos and short walks as we pass through the East Fjords region. (B,D)

■ Day 6: Friday, July 20 - (Akureyri)

Today we will make our way north toward the small city of Akureyri, stopping to admire breathtaking waterfalls and volcanic landscapes along the way. As we travel through Mödrudalsöræfi Desert Plateau on our way to Dettifoss we’ll stop for a short walk around the rim of the waterfall, and also make a stop at Lake Mývatn to learn about the boiling mud pools and geothermal activity of the Námaskard Sulfur Field. Throughout the day marvel at the beauty of Goðafoss Waterfall, one of Iceland’s most famous cataracts, before ending the day in Akureyri. (B)

■ Day 7: Saturday, July 21 - (Siglufjörður)

Get to know more about Icelandic culture during a visit to the town of Siglufjörður. Here we’ll learn about the country’s maritime history as you follow a local guide through the Herring Era Museum and enjoy a tasting of herring, one of Iceland’s most important culinary staples, washed down with Brennivín schnapps. In the afternoon, we’ll take in the beauty of northern Iceland’s varied landscape and keep our eyes open for wildlife as we enjoy an included three-hour whale watching cruise on the Akureyri Fjord. As you cruise on the idyllic waterway, a local guide will tell us more about the fjord’s ecosystem and history, and we may spot minke whales, orcas, humpback whales, dolphins, and porpoises. (B)

■ Day 8: Sunday, July 22 - (Snæfellsnes Peninsula)

Today we’ll drive through the landscapes of West Iceland to the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, stopping along the way to visit the Bjarnarhöfn Shark Museum, where we’ll have the opportunity to taste cured shark and dried fish. (B,D)

■ Day 9: Monday, July 23 (Reykjavik)

After breakfast we’ll continue exploring the sites of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula with our tour director before returning to Reykjavik. We’ll set off to see Snæfellsjökull National Park, which has a natural landscape dominated by the massive Snæfellsjökull Glacier; and pay a visit to rural Arnarstapi, a breathtaking fishing village that was once an important trading post. Join the group for a farewell dinner as this will be our final evening in Iceland. (B,D)

■ Day 10: Tuesday, July 24

Today we say goodbye to Iceland. After breakfast we will transfer to the airport for our flight home. We will be transferred from Detroit to SVSU by motorcoach. (B)



Important Information

Trip Activity Level

Go Ahead considers this a **VERY ACTIVE** trip. Our trip provider rated this tour a 4 on a scale from 1-5, with 5 being difficult. On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including wet, slippery gravel and paved paths with some uphill climbs. Travelers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks without assistance. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour. You should be able to handle your own luggage at the airport and on the plane, as well as getting in and out of boats, and ferries.

Weather Projection

It is often said "the whole island is air conditioned!" The average daytime temperature highs are in the high 50s and the average lows are in the mid 40s. However the weather is extremely changeable and unpredictable so you should always be prepared for the unexpected.

Trip Insurance

Go Ahead's TravelSafe trip insurance is included in the price of this trip and must be paid at the time of deposit upon registration. The "Trip Protection" package has pre-existing condition coverage. Details about the insurance will be mailed to you upon registration. You can also find out more about Go Ahead's travel protection package terms and conditions on their website at: goaheadtours.com/about/travel-protection. Please note insurance fees are never refundable.

Cancellation

All cancellations must be made in writing to the OLLI office. Prior to final payment we will try to fill your space with someone from the wait list. You will be charged a \$20 cancellation fee, and any other charges imposed by the airlines or trip provider depending on when the cancellation takes place. Go Ahead's cancellation policies will prevail. *(please note that insurance fees are not refundable)*

Information and Reservations

Call SVSU-OLLI at (989) 964-4475, or come in the OLLI office, C-111, for further information or to make your deposit. Registration for this trip begins on:

Monday August 21, 2017

- Walk-in registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
- Phone registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Mail/Dropped registrations will be processed after 10:00 a.m. on registration day

Iceland Registration July 15 - July 24, 2018

1 Name _____
(as it appears on your passport)

Date of Birth _____ Citizenship _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Passport # _____ Expiration Date _____

2 Name _____
(as it appears on your passport)

Date of Birth _____ Citizenship _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Passport # _____ Expiration Date _____

**A copy of your passport is required
at the time of registration.**

Trip Costs: (until August 31, 2017)

- \$5,488* OLLI Members (double) *Includes trip protection insurance*
- \$5,548** Non members (double) *Includes trip protection insurance*
- \$ 780 Single Supplement

* This price is valid until 8/31/17. After that date, the price increases depending on the date of enrollment. Your \$879/\$939 deposit locks in the lower rate through August 31, 2017.

** Non-members receive 2017-2018 membership, expiring 8/31/18

Deposit & Payment Method

- \$879/\$939 will hold your spot (includes insurance)
- The final balance is due by May 1, 2018.

Check (payable to SVSU) Amount Enclosed _____

Credit Card: MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Card Number _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Expiration Date _____

If you have traveled with Go Ahead Tours before you will receive a discount. How many Go Ahead Tours have you taken? _____