

ICELAND EXPEDITION



ALUMNI TRIP

AUGUST 2 - 5, 2018

Land package:
From \$1,295

ICELAND
EXPEDITION



Alabama National
Alumni Association



START YOUR ADVENTURE

Dear Young Alumni and Friends:

Join the University of Alabama Alumni Association on this exciting 5-day journey and explore Iceland in the company of like-minded UA alumni and grads.



Alabama National Alumni Association

Get to know Iceland's most famous natural treasures, experience black beaches, glacier views, stunning coastlines, magnificent bird cliffs, delightful towns, incredible waterfalls, erupting geysers, tectonic plates and take a plunge into the healing mineral waters of the Blue Lagoon.

Walk in the footsteps of your favorite Game of Thrones characters and take time to visit the striking wilderness chosen to represent the regions north of the Seven Kingdoms or journey to the dramatic gorge at Thingvellir - the stomping ground of the White Walkers and the Wildlings.

Participate in optional activities or plan your free time with new friends. The program offers a great balance of planned and educational activities and time for independent exploration, time to relax, and create an adventure all your own.

We hope you will be able to join us for this amazing experience! Book early to reserve your space on this very popular tour. Book your journey on-line at www.alumniworldtravel.com/2018/UA.html or please contact us at 205-348-1553 or email mtrabucco@alumni.ua.edu

We look forward to having you travel with us.

Sincerely,

Jamie Burke
Alumni Tour Coordinator
The University of Alabama

5-day base land package: \$1,295*

Rates are based on two people sharing one room. Upon request, AESU will attempt to arrange a shared room with a same gender traveler. If no roommate can be assigned, a single supplement of \$495 will automatically be added to traveler's invoice.

Please note the Icelandic government tax system is changing with regards to value added taxes (VAT) and the land package cost may increase by up to 15%. The actual VAT tax imposed at time of billing (90 days prior to tour departure) will be added to your final invoice.

**Special Alumni Land price per person. Airfare priced separately for greater flexibility. Please call AESU Alumni World Travel for great low airfares from most U.S. cities. Airport/departure taxes are additional and subject to change.*

WHAT DO I GET



COVERAGE

When you book your young alumni trip with us the necessities of travel are taken care of.

These include:

SUPERIOR TOURIST CLASS HOTELS
ALL LAND TRANSPORTATION
DAILY BREAKFAST
SPECIAL CULTURAL DINNERS
KNOWLEDGABLE TOUR DIRECTOR
LOCAL HISTORIANS & NATURALISTS

(See more in the inclusions on page 4)

EDUCATION & ADVENTURE

Whether you can't wait to immerse yourself in the beautiful sites of the most northern capital in the world and the tranquility of the infamous Blue Lagoon, or you're more inclined to explore during your freetime and partake in an optional glacier walk, this tour provides a beautiful balance of historical education and complete sensory and cultural immersion into the vivacious life of this country.

THE VERDICT?

Don't miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime to explore the places you have been dreaming of or reading about in books. Make new best friends from around the world and create memories that will keep this journey alive forever.

It's not rocket science, group travel is a safer way to explore the world. This trip provides you with an exciting approach to learning and taking in all the history and culture around you.

Open your mind, see the world and have the most fun you've ever had.

JUST GO!

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5 DAYS

ABOUT THE TRIP:

Get to know Iceland's most famous natural treasures, experience black beaches, glacier views, stunning coastlines, magnificent bird cliffs, delightful towns, incredible waterfalls, erupting geysers, tectonic plates and take a plunge into the healing mineral waters of the Blue Lagoon. Walk in the footsteps of your favorite Game of Thrones characters and take time to visit the striking wilderness chosen to represent the regions north of the Seven Kingdoms or journey to the dramatic gorge at Thingvellir – the stomping ground of the White Walkers and the Wildlings. Blame it on those long winter nights or perhaps the endless summer days, or the exceptional quality of locally produced beer and schnapps; Reykjavik's legendary nightlife or "jammith" as the locals refer to it, has gained a reputation for being one of the hottest places to party in the world today!

HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome Orientation and cocktail party* City sightseeing tour * Golden circle tour * Old Town Center tour * Reykjavik bar crawl * Gullfoss waterfall * Strokkur fountain geyser
* Thingvellir National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site) *
The Blue Lagoon* ... AND MUCH MORE!

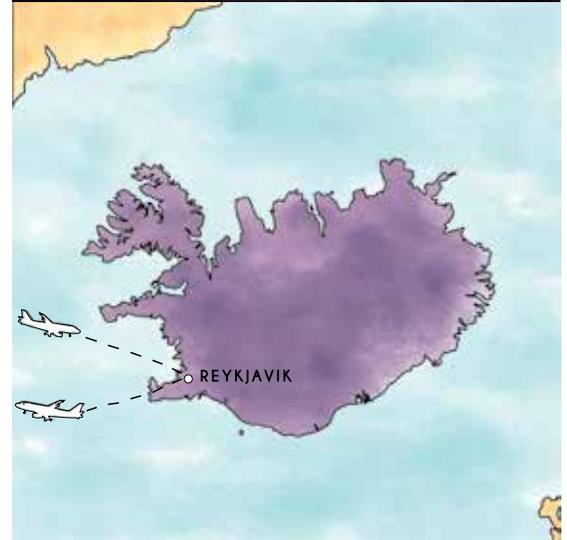
OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:

(Not included in package price)

Optional South coast excursion with glacier walk

We drive from Reykjavik through the fertile farmlands of South Iceland, heading towards the majestic mountains towering over the coast, among them the snow shrouded Hekla and the ice capped volcano Eyjafjallajokull, last active in 2010. We continue through the region where one of the best known of the Icelandic classical sagas, Njal's Saga, is set. The South Shore is one of the most popular regions of Iceland for a number of reasons: The waterfalls Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss tumbling over high rock escarpments; the stone arch Dyrholaey with its sheer cliffs, the picturesque setting of Vik village, a row of glaciers towering over the scenery and the Reynisdrangar rock pillars (some say they are petrified trolls) decorating the black beach of Reynihverfi. Late in the day we head back to Reykjavik after a memorable day. Duration: 10 hours.

Please check with your tour director for detailed schedules. Some options may require a minimum number of participants to operate. Rates for options are per person, approximate and subject to change.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 3 nights at superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- Daily continental breakfast
- Welcome cocktail and orientation with private tour director
- Reykjavik bar crawl
- Guided Old Town Center tour
- Airport transfers with purchase of AESU group airfare
- Full day 'Golden Circle Tour' including
 - Gullfoss waterfall
 - Geysir & Strokkur hot springs
 - Thingvellir National Park UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Fish & Chips farewell dinner
- The Blue Lagoon Geothermal Spa

PLUS:

- Private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour
- All scheduled sightseeing
- All ground transportation by private motor coach, as per itinerary
- All service charges and local taxes
- Luggage tag and travel guides

ICELAND EXPEDITION

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DAY 1 FLIGHT TO REYKJAVIK

Embark on an overnight journey to Iceland's capital city.

Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 ARRIVE REYKJAVIK

If arriving in the "Land of the Midnight Sun" on a group flight this morning, your expedition starts with a visit to the Blue Lagoon.* Find ultimate relaxation in the healing mineral waters, surrounded by lava fields and snow-capped mountains in this geothermal spa located just outside of Reykjavik. The facilities include modern changing rooms and showers, an indoor geothermal pool, a winter garden and a restaurant. Continue to Reykjavik with a short city sightseeing tour of the northernmost capital in the world. Your tour includes the old town center, the Parliament, Cathedral and much more. Afterwards check into your hotel. This evening, join a welcome orientation and cocktail with the tour director. Later on you are invited to a Reykjavik bar crawl.

Meals: In-flight, Welcome cocktail

**Note: Travelers who book airfare with AESU will be met by their tour director in the arrivals hall. If booking your own flights, contact an AESU sales representative for meeting and transfer bus departure time.*

DAY 3 REYKJAVIK * Golden Circle Tour

The Golden Circle Tour is probably Iceland's most popular day tour as it includes three of the best known attractions. The golden waterfall Gullfoss, is one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe with thousands of tons of icy water thundering majestically into a deep canyon. The Geyser area has numerous hot springs and geysers, including the famous Strokkur. Thingvellir is the site of the world's oldest democratic parliament founded in 930 and the beautiful canyon running through the park is the dividing fault line between two of the earth's tectonic plates. We return to Reykjavik for an evening at your leisure. Don't miss out on Reykjavik's legendary night life.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 REYKJAVIK * Optional day tour to the south shore with glacier walk

Enjoy a free day to explore Reykjavik or opt to join a tour to the south shore. Pass through the fertile farming lands and villages of south Iceland, rich in Viking history and heritage

and a view of the infamous Eyjafjallajökull and Hekla volcanoes. Take a walk behind the splendid wall of water of Seljalandsfoss waterfall, then hike on the ancient ice of Sólheimajökull glacier with a professional certified guide. Afterwards take a leisurely stroll along the black sand beach of Reynisfjara with its famous basalt columns and caverns. See the Reynisdrangar cliffs; basalt rock stacks that rise from the sea. Icelandic legends say that they are naughty trolls turned into rock by the rising sun. This great sightseeing tour ends with a stop at the Skógafoss waterfall. Walk up to the thundering waterfall for a bird's eye view of the tumbling water and rainbows. At tonight's farewell fish 'n chips farewell dinner plan your next adventure with new-found friends

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Optional Activity: South shore excursion and glacier walk

DAY 5 FLIGHT HOME

Reluctantly we say farewell to Iceland. Jet home with thoughts of your next adventure.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BEFORE YOU GO

HOW DO I BOOK?

Booking your trip is easy! To make your reservation click the "CHECK AVAILABILITY" button on any trip page to book your trip online, or you can call us at 1.800-638-7640 if you have any questions.

DO I NEED A PASSPORT? A VISA?

Travel to EUROPE: If you are an American or Canadian citizen, you only need a Passport. The easiest way to get a passport is through your local post office, County Court House, or Passport Agency. When applying, be sure to take with you: your genuine birth certificate, which includes the registrar's signature and a raised seal; two recent photographs that are 2" x 2", full face view, black/white or color; and ID, like your Driver's License. You may need a Visa for our tours if you are not an American or Canadian citizen. If you are a citizen of another country, you must contact the appropriate consulates for each nation on the itinerary, and you must obtain these visas on your own.

Travel BEYOND Europe: Check on Visa requirements (incl. American or Canadian citizens) with the respective consulate or embassy. Some countries may charge for a tourist visa on entry or a departure tax on leaving the country.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I NEED?

We recommend \$50-\$80 per day, depending on your spending habits. That money covers items of a personal nature, laundry, beverages with meals (except for coffee/tea at breakfast, water at dinner, and occasionally a glass of wine), meals not included on tour, and expenses for free-time activities (metro tickets, taxis, entrance fees). This amount does not include money for souvenir/gift shopping. We strongly recommend bringing a credit card (Visa, American Express, and Mastercard are the most widely accepted) as well as an ATM card. Check with your bank prior to departure to ensure your ATM card is usable overseas.

SHOULD I PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE?

We highly recommend travel insurance. (Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate.) If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or click on this link: <https://www.mhross.com/index.php/consumer/portal/AESU3922MD>

HOW MUCH LUGGAGE SHOULD I TAKE?

Due to limited space on the tour motor coach, you may only bring ONE suitcase and ONE carry-on. Limit your suitcase size to no larger than 29" x 20" x 10" and your carry-on to no larger than 8" x 16" x 21". Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Keep in mind that throughout the duration of the tour, you are responsible for your own luggage, so do not pack more than you can carry. Laundry facilities are available in major cities.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

The easiest way to make your tour stressful is to over pack! See more details in Planning & Packing section on your trip's Toolbox pages. Download our suggested packing list.

WHAT ABOUT PACKING DOCUMENTS?

Never pack your passport! Always keep it with you. The same goes for cash and credit cards. Pack 2 extra passport photos if possible (in the event that you misplace your passport); photo copies of your passport's personal data pages, your flight itinerary and e-ticket information; a listing of your credit card; and copies of any personal IDs. This info will be extremely valuable should you lose any actual documents. Always keep actual documents on your person, and never in your checked suitcase.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

WHAT ARE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?

European trips: We stay in superior tourist class hotels, 3-star or 4-star, all with private bath/shower. Our hotels have been especially selected for their European atmosphere, friendly hospitality, cleanliness and location. TOUR ROOMING POLICY: AESU & AESU Alumni World Travel Graduation tours: All rates based on per/person 2-share basis. Two persons booking together as roommates receive a 2-share room. Solo travelers will be accommodated in a 2-share room, depending on availability. This share basis means, if you travel on your own, you do NOT have to pay a single supplement.* AESU special tours & AESU Alumni World Travel Young Alumni tours: If you are traveling alone and do not want a single room, we will attempt to arrange for a 2-share room. If this is not possible, we will make arrangements for a single room and charge the applicable single supplement. The overnight ship from Italy to Greece offers 4-share cabins. Some tour companies offer budget programs that stay in remote cabin campsites utilizing sleeping bags or occasional hotels with 4 or more sharing a room with no bath. We do NOT believe that this is the best way to spend a night in Europe. You'll be furnished a complete hotel address list with your final documents. Properties are subject to change and any substitutions would be the equivalent of those listed. *Single supplement only applies if single accommodations are requested. Independent hotel reservations, certain special tours always apply a single supplement. Please check your itinerary and also see roommate question regarding Young Alumni Programs.

I DON'T HAVE A ROOMMATE, WHAT DO I DO?

European trips: Going solo is not a problem with AESU. Many of our participants don't have a travel companion when booking a trip. If you're traveling alone, we will arrange for you to share a room (same gender) at NO EXTRA COST. Our hotels are superior tourist class, ALL with private bath/shower. Usual accommodations are two sharing a room, however, if you prefer to stay in a single room, our reservations agent can make arrangements for a single at the applicable single supplement rate. (See above regarding exceptions.)

I KNOW SOME MEALS ARE INCLUDED, BUT WHAT ABOUT SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

Tours include breakfast daily, lunches & dinner as per itinerary. If you are a vegetarian, or have special dietary needs, please inform your tour director as soon as you arrive. All included meals are pre-paid, so a substitute meal is always up to the goodwill of the establishment. We cannot guarantee that all special requests will be granted, but, in the past, most restaurants have been cooperative. Please keep in mind that substitute meals may not be as varied as they are at home.

DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?

Check with your doctor or the CDC (www.cdc.gov/travel) to find out if vaccinations are required. If you suffer from any form of illness, be sure to have an adequate supply of medicines before departing on your trip. You must advise us of any important medical condition you may have, before departure.

DOES AESU SUPPORT ECO TRAVEL?

Every traveler shares a common responsibility to preserve our planet's environment and respect its people. AESU enthusiastically endorses ASTA's 10 Commandments, which effectively reaffirm that responsibility. Let's live by these Commandments, to ensure our world's beauty is preserved for our generation and for generations to come. Thank you for the opportunity to travel together and to discover our remarkable world in a responsible manner. Over a decade ago AESU founded "TRAVEL FOR GOOD" — many years before large travel companies became active in environmental travel.

Link to US State Department Travel Website
<http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html>

FOR MORE FAQ'S VISIT OUR WEBSITE