From steamy hot springs to top-notch spas, spectacular scenery to magnificent 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.

Renowned for its spellbinding beauty and stunning landscape, Iceland is the only place on Earth where you can stand on top of the Atlantic Ocean’s submarine mountain chain - for the island is the only place where the chain peaks up above sea level! From this perch, we can walk from North America to Europe.

We’ll journey through the north, south, and west of the island, enjoying the long evening twilight of the northern summer and visit a wondrous variety of small settlements, good-size towns and amazing natural landscapes. This captivating geological wonderland offers the opportunity to explore dramatic phenomena: colossal glaciers, active volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, glacial rivers, cascading waterfalls, moss-covered lava fields, and glacial lagoons.

We’ll dine on Icelandic specialties, including seafood, ocean-fresh from the morning’s catch; highland lamb; and unusual varieties of game. It’s purely natural food imaginatively served.

Join Swarthmore's faculty host and specially selected local guide, Svanur Thorkelsson, on an amazing adventure this summer to the Land of Fire and Ice.

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**THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:**

- **Boston or New York Departure:** $4899
- **Single Supplement:** $ 980

**INCLUDES ROUNDTrip INTERNATIONAL AIR**

Airfares are available from many U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

The following services are included:

- **HOTELS:** 6 nights’ accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- **AIRFARE:** Roundtrip air on Iceland Air from Boston, or New York. One way domestic flight from Akureyri to Reykjavik (included in land only price)
- **COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- **MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 5 dinners
- **GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout
- **EXPENSES:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person
- **ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- **TIPS:** All tips to bus driver and tour guides are included

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Information on purchasing coverage will be sent to each registrant on receipt of deposit.
Sunday, August 9th - Evening departure from your chosen gateway city. **Overnight: Plane**

**Monday, August 10th** - Early morning arrival in Iceland; you will be met at the airport and escorted to your hotel in Reykjavik, where a sumptuous breakfast buffet awaits. This morning you tour 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 and much more! Most hotels know that Americans arrive early and will do everything possible to help you check in upon arrival. However, this may not always be possible and if the rooms are not ready, you will store your luggage and go off on your city tour. When you return after lunch, you will be able to go to your rooms and take a short nap before you gather for a welcome reception followed by dinner in the hotel. **Reykjavik (B, D)**

**Tuesday, August 11th** - 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. You’ll 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. On your return to Reykjavik you’ll stop and have a special Icelandic “Lobster Feast” in the village of Stokkseyri. **Reykjavik (B, D)**

**Wednesday, August 12th** - This morning after breakfast you board the short internal flight to Akureyri. Known as the capital of Northern Iceland, Akureyri topped The Lonely Planet’s 2015 list of the ten best places to visit in Europe! You’ll spend the afternoon visiting the Akureyri Botanical Garden, the most northerly Botanical Garden in the world. One of Akureyri’s gems, it is known far and wide for its beautiful walking paths and luxuriant flora. It was founded in 1912, and contains nearly every plant found in Iceland (around 450) and nearly 7,000 foreign species. Dinner is included this evening. **Akureyri (B, D)**

**Thursday, August 13th** - An excursion from Akureyri this morning takes us to the Mývatn Lake region and over the curiously-coloured Námaskarð pass, past the Krafla volcano. We’ll return to Akureyri where lunch is on our own, and the rest of the afternoon is free for personal exploration (the city has a wonderful art museum) or strolling through the town. This evening is also free for you to sample a local restaurant. **(B) Overnight: Akureyri**

**Friday, August 14th** - After breakfast this morning you head out on Route 1, the circular road around the island. First we’ll take a brief detour to Tröllaskagi (“The Peninsula of the Trolls”), where you can enjoy fantastic scenery of beautiful mountains, cliffs and fjords before stopping for lunch in Sauðárkrókur where you’ll also pay a visit to the Skagafjörður folk museum. This afternoon you’ll stop at the beautiful Pingeýrarfirkja church and then visit the living museum at Eiríksstaðir, home of famous Viking Erik the Red. From here you continue around Route 1 to Hvalfjörður, arriving at your hotel in time to relax and refresh up before dinner. **Hvalfjörður (B, D)**

**Saturday, August 15th** - 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, Lónðrangar Cliffs as well as Hellnar and Arnarstapi Cliffs with its bursting bird-life and the small villages on the coastal route. 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. **Hvalfjörður (B, D)**

**Sunday, August 16th** - This morning you drive past Reykjavik and on to the exotic, moonlike Reykjanes peninsula. Your destination is the famous Blue Lagoon, an azure pool of mineral-rich warm water amid a lava field. There are wonderful facilities for shower and change at the site before you continue to nearby Keflavik Airport for your return flight to the US. **(B) Overnight: Home**

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**Key to included meals:** B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner

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**Please note:** Do not book flights on **August 16th** that Depart prior to 4:30pm.