

## **GEOLOGY 3910 – SPRING 2020 – 3 CREDITS – ITINERARY IN ICELAND – MAY 16-24, 2020**

### **Day 1 Saturday, May 16**

- Depart for Reykjavík, Iceland.

NOTE: Airfare is not included in the program fee but can be booked separately through CEPA.

### **Day 2 Sunday, May 17 Keflavik - Reykjavík**

- Arrive at Keflavik International Airport (KEF)
- Transportation by private bus from the airport in Keflavik to your hotel in Reykjavík
- 2 nights in twin rooms with private bathrooms incl. breakfast at the 3-star Arctic Comfort Hotel in Reykjavík
- Public transportation pass for the duration of your entire stay in Reykjavík
- Orientation session by your on-site coordinator at the hotel
- Admission to the National Museum in Reykjavík, where you will get an insight into the history of the Icelandic nation from the settlement to the present day. Afterwards, explore Reykjavík downtown and the famous Hallgrímskirkja, the largest church in Iceland and one of the tallest structures in the country.
- Welcome dinner at a restaurant in Reykjavík to kick off the program.

### **Day 3 Monday, May 18 Reykjavík Region**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transportation by private bus during the day
- Visit the Þingvellir National Park, a site of historical, cultural and geological significance, which lies in a rift valley that marks the crest of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the boundary between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates
- Visit the Friðheimar greenhouse and the horse stable, where you will get an insight into the processes of greenhouse horticulture and the use of geothermal heating in Icelandic horticulture. You will also get a tour of their horse stable and see a horse show (including lunch)
- Visit the Geysir geothermal area, where you will admire the Great Geysir, the first geyser known to modern Europeans and the first one described in a printed source
- Visit the Gullfoss Waterfall (the Golden Falls), one of Iceland's most iconic waterfalls with the largest volume fall in Europe.

### **Day 4 Tuesday, May 19 Reykjavík - Hvolsvöllur - Skógar – Hvolsvöllur**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transportation by private bus during the day
- 2 nights in twin rooms with private bathrooms incl. breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Hvolsvöllur in Hvolsvöllur
- Orientation session by your on-site coordinator at the hotel
- Admission to the Lava Centre Museum in Hvolsvöllur, an interactive exhibition dedicated to Iceland's volcanic activity and its frequent earthquakes
- Visit the Seljalandsfoss Waterfall, one of the country's most famous and visited falls, which can be fully encircled and has its origin underneath the Eyjafjallajökull glacier
- Visit the Skógafoss Waterfall in Skógar, one of Iceland's biggest and most beautiful waterfalls with a width of 49 feet and a drop of 200 feet
- Admission to the Skógar Museum, which hosts a collection of 15.000 regional folk craft artifacts exhibited in three museums and six historical buildings.

### **Day 5 Wednesday, May 20 Vík**

- Breakfast at the hotel

- Transportation by private bus during the day
- Guided tour of the Secret Ice Cave of Kötlujökull Glacier, which is located directly under the dormant volcano Katla. The cave is reachable through a bumpy road only accessible by 4x4 vehicles. Once you reach it, you will be able to admire an ash covered wall of ice, marked by volcanic eruptions of the past. You will also be able to explore the inside of the glacier.
- Visit the Reynisfjara Black Sand Beach in Vík, a world-famous beach with enormous basalt stacks, stunning panoramas and roaring Atlantic waves.

#### **Day 6 Thursday, May 21 Hengil Area – Reykjavík**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transportation by private bus during the morning
- Guided tour of the Geothermal Energy Exhibiton located in the Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant, the newest and largest geothermal plant in Iceland, where you will learn how green, sustainable energy is produced in the country
- 2 nights in twin rooms with private bathrooms incl. breakfast at the 3-star Arctic Comfort Hotel in Reykjavík
- Public transportation in Reykjavík during the afternoon
- Free afternoon in Reykjavík to discover the city further on your own

#### **Day 7 Friday, May 22 Krýsuvík - Kleifarvatn - Grindavík- Reykjavík**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transportation by private bus during the day
- Visit Seltún, one of the many geothermal fields in Krýsuvík. During your visit you will see both solfataras and fumaroles and you will have the feeling of stepping into another dimension. The colors in this interesting area range from different nuances of red, brown, silver, blue and yellow, with steam rising up in the air, adding to the mystery of this place.
- Visit the Lake Kleifarvatn, the largest lake in the Reykjanes Peninsula and one of Iceland's deepest lakes, reaching a depth of 97 meters (318 feet). Lake Kleifarvatn's unique feature is that it has no visible surface drainage and the water coming in and out of it comes from the porous lava rock around it. The lake lies on the fissure zone of the Mid-Atlantic ridge, between the North American and the Eurasian tectonic plates. Their movements are what causes this region to have so many earthquakes and eruptions.
- Admission to the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa located in a lava field near Grindavík and supplied by water used in the nearby Svartsengi geothermal power station
- Farewell dinner at a restaurant in Reykjavík to wrap up the program.

#### **Day 8 Saturday, May 23 Keflavik**

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transportation by private bus from your hotel in Reykjavík to Keflavik International Airport
- Departure from Keflavik International Airport (KEF) to the USA (airfare not included)