

MACALESTER COLLEGE trip to ICELAND

August 2026

Monday, August 10

Arrive Reykjavik, Iceland – food tour

D

Participants arrive independently into Keflavik International Airport in Iceland, then transfer on own (via airport coach, taxi, or we can add a private transfer on individual request). Meet in the hotel lobby later in the afternoon as a group and enjoy the Reykjavik Food Tour, a guided walking tour of the city with several tastings along the way. Remainder of evening at leisure to relax.

Overnight: Radisson Blu Hotel 1919, Reykjavik

The Reykjavík Food Tour is one of the best ways to get acquainted with the city and its culture. In addition to having a walking tour of Reykjavík with a local guide, we'll also stop at various dining establishments across the city and sample some of the best native Icelandic treats. (Tour duration: 3 hours)

Tuesday, August 11

South Coast tour

B L



Breakfast at hotel. Morning pick-up by our private SUV/super jeep vehicles with driver/guides for the South Coast tour (duration 9-10 hours). A group lunch will be included during the excursion.

Overnight: Radisson Blu Hotel 1919, Reykjavik

The tour today will take us out along the southern part of Iceland. We will visit Seljalandsfoss waterfall, where a walk behind it is simply amazing, and Skógafoss, one of the more majestic waterfalls with rainbows and perfect photo opportunities. We will see the Sólheimajökull glacier on the way to Reynisfjara black sand beach

outside of Vik, that features the dramatic and imposing pyramid of basalt columns known as the "organ pipes" that jostle the surrounding cliffs. This beach is another filming site for TV & movies. In awe, we will end with an off-road beach spin in super jeeps, depending on the number of participants.

Wednesday, August 12

Solar Eclipse

B

Breakfast at hotel. Morning gathering in hotel conference room for lecture by Macalester professor. Midday/early afternoon private coach transfer to the Reykjanes Peninsula in southwest Iceland.

A site will be carefully selected to provide the best possible observation site of the eclipse without mountains, trees or tall buildings blocking the view, while still offering a safe place to focus on the sky. From here, the eclipse will be visible for two hours from start to finish, and a total eclipse will last for 1 minute and 48 seconds. During the tour, a guide will provide useful information about eclipses and explain how they happen.

Return to Reykjavik hotel, evening at leisure. *Overnight: Radisson Blu Hotel 1919, Reykjavik*

Thursday, August 13

Golden Circle Tour

B D

Breakfast at hotel. Morning pick-up by our private coach and guide for the Golden Circle tour (duration 7-8 hours). A lunch stop will be made during the tour for individual food purchase. This evening, enjoy a group dinner at the hotel with a professor lecture.

Overnight: Radisson Blu Hotel 1919, Reykjavik

Explore some of Iceland's best sightseeing highlights along the route known as the Golden Circle. Thingvellir National Park, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the historic location of the Icelandic Parliament Alþingi, established in 930 c.e. Thingvellir is home to a rift valley between the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates. Cliffs look out over Þingvallavatn, a beautiful lake set within this incredible landscape, the largest natural lake of Iceland – plus



the setting for some Game of Thrones episodes. Next up is Gullfoss, a majestic and powerful two-tiered waterfall, combining a lush & dramatic environment. And finally, Geysir - the hot springs that is the namesake for all geysers in the world, and one of the most popular stops in Iceland. The main geyser Strokkur shoots hot water skywards up to 25m high, every few minutes.

Friday, August 14**Optional Tours – cocktail reception****B**

Breakfast at hotel. Today one can relax and explore Reykjavik on your own – or partake in an optional tour.

Lava Cave Tour: Visit the lava tunnel Raufarhólshellir located only 30 minutes from Reykjavík. You will walk the path of a lava that flowed thousands of years ago and witness the inner workings of a volcanic eruption. The lava tunnel is one of the biggest in Iceland! The lava tube ceiling has caved in near the entrance, which creates beautiful columns of light and a fantastic range of colors in the tunnel. Scenes from the movie Noah were shot in this lava cave. (Tour duration: 2-3 hours). **\$170**

Whale Watching Tour: Your whale watching adventure begins at Reykjavik's Old Harbor. Set out in a sightseeing boat offering a comfortable interior and large outside viewing decks. Your friendly guides, along with the captain and crew, will point out where to spot whales and give interesting information about the various kinds of whales and seabirds you can expect to see. (Duration: 2.5-3.5 hours). **\$128**

Sky Lagoon Geothermal Spa Visit: The Sky Lagoon is a breathtaking geothermal spa in the Reykjavik capital area. Relax and unwind in the great outdoors and experience the 7-step ritual for mind and body with the Pure Pass. While overlooking the great North Atlantic Ocean, your experience at the Sky Lagoon is based on the traditional Icelandic bathing culture to rejuvenate and inspire. Includes transfers. (Tour duration: 2.5-4 hours). **\$168**

Wonders of Iceland with Hop On Hop Off Bus: Take a bus tour with City Sightseeing and explore Reykjavik at your leisure, with the opportunity to hop on and off at conveniently located bus stops near the top tourist attractions of Reykjavik. Tour includes admittance to the Wonders of Iceland exhibit at Perlan where visitors will feel the power of earthquakes and volcanoes. (Tour duration: 4 hours/flexible). **\$134**

Icelandic Horseback Riding: This tour takes you through meadows, lava fields, and a small river. Along the way, you enjoy the beautiful scenery of volcanic mountains and farmland, passing several farms which give you an idea of how agriculture has developed in the last decades. Nice riding trails give an opportunity to experience the special gait of the Icelandic horse, the "tölt". (Duration: 4-5 hours, 1.5-2 hours of riding). **\$174**

This evening, enjoy a cocktail reception at your hotel in the bar/lounge area with local alumni and university staff. *Overnight: Radisson Blu Hotel 1919, Reykjavik*

Saturday, August 15**Blue Lagoon****B D**

Breakfast at hotel. Mid-morning departure from hotel by coach for transfer to The Blue Lagoon, located on the Reykjanes Peninsula in the middle of a lava field – it is a geo-thermal spa with naturally heated waters, whose minerals turn the water a milky light blue. Enjoy a silica mud mask, enjoy a beverage from the in-water bar, and wander in the warm waters of this other-worldly place. After a relaxing visit, return by coach to the hotel. Possible afternoon activities arranged by Macalester with the local University (TBA). The group will enjoy a farewell dinner this evening at a restaurant close to the hotel. *Overnight: Radisson Blu Hotel 1919, Reykjavik*

**Sunday, August 16****Iceland departure – or optional extension****B**

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer on own from hotel to Keflavik international airport for check-in for individual return flights to the U.S. *Or – partake in the optional extension to North Iceland.*

Optional Extension**Reykjavik to Northeast Iceland**

Transfer to Reykjavik domestic/downtown airport for check-in for short 45-minute flight (morning or midday) up to Akureyri, the main city in North Iceland. Transfer to your accommodation. Remainder of day at leisure to explore Akureyri sights on own, such as the church, the botanical garden, and several museums. Can add an *Optional Excursion* for individuals, such as afternoon whale watching by boat, or a visit to the Forest Lagoon Spa (5-minute drive from city center). *Overnight: Hotel Kea, Akureyri*

Monday, August 17**Diamond Circle****B**

Breakfast at hotel. Depart this morning for a full day sightseeing tour through the sights of Lake Myvatn, waterfalls, and more (duration: ~10 hours). *Overnight: Hotel Kea, Akureyri*

We visit the highlights of North Iceland, and witness Nature's most creative scenery. Among the highlights are the area around Lake Mývatn, powerful glacial rivers, beautiful canyons & valleys, and great waterfalls. In the fishing village of Húsavík, option to try the new GeoSea Geothermal sea baths or can spend time in the cozy coastal town, visiting the Whale Museum.

Tuesday, August 18**Akureyri – Reykjavik – departure****B**

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer via shuttle this morning to Akureyri airport for 45-minute flight from Akureyri back to Reykjavik domestic airport. Transfer on own (or can add airport coach or private transfer) to Keflavik international airport. Check-in for individual afternoon flight back to the US.

~End of Tour~

Meal codes: B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

Package pricing per person:

MAIN ICELAND TOUR--Twin/Double occupancy: **\$5,142.00**Single room supplement: **\$1,949.00****Inclusions (main tour):**

- 6 nights' accommodation in standard room at first-class Reykjavik hotel
- Private guided Reykjavik Food Tour by foot (3 hours)
- South Coast tour (9-10 hours) by private smaller vehicles with driver/guides
- Half day private coach to eclipse viewing area with guide & eclipse glasses
- Private guided Golden Circle tour by coach (7-8 hours)
- Roundtrip transfer to Blue Lagoon by private coach
- Comfort package at Blue Lagoon (entrance, use of towel, silica mud mask, 1 drink)
- 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- 2 conference room rentals at hotel (3-4 hours)
- 1 drink per person at cocktail reception
- Gratuities (local guides/drivers)
- Hotel/tour taxes
- 1 tour leader from Borton Overseas

Note that main tour pricing is based on a minimum of 20 participants. If the tour has 25 participants, the package price will decrease. If less than 20 participants, the tour pricing may be adjusted.



NORTH ICELAND Extension--Twin/Double occupancy: **\$1,515.00**Single room supplement: **\$168.00***Inclusions (optional extension):*

- Roundtrip Air Iceland flight from Reykjavik domestic airport to Akureyri
- 2 nights' accommodation in standard room at Akureyri hotel
- 2 breakfasts
- Roundtrip transfers, Akureyri airport to hotel, via scheduled shuttle
- Diamond Circle private guided sightseeing tour (10 hours) – incl. hotel pick-up/drop-off
- Hotel/tour/air taxes
- 1 tour leader from Borton Overseas (*only with a minimum of 10 participants*)*

Note that if the post tour receives a minimum of 10 participants, the price will decrease. If the post tour extension has less than six participants, the tour on 8/17 will be adjusted.

Not Included:

- Transatlantic airfare (Borton can assist with individual air)
- Reykjavik airport transfers**
- Meals other than listed above
- Entrance fees/sightseeing tours, except as included above
- Optional excursions – offered at an additional cost
- Beverages with group lunches/dinners
- Luggage handling
- Travel insurance, recommended – *information provided upon request*

Notes:

- *If there are a minimum of 10 participants on the optional North Iceland extension, the Borton tour escort will accompany the group.
- **If participants are interested in private car or scheduled coach airport transfers (one or both directions) in Reykjavik, that can be requested as an individual add-on.

Prices are in US Dollars. A completed reservation form and deposit of \$1,100 per person are required at time of tour sign-up. Final payment will be due 90 days prior to departure.

Link to the trip reservation form online:

<https://www.bortonoverseas.com/macalester-college-iceland-form/>

Link to our travel insurance information page:

<https://www.bortonoverseas.com/traveler-resources/travel-insurance/>

