ICELAND'S Northern Lights Exploration

Kirkjufell

Dickinson

Alumni Global Adventures

March 12 - 20, 2021 (9 days) with Dickinson geologist Ben Edwards



"The entire experience was excellent - especially waterfalls, the Icelandic people, and Ben's illuminating presentations of the geology of Iceland." - Daniel & Betty, Florida

Faculty Leader



Ben Edwards is a professor of Earth Sciences who first visited Iceland in 1995, and has been making regular visits (about once every two years) ever since to study the island's volcanoes and geology. He has taught courses on minerals, rocks, soils, environmental disasters, Arctic climate change, and volcanoes at Dickinson since arriving in Carlisle in 2002. His main research focus is interactions between volcanoes and glaciers, and Edwards has taken many groups of Dickinson students to see Icelandic volcanoes since 2005. He has also led trips for Dickinson alumni to Iceland, Italy, and the Galapagos Islands. In addition to Iceland, Edwards has traveled across the globe to study ice-volcano interactions and climate change, including Russia, Alaska, British Columbia, Chile, Peru, Greenland, and the Canadian High Arctic. He has published multiple peer-reviewed scientific articles about volcanoes and volcanic eruptions, including a book on 'Glaciovolcanism' and papers about the infamous 2010 eruption of Eyjafjallajokull in southern Iceland. Edwards has a BA in geology from Carleton College, an MSc. from the University of Wyoming, and his Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia. His wife Kim and two daughters, Teagan and Kaelan, have all traveled to Iceland on 'family' research excursions.

"Ben was great. Extraordinarily knowledgeable, passionate and approachable." - Edward, Minnesota Dear alumni, parents, and friends of Dickinson College,

March is one of the best months to spot the spectacular Northern Lights in Iceland, and I invite you to explore this land of fire and ice with Dickinson geologist Ben Edwards and an expert trip manager/local guide. This customized itinerary features numerous active volcanoes and a geothermal landscape unlike anywhere else in the world. You will experience bustling cities and quiet seaside villages, sample local cuisine and, as long as we have dark nights and clear skies, enjoy several opportunities to see the Northern Lights dance across the night sky.

You will stay in modern three- and four-star hotels, perfect for exploring or just relaxing. You will spend a total of two nights in the capital city of Reykjavík, two nights in the countryside near the west Iceland town of Borgarnes, two nights in the southern town of Kirkjubæjarklaustur, and one night surrounded by some of Iceland's best-known volcanoes in Hekla. An expert trip manager/guide handles all the logistics, so you can relax, enjoy your experience, and learn.

Highlights include:

- A guided walking tour of Reykjavík, Iceland's vibrant capital city, as well as time on your own to explore museums, shops, and galleries
- A tour through the Saga Valley and its volcanic craters, waterfalls, and hot springs
- A visit to the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, a mountainous stretch of land jutting out from Iceland's west coast, including its charming villages and Kirkjufell, one of Iceland's most photographed mountains
- A visit to the Bjarnarhöfn Shark Museum where you can sample Iceland's famous *hákarl*, fermented Greenland shark—if you dare!
- A tour around the Golden Circle: the UNESCO World Heritage site of Pingvellir National Park, the bubbling mud flats and erupting geysers at the Geysir Geothermal Area, and Gullfoss, the awe-inspiring double waterfall
- A chance to walk along black sand beaches and explore a glacial lagoon filled with icebergs
- Tips from our local guide for photographing one of nature's most magnificent displays, the Northern Lights
- A soak in the therapeutic waters of the Blue Lagoon
- Time to explore Vatnajökull National Park, the largest in Europe, with its waterfalls, volcanoes, and mountains

We hope you will join Dickinson alumni and Professor Edwards for this unforgettable lifelong learning adventure.

Sincerely,

Liz Glynn Toth '06 Director of Alumni Relations



ITINERARY

(B)= Breakfast, (L)= Lunch, (R)=Reception, (D)= Dinner

Friday, March 12, 2021: Depart home for Iceland

Saturday, March 13: Arrive in Reykjavík | Transfer to hotel | Welcome dinner

Upon arrival at Keflavík International Airport (KEF), you will be met as a group and transferred to our hotel via guided coach. Take some time to relax before a welcome reception and dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star* <u>Fosshótel Reykjavík</u>. (R,D)

Sunday, March 14: Reykjavík city tour | Borgarfjörður (Saga Valley) | Borgarnes

In the morning, enjoy a guided panoramic tour of the highlights of Iceland's exciting capital. Then head to Borgarfjörður, known as the Saga Valley because it is the setting of many of the tales from the Icelandic

Sagas. Climb up the Grábrók volcanic crater, then warm up at Deildartunguhver, Europe's most powerful hot spring, which produces 47 gallons per second of nearly boiling water. Visit Hraunfossar, a series of waterfalls pouring from beneath a wide lava field, and Barnafoss (Children's Falls), which has its own tragic mythological tale. In the afternoon, check-in to our hotel near Borgarnes and enjoy a lecture, by our local guide, about the Northern Lights. After dinner, step into the hotel garden in search of the Northern Lights (aurora borealis) followed by a cup of hot chocolate or tea. *Overnight at the 3-star Icelandair Hotel Hamar for two nights.* (B,D)

Monday, March 15: Snæfellsnes Peninsula: Breiðafjörður Fjord cruise, Shark Museum, Kirkjufell | Borgarnes

Snæfellsnes Peninsula, "the peninsula of the snowy mountain," juts out from Iceland's west coast like a long arm with a clenched fist at its tip, and is in many ways a microcosm of the whole island. We travel to the charming fishing town of Stykkishólmur for (weather-permitting) a cruise in the Breiðafjörður Fjord. After a light lunch, a uniquely Icelandic "treat" awaits us at the Bjarnarhöfn Shark Museum, where they make *hákarl*, or fermented Greenland shark. Depending on road and weather conditions, we visit the fishing village of Grundarfjörður, with an impressive coastline and mountains, lakes, and waterfalls behind the village. Alongside the bay rises one of the most photographed mountains in Iceland, Kirkjufell. On the way back to our hotel near Borgarnes, our guide provides some practical tips for photographing the aurora borealis. Once darkness falls, chase the Lights in the hotel's garden and soak in the outdoor hot tubs. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, March 16: Golden Circle tour: Þingvellir National Park, Geysir Geothermal Field, Gullfoss waterfall | Friðheimar Greenhouses | Hekla

Today we travel along the Hvalfjörður Fjord. Our first stop is at an Icelandic wool outlet store, to see what they do with all of the sheep we see! We continue inland to Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and along the Golden Circle route where we see steam rising from the Geysir geothermal field, with its numerous hot springs and bubbling pools. The original geyser is now dormant, but Strokkur, "the Churn," erupts regularly at five- to ten-minute intervals. The chef of the Restaurant Geysir invites you to taste bread freshly baked in the heated lava rocks and served with Icelandic butter, geothermally boiled eggs, and herring. Continue on to Gullfoss, a double waterfall that

tumbles 111 feet into the Hvítá River. We visit Friðheimar's Icelandic horse stables and geothermal greenhouses, where tomatoes are grown year-round despite Iceland's long, dark winters. After a taste of the crop we drive to our hotel in Hekla and check in. Tonight,

Photos: (from top) Travelers hike their way across the landscape, Breiðafjörður, Geysir, *Viking Ship* sculpture in Reykjavík with a view of the Northern Lights; (right) Grábrók Volcano









"The pace was great - enough lectures about volcanoes mixed with history of the island - with frequent stops for better viewing opportunities." - Carolyn, Connecticut

step into the darkness and search for the elusive Northern Lights, best enjoyed from a comfortable hot tub in the garden of the hotel, amid the peace and stillness of rural southern Iceland. *Overnight at the 3-star Fosshotel Hekla*. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, March 17: South Shore: Lava Centre, Skógar Folk Museum, Skógafoss, Reynisfjara | Kirkjubæjarklaustur

Today we travel along the southern coast. After breakfast, we visit the Lava Centre, a high-tech educational exhibition depicting volcanic activity, earthquakes, and the creation of Iceland over millions



of years. Continue on to Skógar Folk Museum, one of Iceland's finest folk museums, with an outstanding collection of farm and domestic artifacts from Iceland's past as well as an Open Air Museum with a sampling of traditional architecture. Nearby is Skógafoss, a nearly-200-foot-high waterfall, one of the most impressive in the country. In the afternoon, stroll on the black lava beach and along cliffs that are home to various bird colonies at Reynisfjara. We spend two nights near Kirkjubæjarklaustur in the Vatnajökull National Park region. The complete darkness makes this locale ideal for watching the Northern Lights. *Overnight at the 3-star <u>Hotel Klaustur</u> for two nights*. (B,D)

Thursday, March 18: Vatnajökull National Park: Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, Hof church | Kirkjubæjarklaustur

Today's program is all about glaciers, ice, and icebergs. We travel to Jökulsárlón, a glacial lagoon that is one of Iceland's deepest lakes and flows through a short waterway into the Atlantic Ocean, and perhaps see seals swimming in the frigid waters. Walk on the black sand beach, where large icebergs are frequently stranded. In the afternoon we visit the tiny turf church at Hof and spend time exploring Vatnajökull, Europe's largest national park, which boasts Iceland's highest mountain, an alpine environment, and Europe's largest glacier, which covers about 8% of Iceland. This evening we enjoy a film presentation about the Northern Lights. Don't go to bed too soon in this remote and quiet location or you may miss out on another chance of seeing the Northern Lights shimmering and dancing across the night sky. (B,D)

Friday, March 19: South Shore: Vík, Seljalandsfoss waterfall | Reykjavík | Blue Lagoon | Farewell dinner

From Kirkjubæjarklaustur we head across the Eldhraun lava field to the village of Vík, where we make a photo stop at an impressive black lava beach with high cliffs and pounding waves. Further west we reach the Seljalandsfoss waterfall, a narrow ribbon of water that can be viewed from all sides. In the afternoon we return to Reykjavík and have a little time at leisure to perhaps do some shopping or simply relax. This evening



we get to soak in the famous Blue Lagoon, followed by an Icelandic farewell dinner and one last opportunity to see the Northern Lights. Around midnight we return to Reykjavík. *Overnight at the 4-star Fosshótel Reykjavík*. (B,D)

Saturday, March 20: Fly home Transfer as a group this morning to Keflavík International Airport (KEF) for flights homeward. (B)









Photos: (Right from top) Jokulsarlon glacial lagoon, Vatnajokull National Park, Reynisfjara, turf-built houses, glacier, black lava beach; (above) Blue Lagoon hot spring



"The camaraderie of the group was excellent and absolutely added to the enjoyment. The deciding factor in joining the tour was the fact that Dr. Edwards would add an important educational dimension. Coupled with the contributions of the local guide, my learning expectations were exceeded - they were excellent..." - Janice, Pennsylvania

What to Expect

There will be walks of approximately 1-3 miles total per day, as much as one mile at a time. All walks can be done at an easy pace and, aside from walking up (and down) a few small cinder cones, there is not much elevation gain/loss. You must be able to walk, unassisted, over uneven terrain and up and down steps that may be steep and without handrails. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you.

We ask travelers to be flexible, as the itinerary is set well ahead of time and may need to be adapted on the fly for changes in weather, ease of access, transportation, or other factors. In mid- to late March the weather can be unpredictable and daytime temperatures can range from the mid-30s to low 40s F, with a monthly rainfall average of about 3"-8" in Reykjavík, and up to 12 hours of daylight (plus an hour or so of "dawn and dusk"). Dressing in layers and bringing a waterproof coat and shoes will be necessary for this program. Hotels have been chosen for their excellent locations and generous comfort, and included meals are of a very high quality. Gratuities are not a tradition in Iceland and are neither expected nor encouraged.

ACCOMMODATIONS









Reykjavík: Two nights at the 4-star <u>Fosshótel Reykjavík</u>

Near Borgarnes: Two nights at the 3-star Icelandair Hotel Hamar

Hekla: One night at the 3-star <u>Fosshotel Hekla</u>

Kirkjubæjarklaustur: Two nights at the 3-star <u>Hotel Klaustur</u>



(From left) A view of the Northern Lights, glacier, Stykkishólmur

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON (7 NIGHTS)

Double Occupancy (20 to 26 participants)	\$4,595
Double Occupancy (15 to 19 participants)	\$5,095
Single Supplement	\$595
Single room supplement will be charged when requested or require	ed (limited availability).
With fewer than 15 participants, a small group surcharge may be	added.

PRICES INCLUDE:

- Faculty leader Ben Edwards plus an expert, English-speaking Local Guide/Tour Manager
- Seven nights' accommodations in comfortable and ideally-located 3- and 4-star hotels
- **Group arrival and departure transfers** on tour dates, based upon the suggested flights (TBA)
- Surface transportation by heated motor coach, with water provided
- Tickets for a cruise on the Breiðafjörður fjord (weather permitting)
- Breakfast daily, two lunches, and seven dinners including **welcome and farewell dinners** with wine/beer. Lunches and dinners include water, tea, and coffee where available; dinners also include one beer or glass of wine per person
- All excursions and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Local taxes and service charges
- **Baggage handling** at hotels where available
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading guide, travel guide, and packing list

AIR ARRANGEMENTS & TRANSFERS:

Airfare to/from Keflavík International Airport (KEF) is not included. Group airport transfers upon arrival on March 13th and departure on March 20th are included based on the suggested flights (TBA). Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

<u>Prices Do Not Include</u>: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; inoculation fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; beverages (except as noted); taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; airport transfers for those not traveling on the suggested flights.

<u>Payments</u>: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "EOS-Passenger Account-DC Iceland3/21." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure and elsewhere published.

Passenger Cancellation Penalties: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by Alumni Global Adventures. Cancellations received at least 91 days prior to departure are refunded less an administrative fee of \$500 per person. Cancellations received between 90 and 65 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 64 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.

<u>Note</u>: Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request.



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Alumni Global Adventures



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March 12 - 20, 2021 (9 days) with Dickinson geologist Ben Edwards

> "[What I enjoyed most was] having Ben Edwards along to explain the geology of what we were seeing, [and] being with a group of people who had something [Dickinson] in common." - Susan, Connecticut



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To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-856-8951 or dickinson@studytours.org.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS,

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>: Dickinson College, Dickinson Alumni Global Adventures, Eos Study Tours, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors and assigns (collectively "Sponsor"), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities; airline, vessel, or other transportation companies; guides or guide services; local ground operators; providers or organizers of optional excursions; food service or entertainment providers; etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Sponsor is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or of any other third party. In addition and without limitation, Sponsor is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of force majeure; acts of God; acts of government; acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt; bites from or attacks by animals, insects, or pests; strikes or other labor activities; criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof; sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof; the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof; overbooking or downgrading of accommodations; mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation; or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. In addition, Sponsor is not liable for its own negligence, and participant assumes all risk thereof. CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR FEATURES: Sponsor reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Sponsor shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Sponsor may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant. Sponsor is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including, without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization, or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Sponsor is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Sponsor makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need of a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will assist them throughout and will be responsible for handling equipment. Participants must be able to embark or disembark motor coaches alone or with minimal assistance from their traveling companion, and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. <u>REFUNDS</u>: Prices quoted are based on group participation. No refunds will be made for any part of the program in which participants choose not to participate. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for any reason, nor to participants whose entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. TRIP INSURANCE: Sponsor strongly recommends that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Sponsor and others and covers certain expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident and damaged or lost luggage. Sponsor will send participants an application upon receipt of their reservation. <u>RATES</u>: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to changes at any time. On all programs, even after full payment, Sponsor reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, tax increases, currency fluctuations or fuel and energy surcharges, and all such increases are to be paid to Sponsor upon notice to the participant of such increases. FORUM AND METHODOLOGY FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION: Any dispute or claim which refers or relates to this contract, any literature related to the trip, or the trip itself shall be litigated solely and exclusively in and for courts in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive and procedural New Hampshire law, and for this limited purpose, the parties agree to exclusive venue and personal jurisdiction therein. At the participant's option, however, in lieu of litigation, Sponsor will agree to binding arbitration in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive, but not procedural, New Hampshire law, pursuant to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. In any such arbitration, the arbitrator, and not any federal, state, or local court or agency, shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Sponsor reserves the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. However, if trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by Sponsor, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Sponsor is able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Sponsor, however, shall not have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing. U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT & CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL: Both the U.S. State Department and the Centers for Disease Control publish and update important country-specific information for travelers. We strongly recommend that you review them. They can presently be found at: https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html and https://wwwnc. cdc.gov/travel/notices MISCELLANEOUS: Participants should not purchase airline tickets prior to receiving your final payment invoice so as to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. If, due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. Sponsor reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any participant at any time. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person it judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders, or third parties, or who is determined to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel. APPEARING IN PHOTOS: Photos from Alumni Global Adventures' trips may be posted on photo-sharing web sites or on social networking sites. Your likeness may appear in some photos or videos, posted either by other travelers or tour lecturers/guides, and the circulation of the materials could be worldwide. Trip photos may also be selected to appear in future Alumni Global Adventures promotions; no compensation is available for appearing in a trip photo used for promotional purposes.

<u>ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT</u>: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and accepts the terms contained in these Terms and Conditions, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.