

BJA Study Abroad: Iceland

2024 Summer



<https://www.hurtigruten.com/globalassets/photos/destinations/iceland/destinations/silfra-fissure-thingvellir-national-park-iceland-icetoe.jpg?width=1900&height=950&transform=DownFill>

Teacher/Leader: Amy Corey (acorey@bobjonesacademy.net)

View a video (created by Christian, 2022 student) capturing the course [here](#).

Course Description:

This course gives students opportunities for broad exposure to the geological wonders of Iceland, for investigating the ways engineering and science are being used there to enable human flourishing, and for developing intercultural competence, all from the perspective of a Biblical worldview. The class will be a combination of on-site visits, personal investigation, projects, and mini lectures.

Students will have a chance to experience in person and engage with the science they have studied in class. Highlights of the class find students

- Walking the margin between North America and Eurasia at Þingvellir National Park and discussing the influence of plate tectonics on Icelandic civilization.
- Discovering the engineering behind geothermal and hydroelectric power generation while gaining a better understanding of renewables in a nation that is a world-leader in renewable energy.
- Going underground and walking through the lava tunnel of an extinct volcano to gain insight into the inner workings of volcanoes and how they create and influence their surroundings.
- Investigating the tongue of a receding glacier and discussing climate change from a Biblical Worldview.

Students will also develop intercultural competence by interacting with Icelandic culture throughout their stay. Guidance will be given on how to learn about and in a different culture, and time will be given in the evenings to reflect on the experiences of the day. Intercultural competence will be developed as students

- Join a local church to fellowship as well as discuss the religious history of Iceland and the current state of biblical Christianity in the country.
- Become more familiar with the Icelandic language and endeavoring to use it when possible.

- Learn more of Iceland's history and integrate it into their own understanding of world history.
- Engage with nationals and learn about life in Iceland.

Course Goals:

This course is designed to do the following:

- Connect students' understanding learned in their science classes to real world examples of science, engineering, mathematics, and technology.
- Provide students an international setting where they can develop and apply the skills of understanding, working within, and discerning a foreign culture in the context of a Biblical Worldview.
- Create a project to reinforce class content and the further development of a learner mindset.

Assignments:

- Meetings: Students will have a few meetings before leaving Greenville to help them prepare for international travel as well as the course content.
- Journal: Each student will keep a daily journal of their impressions, ideas, and what they are learning.
- Project: Students will prepare a project (paper, video, book – to be determined) representing what they have learned during the course as well as potentially contribute to a class project.

Credit:

This course will consist of 60+ hours of STEM and cultural instruction and activities, and students who have finished 9-11 grades can earn one half high school credit at BJA.

Timing:

This course is planned to take place in the middle of May 2024. Currently, we are planning to depart May 15 and return May 23, however ticket prices will determine which dates the course will take place.

The course would be a total of 9 days, including travel days.

Students:

The course is open to enrolled BJA high school students. The students will need to have completed their 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade year. Positions in the course will be on a first come first served basis. Because of the international nature of the course, each student will need to be approved by the course leader and BJA administration.

Passports:

Students will need to have their passports by early February 2024 so that plane tickets can be purchased. Students who already have a passport should confirm its expiration date is after November 2024.

Cost:

Depending on the number of students participating, the cost is estimated between \$3300-\$3500. These values are the maximum anticipated cost. The cost could go down, and scholarships may be available. A minimum of 6 students is needed for the course to take place.

Number of Students	Estimated Cost per Student
6-7	\$3,500
8-10	\$3,300

This price includes airfare, travel costs in Iceland, international health insurance, accommodations, meals (breakfast, picnic lunch, dinner), and all costs of class admission.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport and spending money costs are not included. Trip/travel insurance is not included. Specialized clothing for outdoor activities and travel accessories are not included.

The actual cost will be finalized by the middle of November 2023.

Students may want to bring spending money for souvenirs. It is recommended that they bring a credit card or debit card instead of cash. Costs in Iceland are often higher than in the US (one gallon of gas is roughly \$8.82), so students should keep this in mind as they plan. Credit cards are readily accepted in Iceland and may be the easiest form of payment since our class will not stop at banks to transfer currency. The exchange rate will fluctuate between now and our departure, but currently 1 USD (US Dollar) = 137.96 ISK (Icelandic Króna).

Payment Schedule:

The nature of international travel requires planning in advance. To secure tickets and reservations, students will be asked to pay in installments starting the first semester.

Below you will find the payment schedule for the course.

Except for the initial down payment, all remaining payments will be posted on the student's school bill.

Date	Payment Amount
11/15/2023	\$100 payment Please make this payment by check, if possible. If the minimum number of students is not met, the check will be voided, and you will be contacted that the payment will not be processed.
12/1/2023	\$1000 payment This payment will be placed on the student's school bill. This and any payments made afterwards are not refundable or transferable.
2/1/2024	\$1200 payment
3/1/2024	any remaining balance due

If a student withdraws from the course after December 15, is suspended from BJA, or for some other reason is unable to participate in the course, payments already made will no longer be refundable. However, payments will be refunded if BJA cancels the course (e.g., due to the COVID-19 pandemic, too few students, or travel restrictions).

Teacher and Chaperones:

Amy Corey will be the class teacher and director, and Cheryl Batdorf will go as well.

Accommodations, Travel, and Food:

The course will likely require the class to stay at multiple hotels. Students will share rooms with other students from our class. Bathrooms will either be en suite or separated by gender. If in a hostel, a chaperone would be available to make sure the bathroom situation adheres to Ministry Safe guidelines.

Travel between sites and hotels will be done in rented vehicles driven by BJA faculty/staff.

Every effort will be given to arrange for food that can accommodate those with special dietary needs, but this cannot be guaranteed. If a student has a special dietary need, he or she should discuss it with Miss Corey before any payments are made.

Health Needs:

If you have an allergy or a health need and you have not yet discussed it with me, please do so before making the initial payment.

Meetings:

Meetings will take place in November and December as well as throughout second semester.

Sample Itinerary:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Thursday	Flight to Iceland
Friday	Hallgrimskirkja Tower – look out over Reykjavik
	Árbær Open Air Museum - history of Iceland
	Reykjavik city walk
Saturday	Raufarhólshellir Lava Tunnel Tour – walk through lava tunnels of an extinct volcano
	Coastal puffin search

Hike Geldingardalur Volcano and lava field – a recent eruption where the lava field is easily seen

Drive through an ancient lava field

Sunday National/International church meeting and ministering

Religion in Iceland

Monday Viking World: Museum

Bridge between Continents and Stampar extinct volcano – walk between the tectonic plates of two continents

Gunnhver hot spring and mud pools & Reykjanesviti Lighthouse

Seltún Geothermal Area (Krysuvik) hike and Lake Kleifarvatn

Tuesday Pingvellir and Almannagja Fault - walk between the tectonic plates of two continents

Laugarvatn – watch the process for making earth baked bread and have a taste

Strokkur, Geysir – the location of the original geyser, see also hot springs and fumeroles

Gullfoss Waterfall – the river Hvítá cascades down two tiers into a narrow canyon

Fridheimar: use of geothermal and hydroelectric energy to grow support a greenhouse, the unique Icelandic horse

Wednesday Seljalandsfoss & Skogafoss waterfalls

Solheimajokull glacier – discuss the receding glacier and climate change from a Biblical worldview

Reynisdrangar rock pillars and volcanic sand beach

Vik village and traditional Icelandic dinner in Dyrholaey

Thursday Hellisheiði Power Plant – geothermal power generation

National Power Company of Iceland – hydroelectric power generation

Mountain drive back to Reykjavik

Perlan Museum: Ice Cave

Friday Depart for the Airport

About the Teacher: Amy Corey
International Experience

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE	Iceland Summer 2021-22, 2014, teacher Germany & Wales Summer 2019: STEM outreach, team leader Israel Summer 2019: Bible History Tour Wales & England Summers 2007-19, 21: Family visits Shanghai, China Summer 2017-19: BJU China Team, assistant to team leader/English teacher Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland Summers 2004-05, 2007-11: BJU Musical Mission Team, assistant to team leaders/ team member Shanghai, China Summer 2001, 2003: BJU China Team, English teacher
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Packing Checklist

Essentials (on your person, in carry on, or personal item)

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Passport/document lanyard
- ☐ School ID
- ☐ Personal credit/debit card (confirm with bank/company you're taking it international)
- ☐ School computer and charging cord
- ☐ Spending money

Luggage

- ☐ Soft sided, carry-on size (45 linear inches [L+W+H] or 14 inches x 9 inches x 22 inches, including wheels), can be used as checked luggage if needed

- ☐ Personal item (should fit underneath the seat in front of you, maximum dimensions are 9 inches x 10 inches x 17 inches)

Outerwear

- ☐ Waterproof/Gore-Tex jacket (Jacket Shell layer, should at least be waterproof, waterproof breathable is better, an incorporated hood is good)
- ☐ Insulated jacket (Full zip insulated jacket, part or full zip)
- ☐ 2 pairs of shoes (low-shoes hiking/off trail running shoes are good)
- ☐ Windproof/waterproof breathable gloves for hiking
- ☐ Rain pants (Rain/shell pants- lots of venting is a big plus)
- ☐ Headband ear warmer or warm hat (beanie)
- ☐ *Waterproof shoe covers (optional)*
- ☐ *Lightweight ball cap (optional)*
- ☐ *Sunglasses (optional)*
- ☐ *Insulated [down] vest (optional)*
- ☐ *Gator (optional)*

Clothes

- ☐ Base layer tops (avoid cotton, quick dry base layer short or long sleeve top)
- ☐ Shirts (avoid cotton)
- ☐ Base layer bottom (avoid cotton, quick dry base layer leggings)
- ☐ Pants (Quick dry/ synthetic hiking pants)
- ☐ Socks (wool is good, synthetic is good, avoid cotton, have multiple pairs)
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Long sleeve button/zip front shirt/sweater (wool is good, synthetic is good, avoid cotton)
- ☐ 1 collared shirt (men)
- ☐ Belt
- ☐ Night clothes/pajamas (lightweight, shorts and t-shirt)

Additional

- ☐ Bible – can be on a digital device
- ☐ Earplugs
- ☐ Eye mask for sleeping
- ☐ shower puff (can throw away at end of trip) or washcloth
- ☐ 5 1 gal. Ziplock bags – dirty clothes bags, waterproofing for backpack contents

Toiletries

- ☐ deodorant
- ☐ toothbrush
- ☐ toothpaste
- ☐ retainers
- ☐ face wash
- ☐ moisturizer (the water can dry out skin)
- ☐ hand lotion (no fragrance)
- ☐ Chapstick
- ☐ shampoo and conditioner (small amount)
- ☐ Contact lenses (2 oz.) and supplies, extra lenses
- ☐ prescription glasses
- ☐ hair bands/ hair clips
- ☐ nail trimmer and file
- ☐ sunblock

- ☐ Flipflops for showers
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Personal medications
- ☐ Dirty clothes mesh bag
- ☐ Daypack/backpack (that can get wet)
- ☐ Personal snacks (think protein, what could tie you over between meals on a hike or long daytrip, have a number of these)
- ☐ Pen and pencil

Optional:

1. *Physical journal/Diary and pens – will be keeping a journal but can be on computer*
2. *Spending money – use a credit/debit card not cash (we will not be able to stop at a bank to convert cash, be sure you contact the bank/company associated with your card before we leave)*
3. *Smart phones and charging equipment (we plan to have WiFi in the vehicles)*
4. *Charging cords (check that the devices voltage is compatible)*
5. *Back up battery pack for phone*
6. *Watch*