Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association presents

EXPLORING ICELAND

August 2-12, 2014

11 days from $4,548 total price from Boston, New York
($4,145 air & land inclusive plus $403 airline taxes and departure fees)

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumnae/i & Friends of Bryn Mawr College

Featuring Maria Luisa Crawford ’60, Professor Emerita of Geology

This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.
Day 1: Depart U.S. for Reykjavík, Iceland

Day 2: Arrive Reykjavík/Borgarnes  Upon our early morning arrival in Iceland’s capital, we meet our Tour Director and enjoy a scenic drive to our hotel in Borgarnes, stopping for breakfast along the way. After some free time to rest, we take an afternoon excursion to the thermal areas of Deildartunguhver and also to Hraunfossar Falls. Then we visit the Reyholt Cultural Centre, a historic site based on the life and residence of saga writer Snorri Sturluson who lived here between 1206 and 1241. Tonight we gather at our hotel for a briefing on the journey ahead followed by a welcome dinner.  

Day 3: Borgarnes/Snaefellsnes Peninsula  Today we encounter the stupendous scenery of the Snaefellsnes Peninsula. We begin with a walk along the shell sand beach at the abandoned fishing village of Budir, surrounded by a vast lava field. We also explore the caves and bizarre rock formations along the rugged shore at Arnarstapi, site of thousands of nesting cliff birds. After stopping for lunch – a traditional fresh seafood soup – at a rustic oceanfront restaurant, we visit Djupalonssandur where we see the haunting remains of abandoned coastal farms.

Day 4: Borgarnes/Akureyri  We travel towards the northeast corner of Iceland today, and to the fjords of Akureyri, Iceland’s northern capital. Along the way we visit Grasbrok Crater for scenic views. Next we call on a Gauksmyri farm featuring famed Icelandic horses – small, hardy, and with long manes. In Akureyri, we have free time for lunch on our own then take a guided coach and walking tour of this urban gem before checking in at our hotel. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Day 5: Akureyri/Lake Myvatn  Today we travel to beautiful Lake Myvatn. One of the world’s natural wonders, Lake Myvatn and its environs

It’s a surprising, even astonishing land; one of massive glaciers and rumbling volcanoes, bubbling mud holes and powerful waterfalls; hugely abundant bird life and just 300,000 people; and where the sun never sets for six splendid weeks. It’s also perfect for exploring in a small group, as we discover traveling the breadth of the country and staying in excellent lodgings.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Accommodations in well-located, atmospheric small hotels … Stunning, unique natural scenery … Touring the beautiful Snaefellsnes Peninsula … Charming Akureyri … Godafoss, “waterfall of the gods” … Lake Myvatn’s mud flats, lava fields, and volcanic craters … Dramatic Dettifoss, Iceland’s “Niagara” … Glacial River Canyon National Park … Hljodaklettar Echo Cliffs … Thingvellir National Park … Dramatic bird-watching coastal cruise … Leisure time in sophisticated Reykjavík

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1  Depart U.S. for Reykjavík
2-3 Borgarnes Hotel Hamar Not rated
4-6 Akureyri Hotel Kea First Class
7-8 Hella Hotel Ranga First Class
9-10 Reykjavík Hotel Reykjavík Centrum First Class
11  Depart Reykjavík for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Cover Photo: We visit Gullfoss, Iceland’s immensely popular “golden falls” with a 105-foot double cascade.
of bubbling mud flats, lava fields, and lunar-like volcanic craters comprise a stunningly beautiful national park. Our explorations begin with a stop at Godafoss, the “waterfall of the gods” named for the carvings of Norse gods discarded here when the country was declared Christian a thousand years ago. We continue with a walk up to the fascinating Hverfjall crater, a local landmark. Later we see the region’s unique “pseudo craters,” the boiling mud pots at Namaskard, the bizarre lava formations at Dimmuborgir, the explosive crater at Viti, and the flat volcano system at Krafla. Our last stop is the incredible “Glacial River Canyon” National Park, yet another of Iceland’s natural wonders, where we walk to jaw-dropping Dettifoss, Europe’s most powerful waterfall and Iceland’s “Niagara.” After this day of stunning scenery, we return to our hotel in time for dinner on our own tonight.  

Day 6: Akureyri/Jökulsárgljúfur National Park  This morning we visit Hljodaklettar Echo Cliffs where we explore the labyrinth of “echoing rocks” created by the spiral basalt formations of arches and canyons here. We travel next to Asbyrgi, a huge canyon enveloped by towering walls; in the middle of the partially wooded canyon sits a huge hoof-shaped rock called “The Island.” We continue on to Husavik, where mid-afternoon we embark on a bird-watching cruise to Puffin Island to see the thousands of seabirds here (based on seasonality): puffins, black guillemots, fulmars, Arctic terns.  

Day 7: Akureyri/Reykjavik/Hella  This morning we fly to Reykjavik; upon arrival we coach to Thingvellir National Park, known both for its historic import and as the place where the fissure between the geological plates of North America and Europe is most evident. It’s also a gem of nature, with canyons, caves, waterfalls, and ponds surrounded by snow-capped mountains. We learn about the historic parliament founded here in 930 ce, and walk along a gorge into the rift
Tour Departs: August 2, 2014

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York $4,548
Baltimore, Chicago, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa, Washington, DC $4,848
Atlanta, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Seattle $4,948
Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco $5,048
Land Only (transfers not included) $3,745

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges and departure fees of $403, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $995. All prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip international flight per person: $1,395 from Boston, New York, Washington, DC, Orlando ( Sanford); $2,295 from Denver, Minneapolis; $2,995 from Seattle (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM, Eastern Time

Meet Your Bryn Mawr Faculty Host

Our Bryn Mawr faculty host is Maria Luisa Crawford, Professor Emerita of Geology. Her research is focused on solving the history of mountain belts (such as the Coast Oregon of British Columbia and southeastern Alaska or the older Appalachians in Pennsylvania) by looking at as many different aspects as possible of the kinds of rocks, the time the rocks formed, the location in which they formed, the way the earth moved. Her ongoing research programs have the aim to understand mountain building processes and related terrane accretion. This has focused on the nature, rates, and timing of the processes that resulted in the mountains formed along the present eastern margin of North America during the early Paleozoic (550-350 million years ago) and along the northwestern coast of British Columbia and southeastern Alaska from the Cretaceous (110 million years ago) to the present.

Day 8: Hella/Vik This morning we walk along the black-sand beach at Reynisfjara, lined with columnar basalt-filled caves. Next we visit picturesque Seljalandsfoss, Iceland’s most visited waterfall, followed by a stop at the Skogar Folk Museum, which depicts traditional life in Iceland. From here we walk to nearby Skogafoss, one of Iceland’s most popular waterfalls, known for its rainbows on sunny days. After lunch on our own at the museum, we continue on to lovely Vik, Iceland’s southernmost town, where we’re free to explore on our own and to shop for items of locally produced wool. En route to our hotel, we stop by the Solheimajökull “sliding” glacier, so named for its rapid advance in the 1990s.

Day 9: Hella/Reykjavik Heading back to Reykjavik today we travel through “saga” country, the setting of one of the country’s famous medi eval stories. Upon arrival in Reykjavik, we have lunch at a local restaurant then embark on a city tour of the Icelandic capital. Home to more than half of Iceland’s population, Reykjavik ranks as one of the world’s safest and cleanest cities. Later, we check in at our well-located hotel in the city center. Dinner tonight is on our own in this stylish city.

Day 10: Reykjavik Today is at leisure to explore and enjoy Reykjavik as we please; those who wish can join in an optional tour to the Blue Lagoon for a soothing bath in geothermal waters. The city is a sophisticated European urban center with museums and galleries; theater, symphony, and dance; boutiques and restaurants. Tonight we celebrate our adventure over a farewell dinner.

Day 11: Depart for U.S. This morning is free, perhaps for some last-minute shopping. Early this afternoon we depart for the airport and our return flights to the U.S.

Your Tour Price Includes

• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; flight within itinerary
• 9 nights’ accommodations in First Class and unrated hotels
• 19 meals: 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

“THIS WASN’T A STRANGE PLACE; IT WAS A NEW ONE.”
– PAUL COELHO
Dear Bryn Mawr Alumnae/i, Family, and Friends,

We invite you to join us on a small group tour of the extraordinary country of Iceland, a land of astonishing natural beauty and unparalleled majesty!

A journey to Iceland brings you face to face with the primal forces of nature. Stand on the edge of Europe’s largest waterfall, Dettifoss, and travel to Lake Myvatn, one of the world’s natural wonders. Enter another remarkable landscape at Hljodaklettar, and at Asbyrgi gaze into a long canyon created by enormous glacial waves. At Thingvellir National Park, see the site where the country’s historic parliament was founded in 930 CE. Learn about early life in South Iceland’s excellent Skogar Folk Museum, and travel through the region where many of Iceland’s beloved medieval sagas are set. Conclude your journey in Reykjavik, a lively urban center with museums, restaurants, and shopping.

This air-inclusive small group tour is limited to 24 Bryn Mawr travelers, and will be accompanied by Maria Luisa Crawford ’60, Professor Emerita of Geology. She has traveled several times to Iceland which has a unique geological position in the mid-Atlantic ridge. Please call us today to guarantee your place on this exclusive tour!

Sincerely,

Wendy Greenfield
Executive Director
Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association
Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price
Airfare when purchasing a Land Only tour package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only tour package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per day, per traveler); optional sightseeing, travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

Cancellations, refunds and changes
If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:
- Cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge;
- Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 75% of tour price;
- Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.

If a guest makes any changes to their reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement.

Responsibility
The liability of Bryn Mawr College, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Bryn Mawr College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. Bryn Mawr College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues
We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. If you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs, you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and Bryn Mawr College assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that airport check-in, Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.