

You are invited to join Prof. Richard D. Little's

June 25-July 7, 2018

Fantastic Landscapes Tour to

ICELAND



13 DAYS (prices estimated)

\$ 4500 pp/do*
plus air (\$750)

*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
single = + \$1200

It's our 35th year of Fantastic Landscapes Tours and Iceland, incredibly spectacular & pristine, has great tourist services and few crowds. This is our 6th Iceland trip. Come explore with us. We know the best places!

THIS TOUR INCLUDES....*Absolutely Sublime Scenery...* VOLCANOES, WATERFALLS, COASTS, GREAT FAULTS and LAVA FLOWS of the Mid Atlantic Ridge, and (of course) GLACIERS and GEYSERS
plus

****Excellent hotels with private bath and complimentary breakfasts ****

**** Comfortable bus (with bathroom requested) and an English-speaking Icelandic driver ****

**** Small group (14-24 maximum) ****

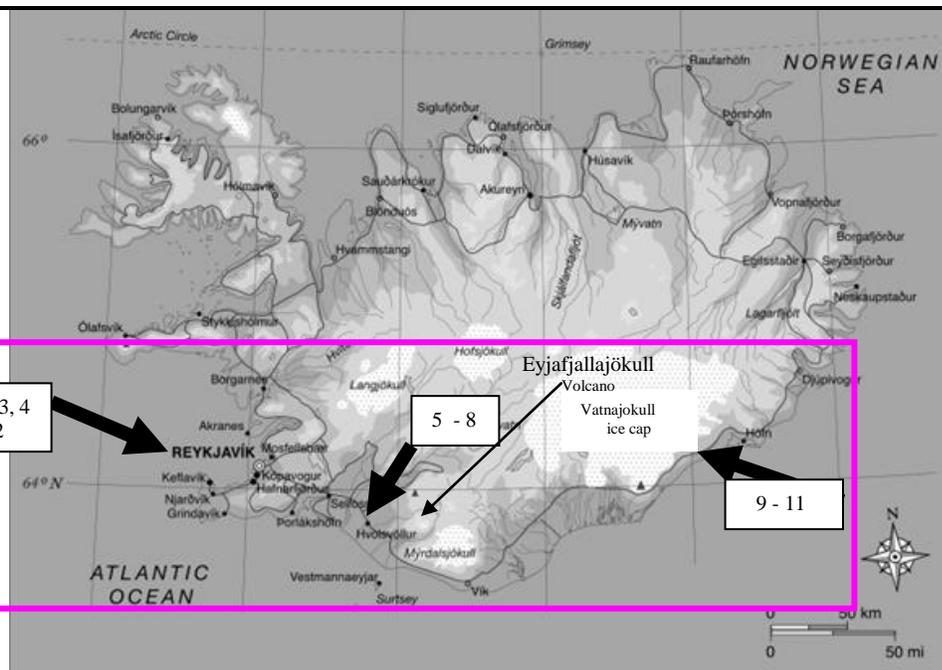
**** WE STAY 3 or 4 NIGHTS AT LODGINGS, so you can unpack and relax. ****

**** You will have time to explore at your own rate! Whether you prefer long hikes or short nature walks; glacier explorations or hot spring baths, our tour can meet your needs. ****

**** Plus you get an edited Trip Video as well as a Trip Guidebook! ****

SOUTH ICELAND,
our destination.

This itinerary gives you
the best of Iceland with a
minimum of travel time.



ICELAND sits atop a unique geography: a plate tectonic spreading center - a place where Europe and North America continue to split making the Atlantic Ocean bigger! The land is crossed by multiple fissures as the plates diverge and lava wells up to create vast plains as well as volcanoes. Steam explosion craters known as "pseudo-craters" are common as molten lava came in contact with ground water. Thermal features abound including the world famous geysers. Reykjavik's population of 185,000 heat their homes with geothermal energy.

You will be immersed in the rural beauty of Iceland! Iceland has a mere 300,000 people in a classless, literate society. There is (or was) almost no unemployment and 80% of the population own their own homes. Tourism is an important part of their economy, and the Icelanders are glad to have you visit and appreciate their special country and culture. English is commonly spoken.

Are you excited about seeing glaciers calving icebergs into lakes or creating moraines as they slowly move down U-shaped valleys, or visiting impressive waterfalls carved by glacial meltwater streams into the volcanic landscape, or exploring black sand beaches and cliffed coastlines filled with birds? Have you ever wished you knew more about the fascinating stories that rocks and landscapes tell? **Then this is the trip for you!** [Please Note: We also greatly appreciate flowers, birds, and local culture and history.]

Our small group will see and experience the wonders of the Earth as we explore the incredible Iceland landscape and also its culture. This is indeed the best place in the world to see Plate Tectonics in action as well as active volcanoes, glaciers and rivers scraping and shaping their valleys. In our 12 days' excursion, we'll see the best cross section of what makes Iceland famous. This tour **minimizes travel time and maximizes "being there,"** so you can get out and see this magnificent land. We have a minimum of hotel changes. Our really comfortable mini-bus (with a small bathroom), is driven by an excellent English-speaking Icelander for easy transit to scenic locations. You get the "story behind the scenery" with your tour leader, Greenfield Community College Prof. Emeritus geologist Richard Little plus meet and enjoy people who have similar interests in the natural world. In short, we have a lot of fun doing a great number of things in a landscape of exceptional beauty, as we learn about the diverse ecosystems and geologic processes that shape "Mother Earth."

ITINERARY

We will offer the convenience of bus transportation to Logan and return (approx. \$100).

June 25th Travel Day : **AFTERNOON DEPARTURE FOR ICELAND, ONLY A 5 HOUR FLIGHT FROM BOSTON**

Airport pick-up and on to the Grand Hotel, Reykjavik's best, for the next 4 nights.

June 26 -- Iceland -- **DAY 2:** Free Morning, City & Vicinity Tour. **DAY 3:** Explore the coastline of SW Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula, hunt for olivine (peridot) crystals in the basalt of an eroded volcano, look for Puffins, and have a soak in the famous Blue Lagoon's geothermal, salty, silica-rich waters. Emerge 10 years younger. **DAY 4:** Free Day to explore the city. **DAY 5:** Depart Reykjavik. Today, prepare to be astounded by some of the world's most incredible scenery: Thingvellir's Rift Valley (due to Plate Tectonic "spreading"), Gullfoss Waterfall (one of the world's most scenic), and the Strokkur Geyser. Strokkur is right next to the world's original geyser ("Geysir"), which is now "out of order". We will also have an Icelandic horse demonstration and a tour of the farm's geothermal greenhouses. The next 4 overnights will be at a comfortable small hotel in a town along the Ring Road. **DAY 6:** Westman Islands Day. Do you remember the famous 1973 eruption of a volcano that overran part of the town and almost ruined Iceland's major fishing port? Today we take the 50 minute ferry ride for a tour of this small island. Not far away is the volcano island of Surtsey which emerged from the sea in 1963. **DAY 7:** The isolated natural area of Landmannalaugar is our destination today. Hot springs, glacial outwash, volcanic ash, explosion craters with lakes, and an obsidian lava flow are just some of the features to be seen in this beautiful but desolate area. Colorful rhyolite rock, high in silica content, make this area quite different from the typical grays and browns of basalt. A variety of hiking trails beckon you plus you can soak in a hot-spring stream. **DAY 8:** Today we trade our bus for "super jeeps". These high clearance, 4 wheel drive vehicles will take us into Thorsmork (Thor's Forest), a remote valley surrounded by glacier capped volcanoes including Eyjafjallajökull and Katla. We drive across meltwater streams, hike behind a beautiful waterfall and also into a secluded slot canyon, plus have a close look at the eruption effects of Eyjafjallajökull. **DAY 9:** It's along the Ring Road today, following the coast to Skaftafell National Park with its incredible glacial landscape. The icecap "Vatnajökull" is the size of Rhode Island! Along the way is scenic Skogar waterfall and the coastal town of Vik. Lodging for the next 3 nights at the only hotel in the Park: the seasonal Hotel Skaftafell. **DAY 10:** Today is "Iceberg Day". We will board an amphibious boat to cruise amongst icebergs that have calved off one of Vatnajökull's outlet glaciers into the glacial lake Jokulsarlon. But this is just the "tip of the iceberg" of geo-excitement today. "Iceberg Beach" is next! For the afternoon we will explore the amazing glacial landscape of Skaftafell National Park, with their informative Visitors Center. **DAY 11:** Free Day. Take a long or short hike in Skaftafell National Park and / or plan other activities: arrange a glacier hike, explore the moraines and glacier margin near the Hotel. **DAY 12:** Return to Reykjavik with overnight at the Grand. **DAY 13:** Free Morning and Flight Home -- July 7th. The Boston Icelandair flight usually leaves Iceland at 5 pm and arrives Logan at 6:30 pm.

FAQ's

Who goes on these "Fantastic Landscapes" Tours? Everybody....teachers, families with older kids, to eighty-somethings.

How strenuous is the "hiking"? If you like "nature walks" you'll love our outings. Some people plan more strenuous activities than others, and our daily activities are geared to *meet everyone's goals, as much as possible*. **Where do we stay?** Excellent hotels. **I don't know any geology! Should I go on this tour?** Yes! Come and learn how to read the "record in the rocks ... the history in a grain of sand" and appreciate fantastic landscapes! We also spend time with flowers, birds, horses and other wildlife! **Where do we eat?** All breakfasts are included while on the tour. For many lunches we picnic in beautiful settings. **Who is your tour leader?** Richard Little is prof. emeritus of geology at Greenfield Community College, author of 2 books and 2 videos on Connecticut Valley geology. He and his social worker wife and flower-lover, Suzanne, have been leading "Fantastic Landscapes" tours since 1981. **Want to see participants' comments?** Email me for the file. You can consult past participants.

Enrollment & Payment

- Send **\$100** per person deposit (check to "Earth View LLC) to hold your space, **fully refundable until January 1st**.
- \$200 payment is due Feb. 1st. May 1st, balance due.
- **Cancellation fees:** after Jan. 1st = \$50 per person; after March 1st \$100 per person; no refunds 30-days prior to

trip. Buying travel insurance is recommended.

For more information about tours, plus books and videos visit our web site at www.earthview.rocks or by email: rdlittle2000@aol.com or phone: (413) 527-8536 We are always glad to talk to you!

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