



Iceland & the Northern Lights

REYKJAVÍK & AKUREYRI

A photograph of a person wearing a bright yellow jacket and dark pants, sitting on a large, dark rock. The person is looking towards the camera. The background is a night sky filled with stars and vibrant green aurora borealis (Northern Lights) dancing across the horizon. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKERS
Elin Björk Jónasdóttir
Sævar Helgi Bragason

November 14 – 22, 2026

A remote Nordic island brimming with legendary volcanoes, glacier-cut fjords, rainbow-laden waterfalls and geysers may sound like the makings of Viking folklore, yet in Iceland's "Land of Fire and Ice," these fantastical, otherworldly scenes are as real as the blue-green auras that dance across the Arctic sky. Experience the natural beauty of this sparsely populated part of the world during an amazing 9-day, 8-night journey specially timed for the optimal viewing of the aurora borealis, otherwise known as the Northern Lights. From cosmopolitan Reykjavík to the harbor town of Siglufjörður and beyond, discover life in this egalitarian nation known for its small population, high standard of living and penchant for books, humor and fresh air. Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Þingvellir, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet, and where the nation's first open-air assembly was established in 930, lasting until 1798. As your itinerary unfolds, learn about Viking settlers, the herring industry and geothermal energy practices — all while enjoying guided evening excursions where we'll look to the heavens for a light show like no other.

Exclusive Highlights

- Journey to Iceland and enjoy stays at landmark hotels: 4 nights at *Hótel Borg* in Reykjavík and 3 nights at *Kea Hótel* in Akureyri.
- Specially arranged excursions in search of the otherworldly beauty of the naturally occurring aurora borealis, more commonly known as the Northern Lights.
- Explore the wondrous Golden Circle, including the UNESCO World Heritage site of Þingvellir National Park; the two-tiered "Golden Waterfall" of Gullfoss; and Strokkur, an active geyser.



Dear University of Michigan alumni travelers,

Travel is an enriching part of our lives, connecting us to new worlds, new friends, and each other. At the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, we've spent more than 60 years planning, perfecting, and executing extraordinary, exclusive trips for U-M travelers — trips you'd expect from, and for, the Leaders and Best. These adventures will take you beyond an ordinary visit and dive into the culture, history, cuisine, and lives of the locals at your destination.

Here are a few of the highlights you can expect from us:

Convenience: Our experience pays off. Every detail is planned and taken care of for you; all you have to do is pack your bag. The hardest part is selecting where to go next.

Educational Enrichment: All trips include educational content, with some featuring expert U-M faculty and staff traveling with your group.

Unique Explorations: Our tours are specially designed for U-M travelers, providing opportunities for spontaneous encounters and a great deal of independence wherever your journey takes you.

We invite you to explore our collection at alumni.umich.edu/travel.

Our travel team is also happy to assist you at 855-764-0064 or alumnitravel@umich.edu.

NOTE: The Alumni Travel program is a member benefit of the Alumni Association. Travelers, regardless of alumni status, must be a member to participate in our trips.

Sincerely,

Rachele Neu

Rachele Neu, '08, MA'12



**For reservations, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088
or visit umich.gohagantravel.com**



Day 1 | November 14

Depart your home city.

Day 2 | November 15 B-R

Reykjavík, Iceland

Arrive in Iceland's capital of Reykjavík and enjoy breakfast en route to the world-famous Blue Lagoon, surrounded by spectacular views of lava fields. Pack a swimsuit and water shoes in your carry-on if you'd like to take a restorative dip in these mineral-rich waters as your journey begins.

Depart the Blue Lagoon and head to the city center for a visit to Hallgrímskirkja, a monolithic Lutheran church

that serves as an ode to modernism and Iceland's unique landscape. Enjoy lunch on your own before checking into the *Hótel Borg*, a newly renovated boutique hotel just steps from the National Cathedral and the Icelandic Parliament. Join your fellow passengers for a Welcome Reception in the hotel this evening, followed by dinner on your own at one of Reykjavík's many restaurants.

Day 3 | November 16 B

Reykjavík

After an enriching lecture, explore this Nordic nation's most popular city, beginning

with a visit to hilltop Perlan (also known as The Pearl) — a museum with a dome offering 360° views.

After lunch, walk back through time at the National Museum of Iceland, where you can trace the nation's history from the Settlement Age. Then, stroll the old neighborhood, where you'll find time-worn lanes adorned with colorful historic houses and charming shops.

Tonight, enjoy your first guided excursion in search of the Northern Lights.

Day 4 | November 17 B-L

Reykjavík | Golden Circle

On the road out of Reykjavík, learn how Icelanders make the most of geothermal forces during a short visit to Hellisheidi Power Plant. Then, embark on a discovery of Iceland's iconic Golden Circle and the nation's "Big Three," beginning at the amazing Strokkur geyser. See the geyser in action as it sprays a fountain of water and steam high into the air.

Blue Lagoon





Next, witness the spectacular “golden waterfall” at Gullfoss Falls, which has a total drop of about 105 feet. Relax over lunch at Fridheimar Greenhouse & Stables, a family-run geothermal tomato and horse farm. During a farm tour, learn more about Icelandic horses, one of the purest breeds in the world and an iconic part of Iceland’s natural and cultural heritage. Finally, view the scenic lava plains at the UNESCO-listed Þingvellir National Park.

Day 5 | November 18 **B-L**

Reykjavík | Akureyri

Enjoy a scenic drive to Akureyri, the “capital of the north.” With a population of under 20,000, Akureyri is a compact and welcoming city with fabulous scenery. Stop



Þingvellir National Park, Iceland

for lunch, then check into the *Hótel Kea* and visit the Forest Lagoon, located in the Vaðlaskógur forest. Savor a soak in one of the spa’s geothermal pools. After dinner on your own this evening, embark on another quest for the Northern Lights.

Day 6 | November 19 **B-L**

Akureyri | Goðafoss | Mývatn | Namaskarð | Dimmuborgir

Visit Goðafoss, the “waterfall of the gods,” where the wooden idols of Norse mythology were cast into the rushing waters as Icelanders voted to adopt Christianity. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and marvel at the breathtaking scenery of Lake Mývatn and the tiny craters of Skutustadir. See Namaskarð’s gurgling

sulfur cauldrons and the “dark castle” lava formation of Dimmuborgir. As night falls, prepare for a final outing in search of the aurora borealis. Keep watch for green, purple, pink and blue glowing waves across the sky.

Day 7 | November 20 **B-L**

Akureyri | Siglufjörður

Embark on an excursion to Siglufjörður, located 28 miles from the Arctic Circle. This picturesque area, tucked between rugged mountains at the tip of the Tröllaskagi peninsula, is the herring fishing capital of the North Atlantic.

Step into Siglufjörður’s past as a tiny fishing hub at the Herring Era Museum, featuring a restored salt house and factory. After, travel to Hauganes, a small fishing village on the western



Siglufjörður, the northernmost town of mainland Iceland



coast of Eyjafjörður bay. This idyllic region is known for its stunning coastal scenery, whale watching and warm geothermal waters. Visit the family run Baccalá Bar and try the renowned salted codfish. This local food has played a crucial role in the country's economy, diet and cultural identity for centuries. Sit down to a tasty lunch.

Day 8 | November 21 B-L-D

Akureyri | Reykjavík

On the return to Reykjavík, stop for lunch at a family run restaurant. Savor the taste of Iceland with an authentic farm-to-table dining experience, where fresh ingredients are harvested from the land.

Arrive in Reykjavík,

check in to the *Hótel Borg* and enjoy a Farewell Dinner with your fellow travelers.

Day 9 | November 22 B

Reykjavík | Return to Home City

Transfer to the Reykjavík airport for your flight back to your home city.

Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions. Northern Lights sightings are not guaranteed.

Exclusive Guest Speakers



Elín Björk Jónasdóttir

Iceland native Elín Björk Jónasdóttir is a climate science and policy expert at the Icelandic Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate. She is a former head of the Icelandic Meteorological Office's natural hazard monitoring and weather forecasting department. For the past 15 years, she has worked on severe weather events in Iceland, including volcanic eruptions.



Sævar Helgi Bragason

Sævar Helgi Bragason is a science educator and communicator. He has a background in geology and astronomy and years of experience teaching astronomy to all ages. He is the author of best-selling books on science, including "Iceland at Night: Your Guide to Northern Lights and Stargazing in Iceland." His website is the number one source for aurora and stargazing information in Iceland.



The Northern Lights illuminate “dark castle” lava formations at Dimmuborgir



The geothermal pass of Námaskarð



Eruption of Strokkur geyser in Iceland

INCLUDED FEATURES

- 4 nights in Reykjavík, Iceland, at the *Hótel Borg*.
- 3 nights in Akureyri at the *Kea Hótel*.
- Welcome Reception.
- Included Meals | 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 1 dinner.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program. (1 for every 40 guests).
- Acclaimed guest speakers, expert lecturers and faculty leaders enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- During included excursions, our experienced, English-speaking local guides will teach you about the history, culture and natural splendor of the destination.
- Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary water is available in your room and on excursions.
- Hospitality desk in the hotels.
- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



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Advantages of booking your air with Gohagan include:

- Our experts know the best flight itineraries that work with your travel program's start and end times, and they will work to find the best rates comparable to those available to the public.
- Free group transfers and luggage handling for arrivals and departures during the designated transfer window.
- 24-hour emergency support throughout the program to handle any schedule changes and unexpected delays.
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TERMS

***The Special Savings Price is valid if booked by 4/24/26 and paid in full at booking.**

The Special Savings consists of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.

- All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes, unless stated otherwise.
- Single occupancy has limited availability.
- Deposit amount is \$1,500 per person.
- Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.
- Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time.
- Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/



Hótel Borg

A sophisticated landmark in the heart of Reykjavik, *Hótel Borg* has been welcoming heads of state and travelers for nearly a century. Overlooking the gardens and cafes of Iceland's main square, the hotel is surrounded by illustrious landmarks.

Appreciate the understated elegance of Art Deco interiors, including custom furnishings, large bathtubs and heated marble floors. The lower level has a dedicated spa, while restaurants, cafes and shops are just steps away.



Hótel Kea

Set in the heart of Iceland's second city, Akureyri, and overlooking a stunning fjord, *Hótel Kea* exudes a classic ambiance. Enjoy the hotel's welcoming service and refined interiors. Climb the steps to the Church of Akureyri next door or stroll to nearby shops, museums and gardens from this boutique property's prime location.



2026 DEPARTURE DATE | November 14 to 22 | **Tour Begins: November 15**

Occupancy	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
Double	\$5,495	\$4,495
Single	\$6,865	\$5,865

The Gohagan Difference – An Inclusive Luxury Experience

For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

Included in your Rate:

- Exclusive Guest Speakers
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up to
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Hallgrímskirkja in Reykjavík, Iceland

