

Northwestern | ALUMNI

# Iceland & the Northern Lights

REYKJAVÍK & SIGLUFJÖRÐUR

A person wearing a bright yellow jacket and dark pants is sitting on a large, dark rock. 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.

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS  
**Elín Björk Jónasdóttir**  
**Sævar Helgi Bragason**  
**January 30 – February 7, 2027**

**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 *Sigló Hótel* in Siglufjörður.
- Specially arranged excursions in search of the otherworldly beauty of the Northern Lights, living curtains of green and violet that turn darkness into magic.
- 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.



**Above: Northern Lights over Goðafoss waterfall on Skjálfandafljót River**  
**Cover: Northern Lights**

# Northwestern | ALUMNI

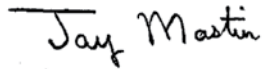
**Dear Northwestern University alumni and friends,**

Journey to Iceland, where raw nature and rich history collide in a land shaped by fire, ice and myth. On this unforgettable 9-day adventure, experience the soul-stirring beauty of Iceland's dramatic landscapes and uncover the stories that have defined this extraordinary island for centuries — including the spellbinding and elusive Northern Lights.

Your journey begins in the vibrant capital of Reykjavík. Explore the city's cultural heart on a guided tour featuring the Perlan and other landmarks before venturing into the "Land of Fire and Ice." Feel the power of nature along the legendary Golden Circle at the thundering Gullfoss waterfall, the erupting Strokkur geyser and the plains of Þingvellir National Park. Travel north to discover the surreal Lake Mývatn, alive with steaming fumaroles and landscapes born of volcanic force. Marvel at cascading waterfalls steeped in folklore, encounter Iceland's beloved horses and step back in time in Siglufjörður. Throughout your journey, join guided evening excursions in search of the aurora borealis, when ribbons of green and violet light dance across the Arctic sky in a truly unforgettable display.

This extraordinary Iceland adventure is expected to sell out quickly. Reserve your place now to secure special savings and prepare for a journey that will educate and inspire.

Sincerely,



Jay Mastin '10 MS  
Director, Alumni Engagement  
Northwestern Alumni Association  
[alumni.northwestern.edu/travel](http://alumni.northwestern.edu/travel)  
[giving.nu/NAA-Travel](http://giving.nu/NAA-Travel)

**University Travel Disclaimer:**

The University is not the tour operator. The University acts merely as an agent for the supplier by selling travel-related services, accepting reservations, and booking for services that are not directly supplied by the University. The University, therefore, shall not be responsible for breach of contract; failure to comply with any state or federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act; or any intentional or negligent actions or omissions on the part of such suppliers that result in any loss, damage, delay, inconvenience, or injury to travelers, travelers' companions, or group members. To review the University disclaimer in detail, visit [alumni.northwestern.edu/universitydisclaimer](http://alumni.northwestern.edu/universitydisclaimer).

Whether or not you travel with the NAA, you can make an impact by giving to Northwestern. Make your gift today at [giving.nu/NAA-Travel](http://giving.nu/NAA-Travel).



Þingvellir National Park



### Day 1 | January 30

Depart your home city.

### Day 2 | January 31 B-R

Reykjavík, Iceland

Arrive in Iceland's capital of Reykjavík and have your first taste of local dishes over breakfast. Stop to view Hvalsnes Church before continuing to the world-famous Blue Lagoon, nestled amid spectacular lava fields.

Enjoy a restorative dip in these mineral-rich waters.

Refreshed and revived, head to the city center to admire 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 boutique hotel 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 | February 1 B

Reykjavík

After an enriching lecture, explore this Nordic nation's most popular city, including a visit to the hilltop Perlan (also known as The Pearl).

Spend the afternoon at leisure, perhaps pausing to try Iceland's signature caraway-flavored schnapps or shop for a local favorite — lopapeysa wool sweaters. Tonight, enjoy your first guided excursion in search of the Northern Lights.

### Day 4 | February 2 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." See the amazing Strokkur geyser in action as it sprays a fountain of water and steam high into the air. Next, witness the spectacular "golden waterfall" at Gullfoss Falls, which has a total drop of about 105 feet. Relax over lunch at Fridheimar Greenhouse, a family-run geothermal tomato farm. Tasty tomatoes are grown year-round using

Blue Lagoon





state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly technology. Finally, view the scenic lava plains at the UNESCO-listed Þingvellir National Park.

### **Day 5 | February 3** **B-L**

Varmahlíð | Siglufjörður

Enjoy a scenic drive to Siglufjörður, stopping at Hestasport Horse Farm to encounter pretty Icelandic horses, a treasured national symbol. Tour the stables and meet descendants of Viking-age stock brought to Iceland more than 1,000 years ago.

Arrive in Siglufjörður and check into the *Sigló Hótel*. This picturesque area, tucked between rugged mountains at the tip of the Tröllaskagi peninsula, is the herring

fishing capital of the North Atlantic.

After dinner on your own tonight, embark on another quest for the Northern Lights.

### **Day 6 | February 4** **B-L**

Hauganes | Siglufjörður

Begin today in Hauganes at Ektafiskur, a family business with roots in the salt fish tradition. Meet Elvar — the “King of Salted Codfish” — and his family, and enjoy a talk and demonstration. The brave have an opportunity to join the Rotten Shark Club!

After lunch at Baccala Restaurant, return to Siglufjörður. During the first half of the 20th century, it was the center of the herring fishing industry not just in Iceland but in the North Atlantic. Step into this fascinating past at the Herring Era Museum

— featuring five restored buildings, including a salt house, factory and former freezing plants. Each building offers immersive exhibits and hands-on exhibits that tell the remarkable story of the “herring boom,” a period that transformed Iceland’s economy, identity and way of life during the 20th century.

### **Day 7 | February 5** **B-L**

Goðafoss | Lake Mývatn | Námaskarð

Following breakfast, depart for an excursion showcasing glistening waters, bubbling mud pots and misty waterfalls. Begin at Lake Mývatn, known for its strange lava formations, geothermal landscapes and incredible birdlife — all concentrated around a shallow, shiny lake formed by a volcanic eruption over 2,000 years ago.



Þingvellir National Park



Siglufjörður



Continue to 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.

As night falls, prepare for a final outing in search of the aurora borealis. Watch for green, pink, purple and blue waves dance across the sky.

**Day 8 | February 6 B-L-D**  
Glaumbær | Reykjavík

On the return to Reykjavík, stop to visit Glaumbær Turf Farm, an open-air museum housed inside a cluster of turf-roofed farm buildings, some of which date back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Arrive in Reykjavík, check in to the *Hótel Borg* and enjoy

a Farewell Dinner with your fellow travelers.

**Day 9 | February 7 B**

Reykjavík | Return to Home City

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

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

## Featured 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

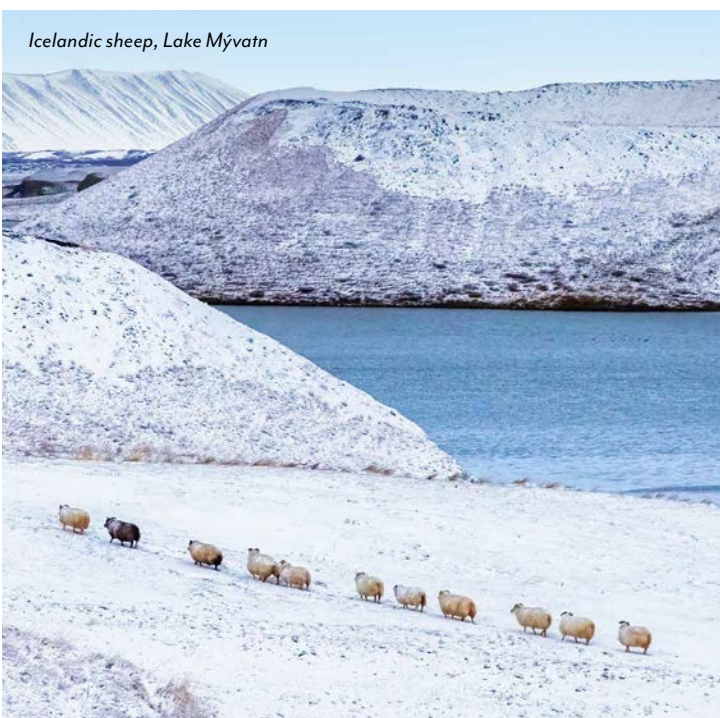
Sævar Helgi Bragason is a science educator and communicator. He has a background in geology and astronomy and years of experience teaching astronomy to all ages. He is the author of best-selling books on science, including “Iceland at Night: Your Guide to Northern Lights and Stargazing in Iceland.” His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



*Strokkur geyser*



*Geothermal pass of Námaskarð*



*Icelandic sheep, Lake Mývatn*

## INCLUDED FEATURES

- 4 nights in Reykjavík, Iceland, at *Hótel Borg*.
- 3 nights in Siglufjörður at *Sigló Hótel*.
- Welcome Reception.
- Included Meals | 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 1 dinner.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program.
- Acclaimed guest speakers, expert lecturers and faculty leaders enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- During included excursions, our experienced local guides will teach you about the history, culture and natural splendor of the destination.
- Specially arranged excursions in search of aurora borealis, more commonly known as the Northern Lights, rainbow ribbons of light dancing across the night sky.
- 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.



---

### **GOHAGAN & COMPANY AIR | Your Air, Your Way**

*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.
- Flexibility to change or cancel reservations up to 60 days prior to departure with minimal penalties on applicable tickets.



### Hótel Borg

A sophisticated landmark in the heart of Reykjavik, *Hótel Borg* overs the gardens and cafes of Iceland's main square. Appreciate the Art Deco interiors, custom furnishings and heated marble floors. Enjoy a dedicated spa, while restaurants, cafes and shops are just steps away.



### Sigló Hotel

*Sigló Hótel* blends romantic charm with local heritage — an ideal base to explore or relax. Enjoy a tranquil retreat, offering stylish, modern rooms with en-suite bathrooms and cozy seating areas, many with views of the harbor or surrounding peaks.

## 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:

- Featured Guest Speakers
- Wi-Fi/Internet
- Gratuities & Portage
- All Taxes, including V.A.T.
- Travel Director(s)



**2027 DEPARTURE DATE** | January 30 to February 7 | **Tour Begins: January 31**

Occupancy	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
Single	\$8,115	<b>\$7,115</b>
Double	\$6,495	<b>\$5,495</b>

**\*The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 6/15/26 and paid in full at booking. These Special Savings consist 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.
- A surcharge of 3% will be applied to all bookings paid by credit card to cover payment processing costs. This fee is non-refundable and will be added to the total booking amount at checkout.
- Deposit amount is \$2,000 per person. Final Payment is due at least 150 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/](http://gohagantravel.com/terms/)

**800-922-3088 | [norwes.gohagantravel.com](http://norwes.gohagantravel.com)**

Hallgrímskirkja in Reykjavík, Iceland



**SPECIAL SAVINGS\* AVAILABLE  
SAVE \$2,000 PER COUPLE!**

**800-922-3088  
norwes.gohagantravel.com**

## Northwestern | ALUMNI

NAA Travel Program

1201 Davis Street

Evanston, IL 60208-4410

155-077

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Gohagan &  
Company