



Brandeis

TRAVELERS

ICELANDIC ADVENTURE

NORTHERN LIGHTS & THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

Colleen Hitchcock

Professor of Ecology in the Biology Department and Chair of the
Environmental Studies Program

January 16 - 20, 2025

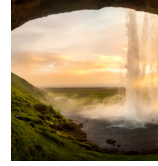


Embark on an Icelandic adventure and be transported to a land where natural wonders enchant your soul. From the vibrant streets of Reykjavík to the serene landscapes of the Golden Circle, our intimate journey promises more than just a trip—it's an immersion into the heart of Icelandic beauty. Delight in authentic culinary experiences, unravel stories of ancient sagas, and soak in the breathtaking views of majestic waterfalls and geothermal marvels. With every moment, discover historic sites steeped in rich history, experience the land of fire and ice, and let expert guides reveal the hidden gems of this mystical land. As the Northern Lights dance in the night sky, retreat to the comfort of your accommodations, where the magic of Iceland continues to weave its spell.



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Program Highlights

- **Visit** the famed Golden Circle
- **Explore** the history, culture, and architecture of Reykjavík
- **Delight** in authentic Icelandic cuisine on a guided food tour
- **Engage** with the Gunnuhver Hot Springs and Gullfoss Waterfall
- **Interact** with the serene landscapes and natural wonders of Iceland
- **Discover** the beauty of the Northern Lights
- **Enjoy** your adventure in 4-star accommodations accompanied by Professor Hitchcock



Colleen Hitchcock

Professor of Ecology in the Biology Department
and Chair of the Environmental Studies
Program

Colleen Hitchcock is Professor of Ecology in the Biology Department and Chair of the Environmental Studies Program at Brandeis. Professor Hitchcock teaches courses in conservation biology, ecology, biology of climate change, and participatory science. She is interested in the role of participatory science in ecological inquiry and conservation biology relevant to studies of biodiversity, conservation, phenology, and climate change. Professor Hitchcock holds a Ph.D in Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.S. from Boston College. Join Professor Hitchcock for an exploration of biodiversity in Iceland, and discover the variety of species that call this northern climate home.

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

I invite you to join us for a Brandeisian adventure in Iceland this January. On this long winter weekend escape to the land of fire and ice, you will experience the magic of the northern lights, stunning landscapes, the vibrant culture of Reykjavik, and the majestic Golden Circle.

Our journey begins in Reykjavik, the capital city, where you will experience its rich history and modern charm. Discover the city's architectural and cultural attractions on a guided walking tour and savor the flavors of traditional Icelandic cuisine.

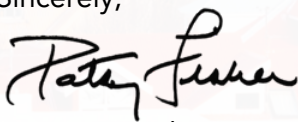
As we venture out of the city, each destination will reveal Iceland's breathtaking natural beauty and geological wonders. Explore the majestic Golden Circle's magnificent sites, including the Pingvellir National Park, the powerful Gullfoss waterfall, and the spouting geysers of Geysir. In the evenings, we will embark upon guided excursions to chase the elusive northern lights, hoping to witness this natural wonder in all its glory.

In partnership with local guides and experts, our journey will be led by Colleen Hitchcock, Associate Professor of Ecology and Chair of the Biology and Environmental Studies Program at Brandeis. Professor Hitchcock will inform and enrich the journey with her expertise in ecology and conservation biology.

Enjoy deluxe accommodations at the Iceland Parliament Hotel, located in the heart of Reykjavik's city center.

Spaces for this sought-after Icelandic adventure will fill quickly. Make your reservations today by calling our tour operator, EPIX Travels, at 203-604-1365 or book online at brandeis.epixtravels.com

Sincerely,



F. Patricia Fisher
Vice President, Alumni Relations
Brandeis University

Icelandic Adventure

Northern Lights & the Golden Circle

January 16 - 20, 2025

Day 1 - Thursday, January 16th

Reykjavík, Iceland

Depart home for Reykjavík, either on a day flight, arriving in the evening, or on an overnight flight. Your comfortable accommodations will await you at the Parliament Hotel.

Day 2 - Friday, January 17th

Reykjavík, Iceland

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning before embarking on a walking tour of Reykjavík. Savor and sample authentic Icelandic cuisine at some of the top-rated restaurants in Reykjavík during a culinary food tour. Return to the hotel for some relaxation, and if the weather is right, we'll go on the hunt for the Northern Lights.

(B, L, D)



Day 3 - Saturday, January 18th

Reykjavík, Iceland

After breakfast, we'll embark on a full-day tour of the Golden Circle. We'll visit Þingvellir National Park, located east of Reykjavík. A historic site renowned for the Alþing (Althing), where Iceland's parliament convened from the 10th to the 18th centuries. The park features Þingvellir Church and the remnants of ancient stone shelters. Set within a rift valley created by the diverging North American and Eurasian tectonic plates, the landscape is marked by dramatic cliffs and fissures, including the impressive Almannagjá



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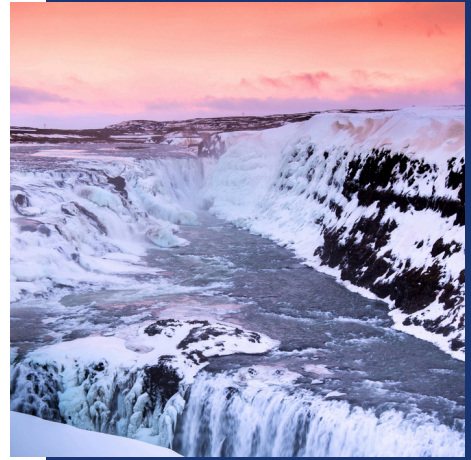
fault. We'll also visit Gullfoss Waterfall in southwest Iceland, one of the country's most iconic natural attractions. "Gullfoss" means "Golden Falls," inspired by how the water glows in the sunlight. Visitors can explore various viewpoints to witness the sheer force and beauty of the cascading water, often accompanied by vibrant rainbows on sunny days. Lastly, we'll explore the Geysir Geothermal Area, known for its hot springs and erupting geysers. The most famous of these is Strokkur, which erupts every few minutes, sending a column of boiling water up to 30 meters into the air. The area is named after the Great Geysir, which is currently dormant but has historically been one of the most impressive geysers in the world. Once back in Reykjavík, enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 4 - Sunday, January 19th

Reykjavík, Iceland

Today, you'll have a free day to explore Reykjavík or other areas of Iceland with optional curated excursions. Whether you want a day of adventure or a day of shopping and leisure, there will be various options to choose from.

(B)



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Day 5 - Monday, January 20th

Reykjavík, Iceland

This morning, enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Once checked out of the hotel, we'll have one last adventure. We'll visit Gunnuhver Hot Springs on the Reykjanes Peninsula in southwest Iceland. It is a captivating geothermal area known for its intense steam vents and bubbling mud pools. Named after a ghost from Icelandic folklore, Gunnuhver is characterized by its dramatic landscape, with thick plumes of steam rising from the ground and the strong smell of sulfur permeating the air. Iceland's largest mud pool is here, constantly churning and changing shape. Wooden walkways allow visitors to safely explore this otherworldly environment, offering a unique glimpse into the geothermal forces that shape Iceland's majestic landscape. Later this afternoon, we'll bid you farewell as we conclude our Icelandic adventure.

(B)

ICELAND PARLIAMENT HOTEL



Located in the city center, next to the Icelandic Parliament- Alþingi and across from Austurvöllur. Reykjavík Cathedral, Harpa concert hall, and city hall are within a five-minute walk. Enjoy well-appointed accommodations and first-class dining at the on-site restaurant.

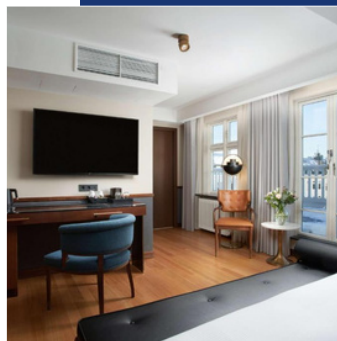
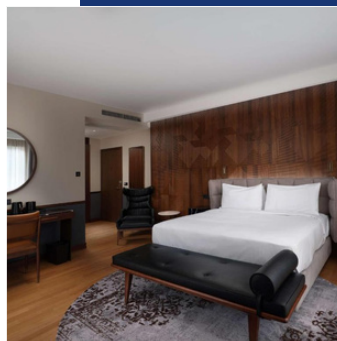
RATE PER PERSON

Room Type	Double
King Classic Room 1 King bed; 269 sq ft.	\$2,599
Twin Classic Room 2 Twin beds; 269 sq ft.	\$2,599
King Junior Suite 1 King bed; 388 sq ft.	\$3,955

Room Type	Single
King Classic Room 1 King bed; 269 sq ft.	\$3,349
King Junior Suite 1 King bed; 388 sq ft.	\$4,375

Book Now!

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email info@epixtravels.com or
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Book Now!

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email info@epixtravels.com or
call 203-604-1365