

14 September 2025



Dear Parent/Carer

ICELAND RESIDENTIAL TRIP

I do hope that your child is excited and looking forward to Iceland. With just over six weeks to go, I thought it important to share with you the final itinerary (attached) as a reminder and share some other important points for you to talk through and consider with each other.

What is the final itinerary?

Please see the attachment outlining the timings and plans for the trip.

What is the luggage allowance?

Suitcases should be no more than 22kg. Students should carry a small rucksack no heavier than 10kg, and this hand luggage rucksack should be no larger than 45cm x 56cm x 25cm. This should be used to carry snacks, drinks and other pertinent items.

I've forgotten the kit list. What should I be bringing?

Please see the attached sheet regarding the suggested kit list. Not all items need to be purchased, but as the weather in Iceland in late October can be cold, icy and wet, please bring sensible attire to cover all these eventualities. Ice cram-on boots are not a requirement.

How do the swimming changing facilities work?

In Iceland, there is a requirement that all bathers shower before and after entry to any geothermal pools to avoid contamination of naturally occurring pools. This is strictly enforced. Staff will not go in shower areas at the same time as pupils. If there is any concern here, students should make attendants aware on entry to the changing rooms to request private changing rooms, however these are limited. Students can wear rash-like vests in pools if they so wish, however some of the pools request that these not be worn as the clothing can harm the water. All staff will be wearing rash-like vests at all times to cover their bodies in front of pupils.

My child has an allergy or a specific dietary requirement? How is this being catered for?

Any student travelling whose parent/guardian stated had an allergy when they filled out the information collection request will have a laminated card in their lanyard stating the allergy (eg, nuts). This has been translated into Icelandic also so students can easily remove the card from any lanyard to show vendors their dietary requirements. Staff will constantly remind students to check with vendors when purchasing lunch, but if unsure, students should check with their group leader who will assist. The hotel already has a list of specific dietary needs.



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My child needs medication. How is this catered for?

As with allergy cards, those students who have specific medical needs and require daily medication have a laminated card in their lanyard pouch noting the specific daily medication outlined on the data collection form provided by parents. **If you believe this has changed, or your child has recently started medication that you know you have not informed of us, please let me know urgently.** Staff have specific medical registers to check in with students on a daily basis as to whether or not medication has been taken. It is expected that students will carry their own medication, unless you specifically wish this to be looked after by a member of staff, in which case you must let us know. Those students carrying their own medication should keep it accessible to themselves, but away from other pupils.

What additional activities may be taking place?

Students will be completing an activity workbook throughout the course of the trip. The booklet is designed to complement the daily activities and have reflection time at the end of each day to complete. This will include food diaries, daily highlights and a space to add a picture each day of an activity taken with friends. It is an expectation that this is completed and this provides a nice memory book of the trip for future years.

What time are students leaving school and returning to school?

This is covered in the itinerary but students should arrive at school as normal on Thursday, 23rd October and store all luggage in the Humanities foyer. When they arrive in school, students will be issued with luggage tags to attach to their luggage. Students will complete lessons 1 and 2 as normal and then the coach will depart school at 11:15am. Parents and guardians are welcome to come and wave goodbye if they so wish.

The return time to school is Monday, 27th October, at approximately 5pm. We will ask students to text or phone parents and guardians upon leaving Manchester airport to ensure that all students are picked up on time. If the timings change due to a flight delay, we will communicate this to you. You could track the return flight also online using the flight code **LS1723**.

Who will look after the passports? Are they safe?

Students will be responsible for their own passports in the travelling sections of the trip. On arrival at school, students should hand their passports to the Humanities staff and these will be redistributed on arrival at Manchester airport. **It then becomes the student's responsibility until arrival in Iceland. Please stress the importance of keeping this safe.**

At the hotel, all passports will be kept in the hotel safe until departure day and the same procedures as above will apply on the return journey home.

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Do I need a Visa?

If you hold a British passport, you will have already checked this and will not require any additional visa documentation. If you are still unsure, please check this as this is the passenger's responsibility. This can be done here <https://island.is/en/do-you-need-a-visa>

Who will my child be sharing a room with?

As it stands, room allocations have not yet been sent to school. This usually happened 2-3 weeks before travel. When this information comes to school, we will work with students to best place them with friends where possible. This all depends of how many 2, 3 or 4 bed bedrooms we are allocated and we have no control over this in school. Inevitably, some students may not always be in the room they had hoped for.

When can my child take their hoodie home?

Hoodies have now arrived in school and we will distribute these two weeks before travel. We would advise washing them before travel. It is an expectation that students wear this hoodie each day to be easily identifiable for staff.

Are any staff First Aid trained?

Yes. Three member of staff, Mrs Cauchi, Mrs Ham and Mrs Kursitis are all First Aid trained.

Does my child need to bring their GHIC card?

Yes. We ask for this not be stored in their lanyard, but kept in a safe place for the duration of the trip should this be needed for any medical treatment whilst abroad.

What are the behaviour expectations?

As with any trip, students are representing the school. The same behaviour and Priory Standard is expected on all aspects of the trip and students who fail to meet this will be addressed by staff. This is to ensure their own safety and safety of others and to protect the reputation of the school for future trips.

Can my child use their mobile phone?

We ask that students do not use social media platforms whilst on the trip, and only use their phone when taking photos of the wonderful Icelandic scenery. We will allow students the use of phones to communicate home in their down time, but it is important that this should not be used for social media pleasure purposes. No mobile phones will be permitted to be used in the dining areas at breakfast and evening meal.

What is happening for lunch as this is not included in the hotel package?

As mentioned in previous letters and at the Information Evening, lunch should be purchased daily when out on excursions. Although lunch times may vary, there are opportunities each

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day at specific stops to purchase food. It is advised that this could be up to £15 per day. This equates to about £75 for food. Overall, we suggest a figure of around £135 to include a small buffer and the chance to buy any souvenirs etc. Students are responsible for their own money – this can be cash or on a pre-loaded card. Please be aware we have no confirmation that all vendors accept card so some cash would be beneficial. The local currency is the Icelandic Krona and some exchange services have to order this is so please plan ahead if you are using such a provider for your Icelandic Krona.

Students will soon be invited to a short lunch meeting regarding most of the above and will also receive a paper copy. At this meeting we will share with them all of the information above, but we do request that you also have a conversation with them about all of the FAQs here.

If you have any further questions, please contact me directly p.metcalf@priory.lancs.sch.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr P Metcalfe
Head of Humanities
Lead Practitioner for Digital Learning

Final Daily Itinerary

Day 1: Thursday, 23 October 2025

- 11:15 hrs Meet at school to load luggage ready for departure. We would suggest that the group takes provisions from home for the journey and suitable stops will be made en route as necessary.
- 11:30 hrs Depart from school via coach provided by NST.
- 12:45 hrs Check in at Manchester International Airport, **Terminal ** for Jet2 flight number LS1723 Manchester International Airport**
An Ace Handling agent will have contacted the group leader before departure to arrange a meeting point on arrival at the airport.
- 15:45 hrs Flight departs
No meals are served on this flight.
- 17:40 hrs Arrive at Keflavik International Airport (local time)
- 18:40 hrs You will be met by your coach for transfer to the hotel.
A representative will meet you at the airport to assist with your transfer.
- 20:30 hrs Evening meal will be served at the hotel.

Day 2: Friday, 24 October 2025

- 08:00 hrs Continental breakfast will be served at the hotel.
- 08:30 hrs Depart on the coach for a **full day excursion of the Golden Circle** with a national guide
- 09:30 hrs Arrive for a confirmed visit to **Hellisheidi Power Station**. Here the group will see a film about geothermal power and the development of the power plant. There is also the opportunity to view the turbine area from a viewing platform.
- Continue on the Golden Circle excursion, to include:
- Arrive for a confirmed visit to the **Secret Lagoon**.
- It is compulsory for all bathers to have a full shower just before entering the pool.
Bathers will be expected to shower without their swimming costumes and the showers are communal (single sex).
- Towels are not provided.**
- 12:00 hrs Gullfoss Waterfall
One of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe which is approached along the rim of a 2.5 km canyon where students can observe a classic example of waterfall formation caused by a resistant basalt cap rock. There is a gift shop and public toilet here.

Great Geysir

You will see one of the most active geysers in the area, Strokkur, spouting up to 25 metres every 5-7 minutes. Nearby there is a café and gift shop.

Þingvellir National Park

A beautiful canyon running through the park forms the meeting point of two of the earth's tectonic plates and a unique opportunity to witness the mid Atlantic ridge. A visitors' centre with multimedia exhibits and a gift shop can be found here.

19:00 hrs Evening meal will be served at the hotel. Activities to be decided.

Day 3: Saturday, 25 October 2025

08:00 hrs Continental breakfast will be served at the hotel.

09:00 hrs Depart on the coach for a **full day excursion of the South Shore** with a national guide, to include:

Skógafoss Waterfall, which is more than 200 ft high. There are steps leading up to the top of the waterfall. There are public toilets here.

Reynishverfi, a black sand beach with views of sea stacks and Dyrolaey, a peninsular with a good example of an arch. There is a coffee shop with toilets nearby.

Please note, freak waves can occur at any time and without warning. Groups are advised to keep away from the water's edge; the local recommendation is at least 20 metres. To minimise danger it is essential that this regulation is adhered to and that groups closely follow the advice of their guide.

Grindavík Grindavík, is a fishing town on the Southern Peninsula of Iceland not far from the tuya Þorbjörn. It is one of the few cities with a harbour on this coast.

Sólheimajökull, a glacier tongue that lies south of the Mýrdalsjökull Glacier. The glacier tongue will be viewed from the car park; it is not currently possible to get close to the glacier. Groups are advised not to approach or climb onto the glacier unless accompanied by an experienced mountain guide.

Please note: The visit to Sólheimajökull is weather and time permitting.

Seljalandsfoss waterfall. If the path is free of ice it may possible to walk behind the falls - waterproof clothing is essential. There are public toilets here.

19:00 hrs Arrive at the accommodation.

19:30 hrs Evening meal will be served at the hotel.

Untimed Thermal baths - group to walk to thermal baths.

Day 4: Sunday, 26 October 2025

- 08:00 hrs Continental breakfast will be served at the hotel.
- 09:00 hrs Depart the accommodation on the coach to Reykjavik (we can walk if desired)
- 09:30 hrs The group will spend some free time in **Reykjavik**. Students and staff to get lunch.
- 13:30 hrs Depart to the Blue Lagoon
- 13:45 hrs Confirmed visit to the **Blue Lagoon**.

Further information:

Please ensure that everyone has a towel and swimwear in their hand luggage.
Due to large amounts of silica in the lagoon, please ensure hair is tied back and does not get wet.

Important: The water in the pool is not chemically treated in the same way that British swimming pools are. It is therefore compulsory for all bathers to have a full shower just before entering the pool. Bathers will be expected to shower without their swimming costumes and the majority of showers are communal (single sex)

- 18:30 hrs Arrive at the accommodation.
- 19:30 hrs Evening meal will be served at the hotel.

Day 5: Monday, 27 October 2025

- 07:30 hrs Continental breakfast will be served at the hotel.
- 08:15 hrs Group will be met at hotel by the airport transfer provided by NST.
- 08:30 hrs Depart for transfer to the airport.
- 09:30 hrs Check in at Keflavik International Airport, **Jet2 Flight Number LS1724**.
- 12:30 hrs Flight departs

No meals are served on this flight; however, snacks and beverages may be purchased on board the aircraft.
- 15:15 hrs Arrive at Manchester International Airport, (local time).

We will be met at the aircraft door by NST airport assistance who will escort them to their coach.
- 17:00 hrs Estimated arrival back at school.

Kit List

Note: Yak Tracks are not a requirement

Student kit list

Below is a list of recommended items for you to pack:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm waterproof jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Scarf / snood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof over-trousers (can use salopettes) | <input type="checkbox"/> Day pack / small rucksack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy walking boots with firm grip – footwear must be waterproof | <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yak tracks - grips for the soles of your boots in icy weather (for tours Sept-Mar) | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy bars / snacks (food is extremely expensive in Iceland) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hat / balaclava | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic first aid kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel sickness bands / tablets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes suited to indoor use | <input type="checkbox"/> Eye masks for sleeping in summer months |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thick, warm socks - ideally wool (spare pair to carry in day pack) | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags for wet items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses (to counter glare on glaciers) | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment (pen, pencil, clipboard etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit & towel for Blue Lagoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun protection lotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trousers – not denim. More than one set to allow for layering and drying of wet clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Torch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermal underwear (long legged and sleeved) | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera (optional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeved tops – to allow for layering (the weather is extremely changeable) | |

NB. Electrical items such as mobile chargers & hairdryers will require an adapter plug for use in Iceland. Sockets require two round pins.