

July 2023

Re: Geography Visit to Iceland 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to inform you about a visit to Iceland planned in 2025. This will take place over the February half-term, from **Tuesday 18 February to Saturday 22 February 2025**. We are currently welcoming expressions of interest from current Year 8 and Year 9 pupils.

This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to see Geography in action, exploring the tectonic features and landscapes of Iceland. Rayburn Travel will be organising the insurance, flights, accommodation and excursions in Iceland. They are highly experienced, and we successfully used them on a visit to Iceland in 2017.

Provisional Itinerary

There is an action-packed itinerary planned, which provisionally includes:

Day 1 (Flight Times Depending)

- Morning/Afternoon – Coach from St Michael's to Manchester Airport. Depart UK.
- Evening - Visit the Blue Lagoon.
- Travel to accommodation for evening meal.

Day 2

- Morning/Afternoon - The Golden Circle -Thingvellir National Park, Mid Atlantic Ridge, Geysir Geothermal Area and Gullfoss Waterfall including a visit to the Secret Lagoon. Visit to the Lava Centre on return to accommodation.
- Evening - Travel back to accommodation for evening meal and quiz.

Day 3

- Morning - The South Coast-View the impressive Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss waterfalls.
- Afternoon - Travel to the southern coast including Dyrholaey coastal features, the Town of Vik and Reynisfjara Black Sand Beach. Finish with a Hike on Solheimajokull Glacier.
- Evening Travel back to accommodation for evening meal and activities.

Day 4

- Morning/Afternoon - The Reykjanes Peninsular -The Bridge in-between Continents, Gunnhver Hot Springs, KrysuvikMud Puddles, Stampar Crater and The Reykjanes lighthouse. Finish by visiting the Lava Tunnel Tubing experience.
- Evening - Travel back to accommodation for evening meal.

Day 5 (Flight Times Depending)

- Morning - Depart Iceland*
- Afternoon – Coach from Manchester Airport to St Michael's.

*Option to visit Reykjavik if later flights are released.

Accommodation

The Hotel Ork is a modern hotel with en-suite rooms and plenty of spacious communal areas. It boasts a large games room and a room for the students to relax at night. There is a swimming pool on site (can only be used with staff supervision). It is in the town of Hveragerdi which is close to all the excursions and pupils can take a stroll to the local shops (with staff supervision). Food is buffet style and full board is provided.

Cost and Payments

The total cost of the visit is expected to be £1330 per pupil. This price is an approximation at the moment as flight schedules have not yet been released, so Rayburn have had to base their quote on expected prices rather than final prices. Furthermore, currency exchange rates can fluctuate.

I will set up an appropriate payment schedule on School Gateway. However, the following deadlines for payment will need to be observed:

- Non-refundable deposit of £350 required to secure the booking.
- Non-refundable deposit of £110 required 8 weeks after booking.
- Remainder of balance required 10 weeks prior to departure.

Securing a place

Please **do not** send in any money for this trip until your child has secured a place. Please complete the [online form](#) by **Wednesday 19th July** if your child is interested in securing a place. Places will not be allocated on this visit on a first come first served basis, but all forms must be submitted by the deadline.

It is quite possible the trip will be oversubscribed so we will more than likely have to draw the names out of a hat. **Please note, priority will be given to pupils who have not secured a place on another future visit.** Pupils who have submitted their online forms will be asked to attend a meeting where pupils will be asked to write their names on a list with their friends. A list of pupils who are successful will then be put up outside classroom H4 a day or so after the meeting. Pupils who are successful in securing a place will receive another letter regarding payments, a behavioural contract and further details about the visit.

Important information

- Once allocated a place, the school reserves the right to exclude from the visit any pupil whose behaviour gives cause for concern prior to departure. A behavioural contract will be issued to all students upon confirmation of successfully obtaining a place. An additional contract detailing acceptable behaviour whilst on the trip will be issued shortly before departure.
- In line with our Returns and Refunds procedures, all payments immediately become non-refundable once your child has been allocated a place unless a replacement can be found.
- Parents / Carers are required to attend a short evening meeting at school in the weeks prior to the visit to inform you further of our final arrangements for the trip. Further details about this will follow.

Thank you for your interest in the Iceland visit.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Clark
Subject Leader for Geography