

HENDON SCHOOL

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'Learning Together Across the World'

Dear Parent/Carer

Iceland Trip October 2025

The Geography Departments' trip to Iceland is gathering pace, and we are excited that we have had so much interest from students.

Until we fully finalise our booking, we cannot give you the exact price for our trip. We have worked out that the approximate cost of the trip will be **£1,300**. This will cover our flights, transfers to and from the airport in Iceland, 4 nights in hostel-accommodation, all travel expenses and activities whilst on the trip. It also covers all meals, although there will be some occasions when students may want to buy snacks, drinks or souvenirs. This means that students will only need to bring a modest amount of spending money (the Icelandic Kroner is the currency used in Iceland). **Please note that YOU will need to take your son/daughter to Heathrow Airport and you will also need to pick your son/daughter up from the airport on our return.**

We want to collect the first instalment so that we can make firm bookings for flights and accommodation – these get booked up well in advance. We have set up a payment plan of 4 **non-refundable** instalments of **£325** to make a total of £1300 per student. These need to be paid on time so that school can then make payments for the trip.

- 1st instalment due **September 30th 2024**, for **£325**
- 2nd instalment due **January 30th 2025**, for **£325**
- 3rd instalment due **April 30th 2025**, for **£325**
- 4th instalment due on **July 11th 2025**, for **£325**

You will have received notification that the 1st instalment of £325 is open.

There are a few key and important things I want you to be aware of:

- 1) The instalments are **all non-refundable**. This means that if your child must pull out, the school cannot refund any money that you have paid. This is because the money is used to make bookings, and the costs for the entire trip are shared between everyone. If one person pulls out, it affects the cost for all the remaining students. **If the payments deadlines are not met for whatever reason we will not be able to refund your money as the payments have to be made to the travel company who secure the airlines seats.**
- 2) The trip can only go ahead if we have 20 or more students signing up. If there are less than 20 students, we will not go ahead with the trip, and you will get that 1st instalment of £325 back.

- 3) There is a risk when we go to Reynisfjara black sand beach, and there is a traffic light system in place to make sure that tourists are kept safe. There is also an optional swim in thermally heated pools, as well as a guided glacier walk. **It is important that all students adhere to any instructions given by Hendon staff and the tour guide who will be with us.**

Please note that acceptance on the trip is at the discretion of myself, the respective Heads of Year and the Headteacher. We reserve the right to refuse a student a place on the trip if we believe his/her behaviour has, to date, not been exemplary. We also reserve the right to take off the trip any student whose behaviour does not continue to be exemplary, as we cannot risk anyones health or safety.

- 4) Please check that your child has an in-date **passport** and check to see if they need a **visa** (UK passports DO NOT need a visa but we have a diverse student body, so please check you own circumstances). **School can't apply for visa's**, and so this will need to be done by each household/student. It is your responsibility for making sure that your child has an in-date passport and travel documents. If they arrive to the airport and are unable to travel due to passport issues, your child will need to make their own way back home. Please, it is of utmost importance that you check and double check their documents as we really do not want this to happen.
- 5) Please **return the permission slip and passport checker at the bottom of this letter** to Dr Lawy, or another Humanities teacher in the Humanities office. If you need another slip, there are spares in the Humanities office.

Provisional Itinerary

We have chosen to partner with 'Discover the world education' who specialise in educational visits abroad. We will have a tour guide for our trip that will enrich our students understanding and knowledge of Iceland.

Our provisional trip itinerary is as follows:

Day 1

1. Fly to Keflavik
2. Gunnuhver - Bridge between continents – natural geothermal area- Bring to life your students' knowledge of tectonic plates on the **Bridge Between Continents** before witnessing the bubbling mud pools at **Gunnuhver**.
3. Dinner Reykjavik
4. Optional swim in local swimming pool – naturally heated

Day 2

1. **Selfoss - Selfoss Town** which has a new urban centre. Uniquely created to combine the look of the past with a forward-thinking approach to sustainability and environmental awareness. Your group will discover the story and the people behind this regeneration.

2. **Seljalandsfoss waterfall** - you will visit the first and arguably the **most exciting waterfall, Seljalandsfoss**. Students can follow the pathway behind the curtain of water (warning: you will get wet!) and have the opportunity to take some photos.
3. Lunch
4. **Skogafoss waterfall - beautiful Skogafoss** – one of the most photographed waterfalls in Iceland. For your most energetic students, there is a staircase to the right of the falls where you can watch the water rush over the Cliffside.
5. **Solheimajokull glacier** - One of the trip's most memorable activities will be the **glacier walk at Solheimajokull**. You and your students will strap on your helmets and crampons and take to the ice to see the giant glacier up close as your experienced guides explain how the glacier is changing.
6. Vik overnight

Day 3

1. **Reynisfjara black sand beach** - Your next stop on this busy day is a visit to the **black beaches of Reynisfjara** where geology and geography students can marvel at the tall basalt columns formed after volcanic eruptions.
2. **Lava show 11am** - A once-in-a-lifetime experience for students is the **Icelandic Lava Show**. One of the only opportunities ever to see real-life lava, this show provides students with invaluable insight into how lava is formed and the different types of lava.
3. Vik
4. **Dyrholaey** - Next is a visit to **Dyrholaey**, which is thought to have been created in a submarine eruption. Here you will find fascinating dramatic coastal scenery such as high cliffs, rock arches and stacks.
5. **Urriofoss – waterfall**
6. **Hverageroi and Reykjadalur hot springs**
7. **Hverageroi overnight**

Day 4

1. **Kerid Crater** - Students will see **Kerid**, a dramatic volcanic crater lake, originally (but untruly) believed to have formed in an explosive eruption. The magnitude of Kerid truly has to be seen to be believed.
2. **Gulfoss waterfall** - You will move on to visit **Gulfoss** waterfall, where the Hvita River falls 32 metres over two drops, following lunch at the popular and unique Efsti-Dalur farm.
3. **Geysir** - You will then begin your **Golden Circle Tour at Geysir**, the area that gave geysers their name. The most reliable of the geysers here is Strokkur, which erupts every 6 minutes, so have your cameras ready.
4. **Efsti Dalur – dairy farm and Icelandic horses** - After a busy morning, it is time to refuel. Head to **Efsti Dalur** farm to sample their incredible homemade ice cream and look around their quintessentially Icelandic farm.
5. **Thingvellir National Park** - The last stop on your Golden Circle Tour is **Thingvellir**. This national park is carved down the middle by the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and students can walk the boundary between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.

6. Fly over Iceland - The next stop is **Iceland's newest attraction Flyover Iceland**. This innovative ride simulates the experience of flying over all corners of Iceland. Students will learn about the history and creation of Iceland in this ideal introduction to the country.
7. Dinner Reykjavik
8. Optional swim in a pool – naturally heated

Day 5

1. Reykjavik city - No trip to Iceland would be complete without a chance to sightsee the capital of **Reykjavik** with your guide. This small city has a unique culture and students will enjoy exploring the quirky shops, cosy cafes and colourful street art on their last afternoon.
2. Transfer to airport

If you have further questions about the trip, we will be holding a series of lunchtime sessions next week in B13 to answer any questions you/your child may have. These are drop-in sessions for any students with questions and to gather in permission slips. If you would like to discuss the trip with me personally, my email is lawyj@hendonschool.co.uk.

Mon 23rd 13.25- 2.10

Tues 24th 12.25-13.10

Wed 25th 12.25-13.10

We are very much looking forward to getting this trip booked and on its way. Thank you for support for what we hope will be a trip of a lifetime for your child.

Yours faithfully

Dr Lawy

(Head of Geography)

Hendon School Iceland Trip 2025

Code of Conduct for pupils undertaking school visits/journeys and parent consent

Please return this reply slip to Dr Lawy with your deposit of £325 which you will need to make via parent mail.

Proposed visit/journey and date(s) **Iceland Trip October 2025**

Student's full name (Capital letters)

Students current form class.....

Students are expected to:

- 1) Exercise personal responsibility for the safety of themselves and others.
- 2) Follow all instructions from Hendon staff.
- 3) Observe any safety rules or special requirements set out by local volunteers/staff and instructions from staff must be followed.
- 4) Observe the Hendon School 'Code of conduct for Students' which requires students to be respectful, courteous and organised.
- 5) Not leave the group without permission
- 6) Be on time
- 7) Show respect for transport facilities used.

To the student

I have read, understood and agree to observe the code of conduct set out above. I realise that a failure to meet its requirements may mean that, apart from other sanctions, I may not be allowed to undertake further school journeys or visits in the future.

I realise that any internal or external exclusions from the date of receiving this letter will be taken into consideration and may prevent me from attending this trip.

Signed..... Date

Note below any medical problems of which the organiser should be aware:

I do/do not have a passport. (Please circle)

First name of student as it appears on his/her passport (or is going to appear):

Last name of student as it appears on his/her passport (or is going to appear):

Country passport is from: _____

Expiration date of passport: _____

To the parent:

In the event of a serious incident where a student is posing health and safety risks to themselves and others; and is consistently refusing to follow reasonable instructions from members of staff, we have the right to remove the student from the trip activities with immediate effect.

As parent/carer of the above named pupil I hereby consent to his/her taking part in, and being a member of, the party for the above mentioned activity.

Name of Parent / Carer: _____

Signature of Parent / Carer: _____