

Dear Parent / Guardian,

GCSE Geography Field Trip to Iceland

Destination	Iceland
Year group	Current Year 8 and year 9 (will be Year 10 and 11 when we go)
Purpose of Visit	To support Geography knowledge, to aid the GCSE
Activities	Extensive tour of many of Iceland's natural and human wonders: Waterfalls, Glacier walk, Hot springs, Geothermal areas etc.
Staff Leader	Mrs J Wishart
Estimated cost to each Pupil	£1,530 approx. Please be aware this could increase with inflation as flights cannot be booked yet.
Method/Timing of payments	Deposit (£255), then a monthly payment plan outlined below
Departure date & time	Tuesday 19 th October 2027 – leaving early in the morning
Return date & time	Saturday 23 rd October 2027 – arriving back very late in the evening
Duration	Five days / four nights

The Geography Department are very pleased to offer a residential field trip to Iceland for our current Year 8 and year 9 GCSE students.

This is a phenomenal opportunity to study the 'Land of Fire and Ice', a living laboratory which sits astride the Mid-Atlantic ridge with exceptionally diverse landscapes of fjords, glaciers and active volcanic landforms all wrapped up in a centuries old Norse culture. Iceland is a 'must see' location for all geographers, a place where one can swim in geothermal waters, stand on a moving glacier, observe an active volcano and bubbling geysers and marvel at a black sand beach – all in one day!

As part of their GCSE course, students study natural hazards, plate tectonics, weather and climate, rivers, geomorphic processes, coasts, urban environments, energy and sustainability. All of these topics (amongst others) have very strong and clear links to the country of Iceland and a visit there is certain to provide invaluable additional knowledge to help support GCSE study. The trip itself also hopes to inspire students to explore the world around them and give them a greater appreciation of the diversity of its people and places.

This trip is entirely optional and will aim to run from Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd October 2027 depending on which flights we can secure. **As there are a limited number of places available for the trip, in the event of over-subscription students will be selected at random.** We will contact parents should additional spaces become available on the trip or if another student is unable to

go. **Please complete the permission slip at the bottom of this letter and return it to Mrs Wishart by 20/04/2026 if you wish your child to take part in this trip.**

To take part in the trip students must have their own valid passport and UK Global Health Insurance Card (UK GHIC) and the school will require a photocopy of these by **Friday 26th June 2026** – please ensure you apply for any new or replacement passports and GHICs in time to meet this deadline. Please be aware that your child’s passport and GHIC must be valid for the duration of the trip.

The cost of the trip is estimated to be £1,530 per person; this price includes:

- Return airport transfers
- Return flights with 1 item of checked baggage and 1 item of hand luggage
- All meals (including one at the famous Hamburger Factory)
- Hotel accommodation for 4 nights
- Golden Circle Day Excursion including coach, workbook and guide
- South Shore Day Excursion including coach, workbook and guide
- Reykjanes Peninsula tour
- Excursions and entrance tickets to the Secret Lagoon, Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Station, LAVA Volcano and Earthquake Visitor Centre, Blue Lagoon, Perlan exhibition centre and the ‘Fly Over Iceland’ Experience
- A glacier hike with equipment and guide
- Evening excursion to (hopefully!) view the Northern Lights
- Trip hoodie
- Trip insurance

The payment schedule for the trip is as follows:

- £255 deposit to be paid by 30th April 2026
- Both deposit and payments are **non-refundable**

Deposit by 30th April 2026	£255
Payment 2 by 31 st May 2026	£75
Payment 3 by 30 th June 2026	£75
Payment 4 by 31 st July 2026	£75
Payment 5 by 31 st August 2026	£75
Payment 6 by 30 th September 2026	£75
Payment 7 by 31 st October 2026	£75
Payment 8 by 30 th November 2026	£75
Payment 9 by 31 st December 2026	£75
Payment 10 by 31 st January 2027	£75
Payment 11 by 28 th February 2027	£75
Payment 12 by 31 st March 2027	£75

Payment 13 by 30 th April 2027	£75
Payment 14 by 31 st May 2027	£75
Payment 15 by 30 th June 2027	£75
Payment 16 by 31 st July 2027	£75
Payment 17 by 31 st August 2027	£75
Payment 18 by 30 th September 2027	£75

Please note that we are extremely appreciative as to how expensive this trip might appear. We have worked incredibly hard with our tour company (Discover The World) to make sure this trip is the absolute best value for money that it can be. This is a well-established tour company, and past participants who have been in other Meridian Trust schools have commented on how valuable and memorable it has been. If you would like more information – please contact Mrs J Wishart.

Insurance

The School has a comprehensive travel insurance policy underwritten by **Zurich**. This policy provides cover for all students on School organised trips and includes cover for all travel related risks. Anyone wanting further information on the insurance should contact Mrs J Wishart.

Medical information

We shall use the contact details, medical and dietary information that you gave us on the last data check form including any changes you have informed us about in the meantime. **If this is no longer correct or your contact details will be different for the duration of the trip, or if there are any new medical conditions or treatment of which we should be aware, please complete the relevant sections of the online consent form.**

Vaccinations

As with any foreign travel, it is your responsibility to check whether any vaccinations or preventative measures are advised for your child for travel into the destination country. Our local medical centre has asked that we remind parents to seek this advice well in advance, and at least 8 weeks prior to travel, as they have a limited number of appointments available to book for travel vaccinations.

Behaviour

The field trip will fall under the schools' behaviour policy and we reserve the right to withdraw or refuse access to this trip for those students whose behaviour is of genuine concern over the forthcoming months leading up to and whilst on the trip. Unacceptable behaviour could relate to behaviour either in or out of school. Any withdrawal from the trip relating to these behavioural

conditions will mean that any part of the financial costs already paid to the school will not be refunded.

More information

A parents' information evening will be held prior to the trip departure to run through the final itinerary and arrangements for the trip and to give parents the opportunity to meet the members of staff that will be accompanying the trip. I will write again with details of this meeting nearer the time, if you require any further information in the meantime then please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Should you wish to read more about our tour company and the itinerary, please visit <https://www.discover-the-world.com/study-trips/parent-zone/> and this part of the website is also very useful: <https://www.discover-the-world.com/study-trips/iceland-highlights/>.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs J Wishart
Head of Humanities, SWA
Trip Leader



PERMISSION SLIP

Iceland – 19/10/27–23/10/27

(Please return to Mrs Wishart by a 20/04/26)

Student's name: _____

Year group: _____

- I understand that my child will be taken out of school for this trip
- I understand that my child will be travelling via coach and via plane
- I give permission for photographs/videos to be taken of my child taking part in this event

Signed (parent/carer): _____

Date: _____