



**International Study Mission
Reykjavik, Iceland
followed by
Windstar Cruise to Dublin
July 25 – August 9, 2016**

Dear NECA Members,

This year's International Study Mission travels to Iceland. Our site visit in Reykjavik will be particularly interesting as we see how buildings are adapted to suit Iceland's unusual climate.

We'll base in Reykjavik to explore the city and it's environs, that will give us a real insight to life in Iceland. We'll spend a day visiting Thingvellir National Park that encompasses some of Iceland's famous landscapes. We'll also explore Reykjavik, go whale watching and venture along the coast for a "taste of Iceland," yes, fresh lobster for lunch. For those coming only to Iceland, you might come early, and we'll organize a 2-day pre-excursion into the countryside.

The Hotel Borg sits on historic Asuturvollur Square, next store to the Cathedral and National Parliament Building and it's a short walk from the major shopping, dining and nightlife quarter. Built in 1940 as a luxury hotel, this property has been renovated in a modern style. It's a 4-star property; probably Reykjavik's best.

For those with more time, on Friday, July 29, we'll board Windstar's Star Legend for an 11-day cruise to Dublin via Denmark, Norway and Scotland. The Star Legend has just been renovated with a capacity of only 212(106 all-suite cabins). This is a yacht-like experience that is highly recommended by many of our NECA travelers. The daily itinerary is described below.

Windstar called to say availability on the Star Legend is getting tight, which is why this brochure is coming so early. I urge you to reserve quickly to insure joining us in the "Lands of the Midnight Sun!"

Geoff Robertson
American Travel



Reykjavik Itinerary

24 July, Sunday

Departures from Home

- Individual departures.

25 July, Monday

Arrival in Reykjavik

R • Upon arrival, we are met and transferred to Hotel Borg, your home for the next 4 nights.

- Welcome reception at the Borg. www.hotelborg.is

Note: **A tour program will be organized for early arrivals.**

26 July, Tuesday

Reykjavik

B • Our morning city tour hits the highlights including the old town centre, the Parliament, the cathedral, the harbour, the national museum, Laugadalur swimming pool, the garden of the Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture museum, the Pearl, Höfði house (site of the 1986 Summit Meeting) and the city's main landmark, Hallgrímskirkja Church. Along the way, we'll also drive past Árbæjarsafn outdoor museum, where preserved buildings offer a glimpse into Reykjavik's past. The city's salmon-filled Ellidaar River is a constant reminder of the capital's connection to the surrounding landscapes.

27 July, Wednesday

Reykjavik

B,L • After breakfast depart for the 30 mile drive to beautiful Thingvellir National Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This park is surrounded by mountains and encompasses a vast lava plain of green moss and wild flowers. Our next visit is Geysir hot spring area, featuring hissing springs and other geothermal phenomena. After lunch at a local restaurant, we continue the drive to Gullfoss Waterfall. This “Golden Waterfall” is Iceland's most famous and where the river Hvita drops 96 feet into two falls, creating quite a spectacle. Our last stop is Kerid, one of Iceland's dramatic volcanic craters. Created by an explosion followed by implosion of its cone, it now has a lake at its bottom.

- Late afternoon return to Reykjavik where the evening is open and dinner is on your own.



Gullfoss Waterfall



Hotel Borg

28 July, Thursday Reykjavik

B.D • Today is devoted to contractor meetings and construction site visits. We'll discuss government regulations, bidding, training, materials, wage rates and economic conditions.

- This afternoon non-contractors get to enjoy the spectacular Icelandic nature from the sea and its close proximity to the awesome mammals swimming beneath the surface. Iceland has become the whale watching capital of northern Europe in less than 10 years. About twelve to fifteen species of whales (42% of the 86 whale species currently known around the world), can be seen in Icelandic waters so the potential for whale watching in Iceland is excellent! Among the species found are blue, fin, humpback, minke and sei-whales. Our boat is equipped with a double-engine that propels it up to 24 miles per hour, allowing coverage of a large area in a relatively short time; it's also equipped with a dining room & bar.
- Mid-afternoon return to Reykjavik.
- Dinner at a local restaurant that incorporates Icelandic traditions and ingredients.

29, July, Friday Reykjavik & Departure for Dublin

B.L.D • This morning, after packing our bags, it's a final "Taste of Iceland" via the Blue Mountains to Eyrarbakki fishing village on the south coast. Many of its old houses have been renovated to form a lovely hub of traditional homes. The oldest house, Husid, was built in 1756. Continuing to the small fishing village of Stokkseyri, we'll enjoy a sizzling lobster treat at a restaurant specializing in fresh Icelandic lobster. After lunch, we drive along Lake Kleifarvatn's coast, which sets a stark, moon-like stage. Near the lake's southern end lies Krysuvik—a geothermal area with powerful jets of steam escaping from beneath the earth's crust allowing sulfurous gases to rise from numerous vents.

- We are then delivered to the pier in Reykjavik.
- 4pm sailing departure for Dublin on the **Star Legend**
- Anyone not continuing on the cruise can depart today or ATA will organize another night at the Borg.

(B=breakfast, L=lunch, R=reception, D=dinner meals included in the tour)

Tour Package Inclusions

- Superior Room Category
 - four-nights Hotel Borg, Reykjavik
- Hotel taxes and portorage
- Full buffet breakfast daily
- Visits to active construction sites and meetings with electrical contractors
- Welcome reception at Borg
- Two lunches while touring
- Dinner Thursday
- Transfers from the airport on arrival to the Borg and to the Windstar dock or the Borg upon departure.
- Guided tours in and around Reykjavik
- Services of an ATA tour director throughout
- Fodor's (or similar) guidebook
- Final Advice Memo with tour details, weather and other practical travel information

Tour Price

\$2,070 per person based on double occupancy

\$2,883 single occupancy

Hotel Berg Upgrades

To upgrade to a deluxe room (larger), the supplement is \$230 for the room for the four-night stay. There is limited availability, so "first come"

Features not included in either tour: Airfare; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone calls, meals not specified, international departure taxes.



29, July, Friday **Departure for “Lands of the Mid-Night Sun” Windstar Cruise**
4pm sailing departure for Dublin on the *Star Legend*

<http://www.windstarcruises.com/cruise/Northern-Europe/Lands-of-the-Midnight-Sun/?id=101&sid=18951>
<http://www.windstarcruises.com>

30, July, Saturday **At sea on the 440-foot *Star Legend***

B.L.D • Relax and get to know your home for the next 11 days. The *Star Legend* is an all-suite yacht that carries only 212 guests with 145 international crew to attend to every need. Explore the fitness center, exercise pool, spa and whirlpool area, relax on the Veranda or at the Star Bar, take in a movie in the Screening Room, or play your favorite game in the Casino. Nightly port and destination briefings will keep you ahead of the game and room service is available 24 hours/day, in case you need a pick me up. All food and non-alcoholic beverages are included.



31 July, Sunday **Torshavn, Denmark**

B.L.D • After lunch the *Star Legend* arrives in your only port of call in Denmark. She will sail again at 8pm, so be ready to jump ashore here in the Faroe Islands, which are located almost half way between Iceland and mainland Europe. You will dock within walking distance of Old Town and marvel at a place where people mow their roofs and 17th century buildings are considered young. Listen to echoes of Old Norse in the language of shopkeepers and passersby as you shop for warm knit sweaters made from the islands' distinctive wool. For organized shore excursions, check out the link here. [Cruise Shore Excursions Lands of the Midnight Sun Jul 29, 2016](#)

1 August, Monday **Day at sea on the *Star Legend***

B.L.D

2 August, Tuesday, **Molde, Norway**

B.L.D • Known as the City of Roses, Molde is encircled by 222 mountains, each one worthy of oohs and ahhs. Breathtaking excursions await, including the world-famous Trollstigen scenic mountain road with its sheer cliffs, waterfalls, and hairpin turns. Or take the low road—the Atlantic Road—twisting its way across the islands of the North Sea like an asphalt roller coaster.

3 August, Wednesday **Geiranger, Norway**

B.L.D • Visit tiny goat villages to sample homemade cheese. Take a RIB boat out on the spectacular Geirangerfjord. Buy yourself a mango ice cream cone and absorb all the beauty around you.

4 August, Thursday **Alesund, Norway**

B.L.D • Early morning arrival at the entrance to the spectacular Geirangerfjord. Alesund has been voted the most beautiful town in Norway, and not just because of its location. The town burned to the ground in 1904 and was rebuilt in Art Nouveau style, with a few added elements from Nordic mythology – a longboat here, an image of Thor there. You must visit the amazing viewpoint on Fjellstua, just above the city.

5 August, Friday **Bergen, Norway**

B.L.D • Morning arrival into colorful Bryggen, Bergen's Hanseatic quay, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site so delightful you may find it difficult to explore further. But do. Watch the *Huldras* (forest nymphs) dance at Kjosfossen waterfall, visit the village where composer Edvard Grieg tickled the keys of his Steinway overlooking the fjord, or just wander the narrow *smau* between the old buildings climbing the hillside.

6 August, Saturday **Day at sea on the *Star Legend***

B.L.D

7 August, Sunday **Kirkwall, Scotland**

B.L.D • Early morning arrival, where everything about Orkney is olde, from the 5,000-year-old village of Skara Brae (the "Scottish Pompeii") to the peat-distilled whiskey at Highland Park. Even the local brogue hints at times past, accented by the area's Viking legacy.

8 August, Monday **Day at sea on the *Star Legend***

B.L.D

9 August, Tuesday **Dublin, Ireland**

B • 7:00am arrival into the city of rainbows, writers, whiskey, and song.

Upon arrival at the Port of Dublin:

- **Northern Ireland** – Consider a complete change of course into a tour that includes being welcomed into the homes and gardens of many of Ireland's distinguished families. This is a unique opportunity to see a bit of Northern Ireland and explore the drawing rooms and kitchens of these wonderful homes see "first hand" how our hosts live. .
- **Dublin** – You might spend a few days touring and enjoying Dublin. The Windstar offers the Davenport, which is a fine 4-star hotel. However, ATA use the Merrion Hotel, which is a wonderful traditional property, probably Dublin's best; let us book you there and organize tours according to your length of stay.
- **Return Home** – You can head directly to Dublin's International Airport.
- **Please contact** Geoff Robertson 706-663-2171 or e-mail travelata@aol.com to discuss the alternatives.

Cruise Cost \$5,340 per person including port charges and taxes

- Based on Category S2 – Ocean View Suite.
- Discounted rates to Windstar Yacht Club members are reflected in the cruise cost and members receive the same amenities. In fact, everyone is benefiting from ATA's group rate on the Star Legend.
- You can upgrade to S3 which is one deck up for \$345; **Balcony Suite (BS)** for an additional \$784/person, BS1 = next deck up \$1,128. Balcony Suites have French doors and a small walk out balcony. Classic & Owner's Suite rates given upon request.
- Upon receipt of your reservation, a deposit of \$1,151 per person (\$2302/couple) will be charged within 3 days to cover the cruise and Iceland arrangements (\$801 for the cruise, \$350 for Iceland).

<http://www.windstarcruises.com/Voyage-Plan/FAQs>

Cruise Package Inclusions

- Eleven-nights *Star Legend* all-suite yacht, Windstar Cruise Line based on S2 Category – Ocean View Suite, which are 277 square feet staterooms including a sitting area and picture window offering expansive ocean views.
- All food and non-alcoholic drinks aboard the *Star Legend*



Proof of Citizenship and Visa Requirements: A valid passport is required for travel and should be valid six months beyond your travel dates. Visas are **not** necessary for American citizens traveling to Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Scotland, Ireland & N. Ireland.

CONDITIONS

Reservations and Payment: Reservations are confirmed by American Travel Association (ATA), upon receipt of the Reservation Form and deposit. Reservations require a \$2,302 per couple) deposit to accompany the Reservation Form. Final payment is due April 30th. For reservations received thereafter, full payment is due with the Reservation Form. All payments must be made by check payable to American Travel Association or by Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card or American Express.

* The deposit becomes non-refundable on January 27th.

Cancellation - Cruise & Land Package:

- 120-90 days before commencing travel – the initial deposit (27 January)
- 89-60 days before commencing travel – 35% of the cruise/tour costs
- 59-30 days before commencing travel – 50% of the cruise/tour costs
- 29-0 days before commencing travel – 100% of the cruise/tour costs

Cancellations must be made in writing to ATA. To avoid discrepancies, ATA will not act on information given over the phone until written notice has been received (see Cancellation Insurance below).

For Information Contact

Geoff Robertson
American Travel Association
2126 Piedmont Lake Road
Pine Mountain, GA 31822
Phone: 706-663-2171
Fax: 706-225-2551
e-mail: travelata@aol.com

Weather: **Late July** brings reasonable temperatures to the Northern Hemisphere. The average high in Reykjavik is 60, the average low 48 and 16 days of the month have some rain; Bergen Norway is 63, 52 & 16; Torshavn, Denmark 72, 57 & 14, Dublin 68, 53 & 11. It's the same latitude as Canada's Northwest Territories.

Health: The Participants represents that neither he nor she nor anyone traveling with him or her has any physical or other condition or disability that could create a hazard to himself or herself or other members of the tour. This land program involves walking over uneven surfaces. Seas can be rough while crossing the Atlantic. A letter of explanation of any physical or mental condition which may require medical attention or special equipment (wheelchair, for example) must be enclosed with the Reservation Form.

Airline Contract: The usual passage contract when the ticket is issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the tour participant. ATA shall not be liable for airline cancellation penalties incurred by purchasing non-refundable tickets.

Trip cancellation insurance 1) Upon receipt of your deposit, Windstar will send a confirmation that specifies their cancellation insurance options. 2) For the Iceland portion from Allianz www.allianztravelinsurance.com either on-line or over the phone (800-284-8300). The airlines also have good insurance options. Trip cancellation insurance is a good idea because it offsets non-refundable air, hotel, and operator charges. Please note the Pre-Existing Conditions Exclusion. If one exists, you need to purchase the insurance within 14 days of your first payment (for the cruise and Iceland packages). Allianz has a number of plans. For most, the Basic Plan is fine. However, everyone has different needs, which you should discuss with them. Also check with your insurance agent to see what is covered under your existing homeowners and medical policies. For example, suitcases and contents are probably covered under your homeowner's.

Prices: The tour price is subject to change due to land cost increases and foreign exchange fluctuation. ATA reserves the right to change the price for such reasons or changes in the number of participants (26) upon which the tour costs are based. All prices are based on rates and tariffs in effect on 1/05/16.





Responsibility: American Travel Association (ATA), the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and/or their employees or agents, act only on behalf of the owners and contractors providing means of transportation or other services such as hotels and restaurants to purchasers of this tour and their travel companions (Participants), subject to any and all items and conditions under which any transportation or any other services whatsoever are provided by such owners and contractors. ATA and NECA, their affiliates and their employees and agents (collectively ATA and NECA) shall not be liable or responsible to Participants for the acts or omissions of the aforesaid owners, contractors and employees thereof supplying transportation or other services hereunder, including but not limited to breach of contract, intentional or negligent delay or bodily or property loss, injury or damages. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they're provided. ATA and NECA shall not be liable or responsible to Participants for any loss, injury or death, or other damages caused by or resulting from acts of God, fire, breakdown or defects vehicles, machinery or equipment, acts of governments and other authorities, wars, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics or quarantines, monetary crisis, diseases, terrorism or novel conditions. Participants shall have the responsibility to be aware of and determine the validity of any travel advisories, which may exist. Unless the term "guaranteed" is specifically stated in writing on any invoice or reservation itinerary, ATA and NECA do not guarantee any of such suppliers' rates, bookings or reservations. The Participants' retention of air or sea tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute consent to the above terms and conditions. In addition, Participants shall be responsible for conveying the terms and conditions hereunder to travel companions. If, due to weather, flight or navigation schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend additional nights before or after the tour, participants will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, meals and related costs. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. ATA and NECA reserve the right to cancel any itinerary or any part thereof and to make such alterations in the itinerary they deem necessary or desirable.

Travel Advisories/Warnings: The areas we're visiting are generally safe and no warning exists at this time. However, it's the responsibility of the Participant to become informed about the most current travel advisories and warnings by referring to the U. S. State Department's travel website at www.travel.state.gov or by phone at 1-888-407- 4747. In the event of an active State Department Travel Warning against travel to any of the specific destinations included in the tour, should The Participant still choose to travel, notwithstanding any travel advisory or warning, the Participant assumes all risk of personal injury, death or property damage that may arise out of the events like those advised or warned against. The State Department's travel information will be sent by American Travel with the welcome letter, and ATA will monitor and update if advisories change.

Tax Deductibility: Current U.S. tax regulations allow deductibility for travel and subsistence expenses incurred in travel related to trade or business. It is the responsibility of the traveler to become familiar with and adhere to the specific reporting requirements imposed.

NECA Iceland '16 Study Mission - Reservation Form

* Please correspond to the following ___ office ___ home address:

Company (if applicable) _____

Name/s _____

(as they appear on your passports – if we have passport from last year no need to fill-in)

Passport Number/s Him _____ Her _____

Street _____ Apt/Suite _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Cel Phone _____ Fax _____

Other preferred Phone _____

e-mail _____

First or preferred name _____

Emergency Contact Name/s _____

e-mail address _____

Phone # _____ Relationship _____

Hotel Rooms I/we prefer 1 bed; if no kings available, queen is OK If no king, need two beds I/we prefer a two-bedded room

Early Arrival I/we plan to arrive in Reykjavik on July _____

I/we are registering for Iceland & the Cruise Iceland only

Room Upgrades - supplemental costs are per room for the length of the stay

Hotel Borg Upgrade supplements are for the room for the four-night stay

To upgrade to a deluxe room (larger) \$230; please note there are a limited number of deluxe rooms

Star legend Upgrade to S3 which is one deck up for \$345 per person Balcony Suite (BS) \$784/person, BS1 = next deck up \$1,128

Deposit A deposit of \$2,302 per couple is due with the Reservation Form. Payments can be by check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express credit cards. Enclosed is a check payable to American Travel Association in the amount of \$ _____

** If you wish to wish to use credit card:

Number _____

Expiration date _____

Name on card _____

Security Code _____

Billing address of cardholder **if different** from above

Signature _____

I have read and understand the conditions set forth in this brochure. Reservations will not be accepted without signature here _____.

Return form to: American Travel Association, 2126 Piedmont Lake Road, Pine Mountain, GA 31822, **Secure Fax: 706-225-2551**