21 March 2023

Dear Parents,

**Iceland 2024**

**Friday 18 to Tuesday 22 October 2024**

The Geography Department are hoping to take a group of students to Iceland. We are currently planning a 5-day visit to Iceland with Kipling Tours a trusted tour operator, departing Fri 18 October and returning Tues 22 October. This visit has been planned for the end of Term 1 so students will only miss one day of teaching. The itinerary is provisionally planned to include the following visits:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DAY 1 FLY TO REYKJAVIK  | Board the coach for a guided tour of REYKJANES PENINSULA including the Bridge between two continents and the Hot Steam outlet at Gunnuhver. The group then check in at their hotel in Reykjavik, have dinner followed by a fun evening at a local Bowling Alley.  |
| DAY 2 | After breakfast students will board their coach for the GOLDEN CIRCLE TOUR, which will include the most famous sights, to include Thingvellir and the volcanic cinder cone of Kerid. They will visit the Fridheimar Greenhouse and watch a demonstration of the unique Icelandic Horses canter and galloping styles. Visit the Geysir area and visit the huge waterfall at Gullfoss. The students will journey to their new accommodation in the Hvolsvollur region where they can swim in a LOCAL outdoor SWIMMING POOL kept warm with heated geothermal water. |
| DAY 3 | Today they visit the SOUTH SHORE including two waterfalls at Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss followed by a visit to the Solheimajokull Glacier. Once fitted with crampons, helmet and an ice pick students will be taken onto the Glacier with their tour guide to explore the icy terrain and learn about the ongoing changes to the Glacier.Following this, students will go to the beach and visit the black sands and columnar basalt rocks at Reynishverfi. |
| DAY 4 | The day begins with a visit to the LAVA CENTRE, an interactive high-tech museum which depicts how the forces of nature shaped Iceland over 20 million years ago. Students will visit HELLISHEIDI POWER STATION for a guided tour to explain how Iceland can use its natural thermal resources for supplying electricity and hot water for both industrial and domestic users. The group then travel back towards Reykjavik to visit the PERLAN Observations deck for views across the city and to enjoy the Northern Lights Exhibition which recreates this elusive natural phenomenon.  |
| DAY 5 | The final event on the tour’s full itinerary includes a visit to the BLUE LAGOON where students will take a relaxing bathe in the tranquil steamy waters of the famous lagoon before their short journey back to the airport for their flight HOME. |

The estimated cost of the trip is £1,460, which is dependent on final numbers and estimated costs for flights etc in advance of published prices. We have also allowed for an increase to fixed costs which may be passed on to us by our tour operator if they exceed 2%. If there is any surplus to the budget the funds will be returned to parents or we will adjust the final payment accordingly.The price includes the cost of all visits, accommodation, meals, coach travel to UK airport and travel insurance. To make the trip affordable we are proposing the payment plan listed below. If you wish to pay smaller, more regular amounts that is fine too.

To secure a place for your child on this trip please return the attached reply slip along with your deposit payment. We do anticipate a good response so please return your reply slip and make your deposit payment quickly to avoid disappointment. If you require any further trip information please contact either me or my colleague Mrs Ferrara, we will both be happy to advise you of any further detail. Please be aware once the trip is confirmed as viable the payments you have made will become subject to the tour operator’s terms and conditions and if you subsequently cancel any payments are likely to be affected by cancellation charges.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr T Orr**

GCSE Co-Ordinator for Geography

Proposed payment plan:

**Iceland 18 – 22 October 2024**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Deposit | Friday 28 April 2023 |  £146 |
| 2nd (60 days later) | Friday 23 June 2023 |  £146 |
| 3rd | Fri 20 October 2023 |  £292 |
| 4th | Thu 28 March 2024 |  £292 |
| Final  | Friday 5 July 2024 |  £584 |
| **Total** |  | **£1,460** |

**Kipling Tours - Cancellation charges:**

Cancellation more than 90 days before departure - loss of deposit

Cancellation 60 - 90 days before departure - 60% of the Tour Price

Cancellation 30 - 59 days before departure - 80% of the Tour Price

Cancellation less than 30 days before departure - 100% of the Tour Price

Contact:

Mr T Orr via email: enquiries@mgsg.kent.sch.uk

Mrs A Ferrara via email ferraraa@mgsg.kent.sch.uk or phone 01474 352896 ext 374

Enc. Reply slip

Reply Slip: **Return to Finance Office on or before 28 April 2023** FAO: TOR

Re: Iceland 18 – 22 October 2024

Name: …………………………………………………………….………Form: ……………………..

I give my permission for my daughter to attend the trip to Iceland on 18 – 22 October 2024.

I understand my daughter must comply with the School’s Code of Conduct. In the event of my child requiring emergency treatment and the Headteacher (or her representative) being unable to contact me, I give consent for the accompanying member of staff to approve the application of any emergency treatment including anaesthetic advised by the medical authorities for the wellbeing of my child.

I enclose a deposit payment of £146.00 I have paid £146.00 on-line via scopay 

Your daughter will require a valid passport please make sure she will have one at this time of travel. If a visa is required for travelling to Iceland, it is the parent’s responsibility to ensure a valid visa is applied for in time for travel. We will ask you for more information nearer the time of the trip.

Medical issues we should be aware of for this event……………………………….………………

Dietary requirements: …………………………………………………………………………………..

Parent’s name in block capitals: ………………………….………………………….……………….

Parent’s Signature: ……………………………………………….……………………………………

Emergency Contact No: ………………………………………………………………….……………

**Permission to attend:** *Please note if parents are no longer living in the same family home and/or are estranged we will require signatures from both parents. Please ask your daughter to request a second letter or pass this slip to the other parent whichever is more convenient, please tick box below to indicate if this is appropriate:*

Other parent/guardian signature (if appropriate):

……………………………………………………………………………………..

Or

* Please send 2nd letter to: (Name and email or indicate below how we should act)

…………………………………………………………………………………………..

TOR/af