



St Augustine's Catholic College

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Headteacher Mr Aidan Dowle, MA, NPQH, NPQEL

Our ref: AFD/JEH/NJA

23rd September 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Iceland Study Tour – October 2027

We are thrilled to announce that the Geography Department is running an extracurricular trip to Iceland for our current Year 10 GCSE students. The trip is scheduled for 5 days and 4 nights. This trip offers students a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit a unique country, that will generate a real sense of awe and wonder. The itinerary is closely linked to topics students' study at GCSE, in particular the role of tectonic processes in shaping the environment and impacting on the lives of people.

The tour will offer students a number of unique experiences which will bring their classroom learning to life. Highlights will include standing at the boundary of two tectonic plates, seeing a range of tectonic and glacial features and processes in action, an opportunity to bathe in the thermal waters at the Sky Lagoon, and maybe even the chance of seeing the Northern Lights. Students will also see for themselves the impact of the Eyjafjallajökull eruption and how the country harnesses the power of this energy to power their homes and industries. The tour may also include a glacial hike, to really immerse the students in this amazing landscape.

Date of trip: **Wednesday 27th October to Sunday 31st October 2027**

The provisional itinerary is as shown below, based on this year's trip, and may be subject to change. A more detailed itinerary, including travel times, will be provided nearer the time.

- Day 1- Keflavik – Reykjanes Peninsula – Overnight Hotel Cabin.
- Day 2 – Seljalandsfoss – Solheimajokull with glacier walk – Reynisfjara – Skogafoss – Overnight Hellisholar.
- Day 3 – Lava Centre – Geysir – Gulfoss – Thingvellir – Overnight Hotel Cabin.
- Day 4 – Whale Fjord – Borganes – Deildatunguhver – Hraunfossar/Barnafoss – Grabrok Cater – Dinner in Hamburger Factory - Flyover Iceland – Lava Show – Overnight Hotel Cabin.

The provisional cost of the trip is **£1620 per student**. The flights will not be released until late October when the travel company will confirm the final cost of the trip. The price above includes a contingency amount to allow for small price increases, and the final cost will be confirmed once the flights have been released. The final price is also dependent on sufficient students signing up to the trip.

The price of the trip includes the following:

- Return flights to/from Heathrow with Icelandair (including hold luggage).
- All activities including optional activities – Sky Lagoon, Glacier Walk, Lava Centre, Lava Show, Flyover Iceland.
- Professional local guide for all but the arrival and departure days.
- All travel in Iceland and the UK.

- Accommodation – students in multi-bedded rooms with bed linen and possible shared bathroom facilities.
- Full board – breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal (no lunch on day one, dinner day 5)
- Peace of mind with the companies unique Travel Disruption Charter, protecting the group should the unexpected happen.
- Financial security fully bonded with ABTA & ATOL license.
- Students will be covered at no extra cost by the school insurance policy.

Not included:

Students will need to bring spending money for food whilst travelling on the first and last days. Students will also need additional funds if they wish to purchase additional snacks and drinks and souvenirs.

The trip is being organised by Discover the World, our chosen UK tour operator who specialise in student trips to Iceland. For your peace of mind, they are a leading UK travel company and recognised experts in travel to Iceland. They are assured members of the School Travel Forum, a professional trade association which upholds best in class health and safety processes within its membership. Discover the World has also been awarded the Quality Badge for Learning Outside the Classroom. This means they have been pre-approved by the Outdoor Education Advisors' Panel in recognition of their safety standards as well as planning and provision of education tours to meet schools' academic and pastoral needs. If you would like more information about Discover the World, please visit their website: <https://www.discover-the-world.com/study-trips/destinations/iceland/>

An initial deposit of **£250.00** is required by **Monday 19th October 2026** to secure your child's place. Followed by 10 monthly instalments of **£125.00** from November 2026 to August 2027 with a final instalment of **£120** due in September 2027 after the return from the Summer break. If you are unable to see the option to pay the deposit on ParentMail, please ensure that you contact finance or the trip leader (Mrs Ewings) as your child's place will not be held until the deposit is paid.

Accommodation

The group will be staying at the Hotel Cabin and Hotel Hellisholar, in multi-bedded rooms.

<https://www.discover-the-world.com/study-trips/hotel-cabin/>
<https://www.discover-the-world.com/study-trips/hotel-hellisholar/>

Passports and health care

Your child will need a current, valid passport in order to travel to Iceland. Under new regulations, British passports must be valid for at least three months from the day you plan to leave the country. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/iceland/entry-requirements> for further advice. Please ensure that if your child needs a new passport, this is done in plenty of time as the College cannot be responsible for the late arrival of passports. Please ensure that a copy of your child's passport has been submitted to the College by the 30th June 2027.

Iceland is in the Schengen Travel Area and travel within this area is restricted to 90 days in any 180 day period. If the trip to Iceland means your child will exceed this, you will be responsible for obtaining any relevant visas.

New Schengen entry requirements –

The European Union's (EU) new Entry/Exit System (EES) means when travelling into and out of the Schengen area, for short stays, you may need to:

- have your fingerprints and your photo taken
- answer the Schengen Border Code questions

Additionally, students will need to have a valid GHIC (or EHIC) card. The UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) lets you get necessary state healthcare in EU countries, and some other countries, on the same basis as a resident of that country. Please see <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/> for further advice.

If your child is travelling on a non-British passport, please check relevant government advice regarding visas and entry. Please note that the College cannot take responsibility for any visas need and that you will need to provide a copy to the College in order to travel.

How to book your child's place

A trip to Berlin is also being launched by the History Department for students in this year group. To ensure as many students as possible benefit from these enrichment activities, we would ask that your child initially selects only one of these trips if they study both subjects.

If you would like your child to attend this trip, please pay the non-refundable deposit of **£250** via ParentMail **by Monday 19th October 2026**. Please check both 'Payments – To Pay' and 'Payments – Shop' options when looking for the payment on ParentMail. There are 50 spaces available for this trip; places are allocated on a first come first served basis. We understand that these trips represent a substantial financial commitment for families, so to give sufficient time for families to discuss them, payment will **not** be available until 6pm on **Monday 28th September 2026**.

Once payment has been made an additional permission/medical form and Code of Conduct will also be required to be completed via ParentMail by Monday 19th October 2026. Please note by completing the consent form without payment does not secure a place on this trip.

Please be aware that once your child's place has been secured, the deposit will be non-refundable. In paying the deposit and giving your consent you are agreeing to pay the full cost of the trip as outlined above. If your child is unable to accompany the trip at a later date, monies can only be returned if a replacement student is found or in accordance with the company's terms and conditions. Any additional costs related to finding a replacement, such as airline name changes, will be deducted from money already paid. Please note that a replacement cannot be offered within 28 days of departure.

The College reserves the right to withdraw any student from the trip at its discretion. This measure, aligned with UK educational policies and standards, ensures the safety, well-being, and effective management of the trip for all participants. This decision, while rare, is taken with serious consideration and in the best interest of the group as a whole.

Students attending trips that are scheduled to return late in the evening are expected to attend College at the normal time the following day. However, where return times are significantly late or delayed, any adjustments to start time will be determined in advance or by the Headteacher.

If we do not have adequate responses to the trip, the college reserves the right to cancel the trip and deposits will be refunded.

If you have any queries about the visit, please do not hesitate to contact the trip organiser, Mrs Ewings at: jeh@st-augstines.wilts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Aidan Dowle
Headteacher