
Travel with The Met

May 17–24, 2023

**Phenomenal Iceland:
Contemporary Art
& Natural Wonders**
with Pari Stave, Lecturer



**THE
MET**

Phenomenal Iceland: Contemporary Art & Natural Wonders

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

First settled in the ninth century, Iceland can claim both a strong connection to its medieval past and one of the most dynamic scenes of contemporary art and culture in the Nordic countries. On a six-night tour in May 2023, when temperatures will be mild and daylight will extend deep into the evening, join me to explore some of Iceland's unparalleled natural splendors—majestic waterfalls, lava fields, glacial moraines, black sand beaches, and geothermal pools—and an inside view of the country's modern and contemporary art.

As a specialist in modern and contemporary art and director of Skaftfell, a prominent art center in Iceland's East Fjords, I am excited to be leading my third trip as a Met lecturer. On our tour, we will visit museums in Reykjavík and become acquainted with some of the major figures in Iceland's unique art history, including the work of Jóhannes S. Kjarval, Einar Jónsson, Erró, and the Danish-Icelandic artist Ólafur Elíasson. We will also visit installations by American artists influenced by Iceland's natural phenomena, including Roni Horn's moving *Vatnasafn / Library of Water* (2007), located high on a bluff overlooking Breiðafjörður on the Snæfellsnes peninsula. In Reykjavík, we'll sail to the island of Viðey to view Richard Serra's *Áfangar*, an installation of basalt columns that is best experienced as a contemplative walk in nature.

We will also explore sites from the medieval sagas, visit landmarks dating to the Viking Age, and fast-forward to the present day to delve into Iceland's innovative approaches to renewable energy and environmental sustainability. Our journey will conclude with a relaxing soak in the blue waters of a geothermal spa.

We will be joined on this program by members from the New Orleans Museum of Art. I hope you will share in this exhilarating journey to Iceland, home to a vibrant cultural scene in a spectacularly beautiful land of fire and ice.

Sincerely,

Pari Stave

Lecturer

The Metropolitan Museum of Art



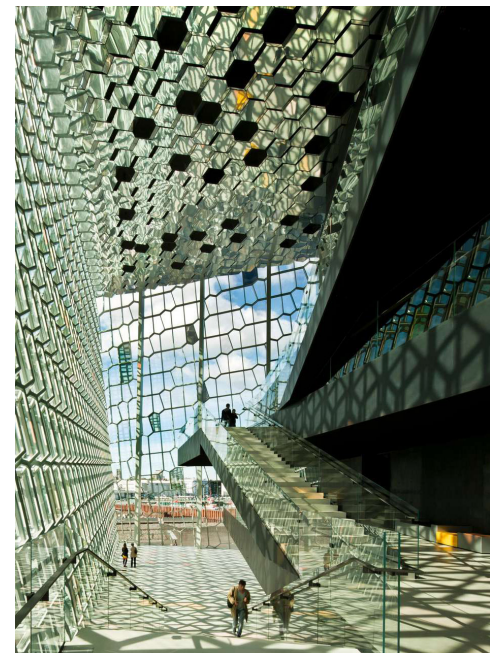
Traveling with You

Pari Stave

Pari Stave assumed the role of Director at the Skaftfell Center for Visual Art in May 2022. Previously, she served as Senior Administrator in the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art for eight years at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Stave is an art historian specializing in modern and contemporary art, with a particular emphasis on Icelandic art and culture. She organized exhibitions including *Other Hats: Printmaking in Iceland*; *Saga-Sites: Landscapes of the Icelandic Sagas*; and *Iceland: Artists Respond to Place*. Stave led Travel with The Met tours of Iceland in 2016 and 2021.

Trip Highlights

- Go behind the scenes of the inventively designed **Harpa**, Reykjavík's concert hall and cultural center, to learn the secrets of this glass architectural masterpiece and view areas not open to the public
- Join a curator at the **Reykjavík Art Museum**, which houses modern and contemporary works in a refurbished fishery office and warehouse, where you will admire works by Icelandic masters such as Erró, Kjarval, and Ásmundur Sveinsson
- Explore a vast array of Iceland's dreamlike landscapes and geological wonders, from the immense cascades of the **Gullfoss waterfall**; to the moss-covered mountains and spectacular glaciers of the **Thórs mörk valley**; to the UNESCO-listed **Thingvellir National Park**, whose caves, ravines, and water-filled rifts were the site of one of the world's oldest parliamentary assemblies
- Encounter Jules Verne's fantasy world at the magical **Snæfellsjökull volcano**, which served as the portal to a dramatically different realm in his novel *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*
- Experience dramatic installations from international artists, including Roni Horn's glass **Vatnasafn / Library of Water** using melted ice from 24 Icelandic glaciers, and Richard Serra's arresting site-specific installation **Áfangar**, in which he placed towering basalt monoliths around the island of **Viðey**



Interior of Harpa, Reykjavik, photo courtesy of Visit Iceland



Photos clockwise from top right: Regional map; Puffins, Krýsuvíkurbjarg Cliffs; Snæfellsjökull volcano and glacier; Seljalandsfoss waterfall; Reykjavík; Jón Gunnar Árnason, *Sólfar* / *Sun Voyager*, 1990, Reykjavík, photo courtesy of Visit Iceland. Front cover: Hallgrímskirkja, Reykjavík, photo courtesy of Visit Iceland. Back cover: Viking World, Reykjanesbær, photo courtesy of Visit Iceland, by Icelandic Explorer (top); Gullfoss (bottom).

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Sólheimajökull glacier

Departure

Wednesday, May 17

Depart on an overnight flight to Reykjavík.

Reykjavík, Iceland

Thursday, May 18

Upon arrival this morning at Reykjavík's Keflavík Airport, meet our Icelandic guides.

After breakfast, stop at Viking World, a museum housing a meticulously constructed replica of a ninth-century Viking ship.

Venture to the pristinely beautiful Kleifarvatn Lake, a body of water ringed by stark hills and black-sand beaches, located on the fissure zone of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

Proceed to the Krýsvíkurbjarg Cliffs, home to a colony of puffins and other migratory birds nesting for the spring season. Later, check in to the Landhótel, where we will have our welcome dinner. B,L,D

South Shore

Friday, May 19

Explore the black-sand beaches at the base of the famous Eyjafjallajökull volcano, and walk behind the waterfalls of the Sólheimajökull glacier. Enjoy lunch at a family farm restaurant, with views of the mountain Steinafjall and Eyjafjallajökull. Continue to Skógar Museum, where we will visit authentic turf houses and learn about the maritime economy that has sustained Iceland for centuries. Return to the hotel for an evening lecture on Viking Age Iceland. B,L

Thórsmörk

Saturday, May 20

Board a four-wheel-drive vehicle and head to Thórsmörk, the “Valley of Thor,” named for the hammer-wielding Norse god. Absorb the region's mossy mountain peaks, black plains, and glaciers. Following lunch, visit the Seljalandsfoss waterfall before returning to the Landhótel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. B,L

Thingvellir National Park

Sunday, May 21

Visit the spectacular Gullfoss, one of the most powerful waterfalls in Europe. Lunch will be at Friðheimar, the tomato farm famous for its ingeniously designed, geothermally heated greenhouses. Visit Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This volcanic valley is where the Althing—the world's oldest parliament still in existence—was established in the year 930 A.D. Discover some of the remains of the Althing as well as the park's dramatic ravines and water-filled tectonic rifts, which made it a prime filming location for *Game of Thrones*. In the evening, check into Hotel Hamar for a group dinner and a lecture on contemporary Icelandic art. B,L,D

Snæfellsnes Peninsula

Monday, May 22

Begin the day with a visit to Gerðuberg, a natural heritage site on the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Discover the crater of Snæfellsjökull volcano, which holds a rare mystique and power for many believers in the supernatural. In Jules Verne's novel *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*, this crater served as the portal to fantastical subterranean realms. Enjoy lunch in Stykkishólmur with

a visit to the Bjarnarhöfn Shark Museum. Then, visit the American artist Roni Horn's *Vatnasafn / Library of Water* located on a bluff from which you can view the expansive bay of Breiðafjörð. B,L

Reykjavík

Tuesday, May 23

On an architectural driving tour of Reykjavík, see the 244-foot-tall Hallgrímskirkja (Hallgrims Church), designed by architect Guðjón Samúelsson and based on Iceland's characteristic basalt formations. View the sculptures of Iceland's first major sculptor, Einar Jónsson, in a special garden at his eponymous museum, the oldest in the country. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of Harpa, Reykjavík's concert hall and cultural center, which has a gleaming, glass honeycomb façade designed by Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson. As you explore areas not open to the public, experience how Icelandic nature inspired



Roni Horn, *Vatnasafn / Library of Water*, 2007, Stykkishólmur, photo courtesy of Artangel

More Travels with The Met

Celtic Classics: Sailing the English Channel & the Irish Sea Aboard *Sea Cloud Spirit*

June 9–18, 2023

Swiss Sophistication: Zürich & Basel Featuring Art Basel June 11–19, 2023

Ancient Civilizations of Peru: Empires of the Sun, Empires of the Moon September 3–11, 2023

Sicily by Sail: Round-Trip Valletta Aboard *Sea Cloud II* October 10–18, 2023

For details and more trip information, please go to metmuseum.org/travel

Harpa's vibrant design. Then, enjoy fascinating visits to local artist studios. After lunch at leisure, take a short boat trip to Viðey Island to view *Áfangar*, Richard Serra's site-specific installation that takes its name from an epic poem by Jón Helgason. Upon return to the city, tour the modern and contemporary collections of the Reykjavík Art Museum, a refurbished fishery office and warehouse, built in the 1930s. In the evening, celebrate a once-in-a-lifetime trip with a farewell dinner, featuring a menu of Icelandic specialties, at one of Reykjavík's finest restaurants. B,D

Reykjavík / Return

Wednesday, May 24

Following breakfast and a morning at leisure, visit the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal spa ensconced in a lava field. Relax in its steamy, mineral-rich blue waters before proceeding to the airport for flights home. B, L

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.



Blue Lagoon, Reykjavík

Accommodations



Landhótel, Hella

Landhótel, Hella

The recently opened Landhótel is a four-star paradise nestled in Iceland's dramatic yet peaceful surroundings. Enjoy views of Hekla, the famous volcano, from your room, and take pleasure in the hotel's modern amenities including Wi-Fi and geothermal heating.

Hotel Hamar, Borgarnes

Located on an 18-hole golf course on the outskirts of the charming town of Borgarnes, Hotel Hamar boasts the serenity of the countryside as well as proximity to an assortment of shops. Admire mountain views, and take a dip in one of its outdoor hot tubs. Savor its modern comforts including free Wi-Fi, bar, lounge, and first-class dining.

Hotel Borg, Reykjavík

Hotel Borg offers intimacy and world-class service in the heart of Reykjavík. This four-star oasis was built in 1930 and has been marvelously restored to its original Art Deco style, with classic furnishings and paintings to match. Yet it also boasts 21st-century amenities, including Wi-Fi, modern spa, fitness center, and world-renowned dining.



Hotel Hamar, Borgarnes

Program Rate

\$9,999 per person, double rate

\$10,999 single rate

Rate Includes

- Six nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach; entrance fees for included visits
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; luggage in excess of one suitcase; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); email: met@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Form of payment

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Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org



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The Metropolitan
Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028



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metmuseum.org/travel