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Spend this summer in Iceland

Enjoy exploring the geology of this nation for a month

Iceland is a sparsely populated volcanic island that sits astride the mid-Atlantic Ridge, just south of the Arctic Circle. It is the only place where the ridge can be seen at the surface. Several enormous icecaps cover the large highland regions, including the Vatnajökull, the world's third largest icecap.

Evidence of volcanism and past glaciation abounds at every turn. Although Iceland's geology is the focus of this trip, participants do not need to be geology students. They don't even need to be students; all are welcome to join us.

Temperatures in July are generally in the 45°-65° F range. The sun is up 20-22 hours/day in July; it never really gets dark. Our night at Askja will probably be the coldest since it is the highest elevation.

Since Iceland is a large geothermal area, almost all campgrounds provide hot showers. Some of the campgrounds are located at or near excellent hot springs. Hikes are easy to moderate with strenuous options available. The bus is comfortable and comes with an expert Icelandic driver.

Although Icelandic is the native language,

most Icelanders speak some English--some speak very well. In the past, most participants have enjoyed learning how to pronounce the names of the sites we visit.

We camp every night on these trips and prepare our own meals in a well-equipped field kitchen/dining tent, complete with tables and chairs. You will need to bring your own tent, sleeping bag, and ground pad but all cooking equipment is supplied. Our camp manager will make sure that everyone gets enough to eat. Participants will be divided into kitchen teams so that everyone gets a chance to dazzle the rest with their culinary prowess.

I have led five other groups to Iceland and know the island very well. In the past, Iceland has been very expensive. Their recent economic collapse lowered prices considerably. This year's 24-day trip will cost about the same as the 2007 2-week trip. It may never be cheaper than this summer again.

The 2010 volcanic eruption of Eyjafjallajökull demonstrated the importance of this volcanic island in the middle of the Atlantic when it closed down

airports across Europe. There is always a possibility that we will see an eruption while we are there.

To participate, enroll in GEOL 271 on the summer course schedule at preregistration. The deadline for signing up for the trip is April 1st.

—Dr. Jim Reynolds
Professor of Geology

A 24-day, 23-night
camping and hiking
trip to the volcanoes
and glaciers of
Iceland.

All hikes are
day hikes—no
backpacking involved.

July 5-28, 2012

Visit the flyer on the web for more information: <http://bit.ly/bc-iceland-2012>

Congressional debates held at BC

For nine of the 11 candidates hoping to represent this region in Congress, Brevard College was the place to be seen and heard by potential voters last Thursday and Monday nights.

Two debates—one for Democrats, the other for Republicans—were held on the Brevard College campus for candidates vying for their party's nomination in the May 8 primaries to represent North Carolina's 11th Congressional District, which includes the westernmost tip of the state. The winners of each party's primary will then go on to the November general election, which will decide who will succeed U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler in the U.S. House of Representatives. Shuler, a Democrat, has served two terms in the

House, but he is not running for re-election this year.

The 11th Congressional District covers most of western North Carolina, including the towns of Waynesville, Hendersonville, Spruce Pine, Morganton, Banner Elk, Lenoir and Marion. Because of redistricting following the 2010 census and Republicans' taking control of the N.C. General Assembly that year, congressional districts in North Carolina were redrawn that in general should favor Republican candidates.

In August, the Washington, D.C. newspaper Roll Call estimated that redistricting statewide in North Carolina could net four additional Republicans in Congress from the Tarheel state, including in the new 11th District.

The new 11th District contains only about one-fourth of the city of Asheville, which in the past few elections has tended to vote for Democrats. Added to the 11th District were Mitchell, Avery, Caldwell and Burke counties, which tend to vote Republican.

The Brevard College debates were moderated by WLOS-TV's Darcel Grimes and Frank Fraboni, with panelists representing four of the area's newspapers. Both debates were sponsored by the Brevard College Debate Society and the Brevard chapter of Young Politicians of America.

Editor's note: The articles about the debates on pages 2 and 3 were first published, in a slightly different form, in the Waynesville Mountaineer.