

Iceland in the Heart of Winter

an adventure with Cat, Pecos, and Knitting, January 23–30, 2016



Nearly everyone dreams of visiting Iceland someday, and we have designed a very special trip with the help of our friend Valdi, a native Icelander. According to Valdi, winter is the very best time to be in Iceland. Cat has taught in Iceland in midsummer, when daylight never actually ceases, and she is thrilled at the prospect of an Icelandic winter, when the contrast between day and night is so striking.

We shall enjoy morning darkness by savoring a long leisurely breakfast and knitting. Cat will teach her unpublished Icelandic yoke sock architecture design (suitable for hiking socks or house socks, with the option of using Icelandic sock yarn). We'll also have a knitting circle with Icelandic elders, possibly Valdi's relatives, and share knitting traditions and stories.

During the midday hours of daylight you'll be free to explore Reykjavik. Within walking distance are two knitting shops, a thrift store where you might find an old Icelandic sweater, omnipresent displays of black licorice (in Iceland, black licorice is as beloved as chocolate), the soaring *Hallgrímskirkja* cathedral—where you may chance upon a concert rehearsal, or simply relax in the tranquility of its almost Georgia O'Keefe-like architecture, and innumerable shops, historical buildings, and museums that comprise this beautiful city of friendly people, nearly all of whom speak English in addition to Icelandic, and who you will immediately notice are mostly clad in hand-knits.

When darkness returns, we'll make excursions to geothermal pools, outdoors if possible, in hopes of seeing the Northern Lights (weather-dependent) while basking in the mineral-rich water. You may choose to attend a performance in *Harpa*, the architecturally spectacular concert hall on Reykjavik's waterfront.

Cost: The trip fee of \$2,200 includes 7 nights of a shared hotel room (single supplement, add \$550), all breakfasts, Cat's morning knitting workshops, swim lessons with Pecos (a former Division I swimmer at Georgetown University), geothermal pool entry fees, and domestic transportation for our excursions. The fee does not cover travel between your home and Reykjavik or between the airport and our hotel (there is an excellent bus), or lunches and dinners.

Who we are and what we value: Author, teacher, and knit designer Cat Bordhi and community engager Jim "Pecos" Petkiewicz share a prescient instinct and devotion for bringing out the best in others. For several years we have been facilitating cross-cultural and transformative experiences for intimate groups in the Pacific Northwest, California, including extended trips in Mexico, Peru, and elsewhere. As leaders, we take our cues and choreograph our days by responding to the freshest temptations and resources that arise around us.

The alliances that Pecos, his wife Mags, and colleagues began seeding in 1985 in Latin America are a powerful river that flows into our work and play. Many years of exploration, reflection and gestation have gifted us with the evolution of Community Links International, a nonprofit that responds directly to the complex realities of marginalized humans, communities and environments in many parts of the Americas. We recognize that service without the attempt at developing profound relationship produces debilitating charity, while service with deep relationship can lead to lasting and productive solidarity. We invite you to join us in growing these deep relationships.



We will wear warmer clothes.

Please email Cat at cat@catbordhi.com or Pecos at peckos@me.com with any questions.

Reflections from travelers who journeyed through Peru with us...

The colors intensified by the high mountain air make an unforgettable kaleidoscope quilt...the indigenous clothes, jagged snow-capped peaks, the fields in the varied late-autumn display. Add the sounds, some familiar some not, and you have the perfect sound track to a wonderful adventure. The knitting is a perfect interface to weave our two very different cultures together. —Kenny, California

To get the worst part over with first—it is that I have to leave! This trip has been absolutely wonderful—in terms of the beauty, the excellent arrangements, the care of Cat and Pecos, the knitting and textiles, and most of all—the people in the group. Best. Trip. Ever. —Mary Anne, Massachusetts

This is not a tour. It's a knitting pilgrimage. —Denise, California

Cat and Pecos, I love how you give us a certain structure each day but so much freedom to make our own journey along the way, We have a safety net and can then go out and make our own connections with people. You are not holding our hands, and it's wonderful.—Sherri, Canada

Best trip out of the country EVER! Also first! If anyone has any concerns about travel, go with this group. —Nancy, North Carolina

Depth of history, life focus moving through a fantastic culture with new friends. A sense of connection with each person and experience. — Peter, Washington

As a gay person on Cat and Pecos' trip, I found it very refreshing that my orientation was a non issue. —Gill, Australia.

A major attraction was the kind of people drawn to Cat and also a culture in which men knitting is not a rarity. There is an interest and acceptance that I don't usually see in the states. For instance, the teenage boys in the bus line in Aguas Calientes who might not have approached a woman knitting, but who stood in rapt attention close to my hands watching me. — Jamie, Wisconsin

You walk that fine balance of being supportive while allowing us to have our own adventures instead of being in a cocoon the whole time. Cat and Jim, you manage that beautifully. — Kat, Oregon

The highlight I'd expected was Machu Picchu but it turned out to be my experience with Matilde, an elderly vendor in Ollantaytambo. We had a really heartfelt exchange with her, and bought things from her, then noticed that she was looking at her knitting up close. Asked if she had glasses, she didn't, so I ran home to get an extra pair of readers and gave them to her. She said *gracias*, and I wasn't sure if it had made a big difference. We had said good-bye when suddenly there was Matilde running down the hill toward me because she wanted to give me one more gift, as a remembrance of gratitude and friendship. She had discovered what the readers did for her and wanted to express how meaningful our connection was.—Michele, Arizona

Registration for Winter in the Heart of Iceland
with Cat and Pecos, January 23-30, 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Emergency contact: _____

We need a minimum of 10 participants for this trip. Do not purchase flights until we notify you that the minimum has been met.

Print and fill out this page and the waiver on page 5, and mail them to the address below with a check for your deposit of \$500 *made out to Community Links International*.

Jim Petkiewicz
916 Wren Drive
San Jose, CA 95125

This \$500 deposit holds your space. This deposit is nonrefundable unless we have to cancel the trip because we have not met our minimum number of participants, or if you *find a replacement for yourself*. The balance of \$1700 is due on November 16, 2015. If you need to cancel after that date, we regret that we will be unable to give you a refund because we will have already committed to all arrangements.

❖ **Please initial here:** _____

Cat's email: cat@catbordhi.com
Pecos' email: Peckos@me.com

“Iceland in the Heart of Winter” with Cat and Pecos, January 23-30, 2016

WAIVER: In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in the Iceland in the Heart of Winter program of Community Links International (a registered USA 501(c)(3), TIN #51-0560531), with the collaborative participation of Cat Bordhi, herein after called “The Activity”, I, for myself, my heirs, personal representative or assigns, do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue the Directors, employees, consultants or agents, including Cat Bordhi, Jim Petkiewicz, and Community Links International for liability for any and all claims including the negligence of the Directors, employees, consultants or agents resulting in personal injury, accidents, or illnesses (including death) and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in The Activity.

Assumption of risks: Participation in The Activity carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another, but the risks range from 1) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, sprains, and gastrointestinal issues 2) major injuries such as eye injury or loss of sight, joint or back issues, heart attacks, vehicular accidents, and concussions 3) catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death.

I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in The Activity. I hereby assert that my participation is voluntary and that I knowingly assume all such risks.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: I also agree to indemnify and hold the Directors, employees, consultants and agents, including Cat Bordhi, Jim Petkiewicz, and Community Links International, harmless from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney’s fees brought as a result of my involvement in The Activity and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

Severability: The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the state of California, legal residence of Community Links International, and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

signature

print name

date