

Iceland in the Heart of Winter

An Adventure with Cat, Pecos, and Knitting! January 21–30, 2017



Cat and Pecos with our friend Hulda, who you will meet.

Thanks to our Icelandic friend Valdi, who convinced us that winter in his native land is the best season of all, we led our first “Winter in the Heart of Iceland” trip last January and can’t wait to return with a new group. We enjoyed six-plus hours of daylight, with each day a few minutes longer, and the slow metamorphosis between darkness and light mesmerized us twice daily. The temperatures varied from 23 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit. Reykjavik is friendly, enchanting, and walkable. The tiny sparkling lights wrapped around every bare tree branch, hand-knit lace curtains, and lovingly-curated window scenes all make night-time strolls spellbinding. There is theater, shopping, museums, and knitting is embedded everywhere—almost as if the country were designed by knitters.

Our Itinerary

Arrival is January 21, departure January 30, with activities during the 8 days in between.

Most mornings after breakfast, unless we are leaving on a field trip, we’ll gather with Cat for our Icelandic knitting workshop, with two Icelandic-themed projects (you may choose to knit one, both, or neither; she is happy to assist you with any project you bring along). One project is a pair of socks featuring Cat’s unpublished Icelandic yoke sockitecture, and the other is her versatile version of an Icelandic slipper she discovered in a Reykjavik thrift store last year. Both are relatively easy and good travel projects.



This fellow stays warm even without an Icelandic sweater.



A view of Reykjavik from the tower of Hallgrímskirkja

You'll have plenty of free time to explore this infinitely charming city.

Within walking distance are two knit shops and several thrift stores where you can find pre-loved hand-knit Icelandic sweaters and mittens. You'll soon discover that Icelandic yarn and hand-knits are sold in dozens of shops along with other treasures. This is a land where every schoolchild learns to knit and wool and hand-knitting are loved by all.



Hallgrímskirkja photographed from our hotel.

You might choose to attend a world-class performance in *Harpa*, the spectacular concert hall on Reykjavik's waterfront. The soaring and peaceful *Hallgrímskirkja* cathedral, one of the most photographed subjects in all of Iceland, is a two minute walk from our hotel.



The children's sweater rack in the thrift store!



The waterfront is endlessly fascinating.

A distinctive Icelandic aesthetic illuminates this very European city of friendly people, nearly all of whom speak English in addition to Icelandic. The elegant shops, historical buildings, museums, a famous cemetery, a lake with seagulls, ducks, and swans who swim up to you, bookstores, restaurants, and the enchanting sound of Icelandic conversations will make you wish you could explore forever.



About a fifteen minute walk from our hotel...



A sweater and a fish soup cafe...



Concert rehearsal in Hallgrímskirkja...



Strolling at night is celestial...



A typical neighborhood food shop...

An evening field trip: Our friend Hulda Sofia is a primary school teacher and a knitwear designer with a degree in textile education. One evening we'll gather with Hulda's knitting group in her favorite knit shop in nearby *Hafnarfjörður*, to share stories, techniques, and that knitters' communion that transcends and blends cultures so effortlessly. This shop, *Handprjón*, is owned by our friend Drífa Alfreðsdóttir, features yarns sourced from nearby lands that you will probably never see anywhere else, like the skeins we saw last year, dyed with indigo over marigold, produced by just one elderly lady in Scotland who collects dye plants amongst hedgerows.



Last year's gathering at *Handprjón*...



Pecos and Matti bonding over a delicacy.

On another evening field trip we will join Hulda's husband, professional chef Matti Porarinnsson, for a private Icelandic cooking class designed just for us, culminating in a shared celebratory dinner. Matti will regale us with stories about Icelandic cuisine and can answer all your questions about restaurant menu items you are curious to try.



Last year a traveler knit Cat's pattern as tall leg-warmers



Hand-crocheted lace curtains...

A daytime field trip: We'll travel to *Pingborg*, a small wool collective an hour beyond Reykjavik. They source their wool very carefully and sort the fibers to spin a yarn significantly softer than the traditional Icelandic wool, and also sell knitted garments and toys made by collective members, most of whom live remotely. We'll also visit a farm of Icelandic horses, have lunch together, admire the famous Selflandsfoss Waterfall, and watch geothermal steam rising from openings in the distant landscape.



Litla Prjona Budin



The rugged, handsome Icelandic horses love the winter...



Enormous bales of dyed Icelandic wool ready to blend...

On another daytime field trip we'll tour the Istex Wool Factory, where most Icelandic wool is processed. You'll see the entire cycle, from scouring to carding to spinning, and glimpse beautiful Istex garment designs. Afterwards we'll drive to Alafoss, the largest yarn shop in Iceland, in a small village, where you can find every shade of any Icelandic yarns to knit whatever you may wish, or choose from a vast collection of handknits at rather decent prices. And finally, we shall drive on to *Litla Prjona Budin* (The Little Yarn Shop), just one light-filled room with some unusual yarns and exquisite designs.



An Istex design...



Swans and ducks await you...

The trip fee of \$3,295 covers:

- 9 nights of a shared (double) hotel room at Sunna Guest House (sunna.is)
- All breakfasts
- Cat's nearly daily knitting workshop and patterns for our projects
- Domestic transportation and tips for all field trips described in this PDF.

Our four field trips:

- To Þingborg ([/thingborg.net](http://thingborg.net)), Fakasel (icelandichorsepark.com), Selflandsfoss Waterfall, and lunch
- To Istex Wool Factory (istex.is), Alafoss Yarn Store (alafoss.is) and riverside village, and Litla Prion Budin (litlaprjonabudin.is)
- A private cooking class and shared dinner with Chef Matti Þorarinsson
- To Handprjon in Hafnarfjörður (handprjon.is) for an evening of convivial knitting with our friend Hulda Soffia and her knitting group.

The trip fee does not cover:

- Travel between your home and Reykjavik, nor between the airport and our hotel. We recommend the Flybus (re.is), or Grayline (grayline.is/airport-transfer/).
- Lunches and dinners, except for those described in the itinerary
- Extra excursions such as Northern Lights excursions, which take place from about 8 pm to midnight, and are offered only if the weather seems promising, nor visits to pools/ hot pots (one is five minutes from our hotel, and there are others nearby; you can soak and swim as often or as little as you wish, on your own schedule).



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 three years we have been facilitating cross-cultural and transformative experiences for intimate groups in the Pacific Northwest, California, Mexico, Peru, Iceland, and most recently, Ireland. As leaders, we 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.

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

What will it be like to travel with us?

Our travelers are lively, curious, adventurous, and independent, and value having plenty of time every day to explore on their own. This is not a lock-step hand-holding tour; instead, our careful daily organization is meant to stay in the background as much as possible so that you can steer your own experience. We are constantly using our local personal relationships and knowledge to create a fresh menu of options for you to choose from, like passionate chefs who find the best daily ingredients.



Reflections from others who have taken a journey with us

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 Pecos, you manage that beautifully. — Kat, Oregon

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

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

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. —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

Registration for Winter in the Heart of Iceland with Cat and Pecos, January 21-30, 2017

♥ Please tape a copy of your passport photo/information page to the back of this page.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Any medical information, or physical limitations, that we need to know about as group leaders:

Participants must be in good health. If you have doubts about your physical capabilities, please bring a companion who can take care of you and skip activities to stay with you as needed.

We are limiting this program to 20 participants. However, do not purchase flights until we notify you that we have met our minimum number of participants.

Print and fill out this page and the waiver on page 10, and mail them to the address below with a check for your nonrefundable deposit of \$500 *made out to Community Links International.*

Jim Petkiewicz
916 Wren Drive
San Jose, CA 95125-2952

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 \$2,795 is due on October 16, 2016. 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: _____

“Iceland in the Heart of Winter” with Cat and Pecos, January 21 -30, 2017

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