

With **Heather Mattila**, Professor of Biological Sciences & **Justin Armstrong**, Associate Teaching Professor in Writing and Anthropology



# PASSAGE FROM ICELAND TO IRELAND

Aboard the Expedition Cruise Ship *DIANA*

August 15 - 28, 2026

The Neolithic site of Skara Brae, Orkney Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage Site



## WELLESLEY FACULTY

### HEATHER MATTILA

Professor of Biological Sciences



Heather Mattila is Professor of Biological Studies at Wellesley College. She studies the organization of animal societies, insect communication, and the evolution of cooperation, using the honeybee as a model. Heather emphasizes the spectacular ways that organisms have adapted to survive and reproduce on this planet. Her fondness

for animals and interest in their often-strange strategies for success fuels the pleasure that she gets from teaching. She received her B.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Guelph. Accompanying her is her spouse, Justin Armstrong.

Dear Wellesley Alumna,

Join us on this voyage from Reykjavik to Dublin as we explore Europe's northernmost islands — Iceland, Denmark's Faroes, Scotland's Hebrides, Orkneys, and Shetlands, and Ireland, a remote world known for its rugged landscapes, picturesque villages, and warm, welcoming inhabitants.

Our voyage begins in Iceland, where we will spend time exploring this fascinating island forged by the twin forces of ice and fire. Here, extraordinary geology unfolds in every direction—lava fields and hot springs, majestic waterfalls and ice-capped mountains, and fjords alive with seabirds. Thousands of Puffins, Terns, and Guillemots nest along these rugged cliffs, offering a vivid introduction to the wild North Atlantic.

From Iceland we sail southeast to the Faroe Islands, a self-governing archipelago within the Kingdom of Denmark, renowned for its dramatic landscapes, Viking heritage, and thriving seabird colonies. Continuing south, we call at the Shetland and Orkney Islands, where Neolithic sites such as Skara Brae and the Standing Stones of Stennes stand beside towering cliffs teeming with Guillemots, Kittiwakes, and White-tailed Eagles. A day in the Scottish Highlands and a visit to the ancient castle of the Isle of Skye reveal a land steeped in history and legend. Our journey concludes in Northern Ireland at the famed Giant's Causeway on the Antrim Coast, and Douglas, the charming capital of the Isle of Man, a lively seaside town known for its Victorian promenade, historic architecture, and sweeping views across the Irish Sea.

Complementing our trip with lectures and discussions will be faculty members **Professor Heather Mattila** and **Associate Teaching Professor Justin Armstrong**, along with a team of naturalists and experts familiar with these islands in the North Atlantic. Also joining us on this trip will be alumni from Princeton University and their accompanying faculty. There will be ample Wellesley-only gatherings and events, in addition to shared opportunities for lectures and socializing with like-minded travelers from the Princeton group.

Our vessel for this extraordinary journey, the Swan Hellenic *Diana*, is a state-of-the-art, new-generation expedition cruise ship, launched in early 2023. Accommodating only 192 guests in beautifully appointed staterooms and balcony suites, *Diana* features several lounges, a restaurant, outdoor café, spa, and library and is equipped with the latest safety and environmentally friendly technology.

We hope you will join us on this exploration of some of Europe's most intriguing and seldom-visited islands.

Warm regards,

Erin Corcoran '13  
Assistant Vice President for Alumnae Relations  
and Global Engagement

### JUSTIN ARMSTRONG

Associate Teaching Professor in Writing and Anthropology



Justin Armstrong is Associate Teaching Professor in Writing and Anthropology at Wellesley College. He examines how a sense of place, or the idea of home is (or is not) maintained in such places as Iceland and the Faroe Islands, through local histories and personal narratives, particularly in light of contemporary

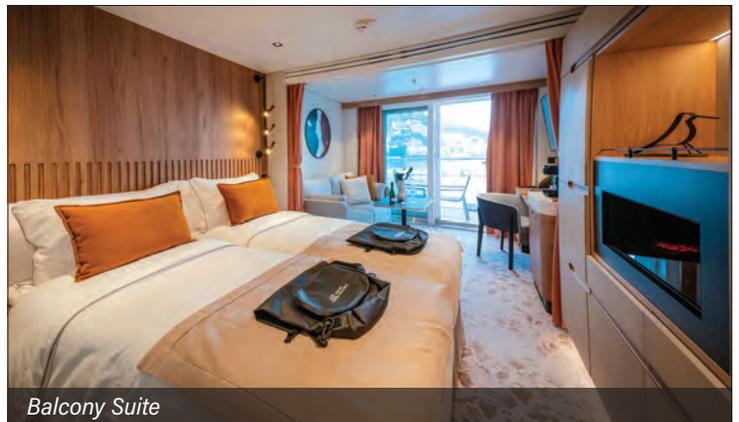
patterns of globalization and increased rural to urban migration. He is also the faculty director of the Wellesley-in-Iceland exchange program with the University of Akureyri. Justin also organized and taught an anthropological field course to Iceland for several summers and hopes to continue running this trip in the future. He earned his B.A. at Wilfrid Laurier University before completing both his M.A. and Ph.D. at McMaster University. His current research projects include a cultural geography of Iceland's abandoned Hornstrandir peninsula.



# THE NEW 192-GUEST EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP *DIANA*



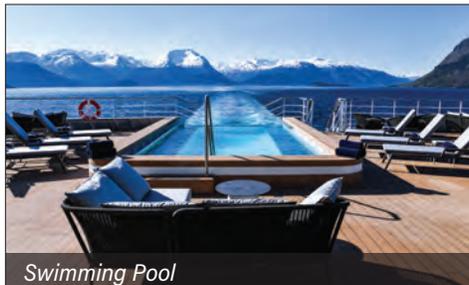
*Oceanview Stateroom*



*Balcony Suite*



*Swan Restaurant*



*Swimming Pool*



*Observation Lounge*

Built in Finland, and launched in April 2023, Swan Hellenic's *Diana* is a new generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 12,100 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 350 passengers, *Diana* will accommodate a maximum of 192 guests in 96 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, *Diana* is among the world's first environmentally responsible ships. Equipped with hybrid engines and a unique water filtration system, *Diana* leaves a minimal footprint. For cruising in Polar regions, the ship meets the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code with its high PC5 Category A ice strengthened hull and other advanced features. A computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 135 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Diana* will

carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

*Diana's* interior spaces exude sophisticated elegance, with most rooms opening to panoramic views of the sea. All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections and other amenities. Of the ship's 96 staterooms, 76 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna with an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis. The outstanding cuisine is complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner.

# ITINERARY



Saturday, August 15, 2026

## DEPART THE US

Sunday, August 16

## REYKJAVÍK, Iceland

Arrive in Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland, and transfer to the *Hotel Hilton Reykjavík Nordica* (or similar). Meet fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. (D)

Monday, August 17

## REYKJAVÍK/EMBARKATION

After breakfast, visit the National Museum. Enjoy a light lunch before exploring Reykjavík with a panoramic bus tour of the city's major attractions, including Parliament and the Höfði house (site of



Puffins of the Faroe Islands

the 1986 Reagan-Gorbachev Summit). Arrive at the pier in the late afternoon to embark on *Diana*. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 18

## HEIMAEY, Westman Island

Heimaey is the largest of the Westman Islands Archipelago off the southern coast of Iceland and is the summer home to millions of seabirds—puffin, fulmar, guillemot, and others. Our panoramic tour of this rugged island includes a stop at the nesting grounds and takes us through a valley framed by two volcanoes—the 5000-year-old Helgafell ("Holy Mountain") and the considerably younger Eldfell ("Fire Mountain"), which erupted in 1973, forcing an evacuation of the entire population. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, August 19

## ESKIFJÖRÐUR

Choose between two ways to explore Eskifjörður. You will have the option to take a tour on a scenic drive through Neskaupsstaður and Reyðarfjörður, uncovering stories wartime history and ingenuity against nature's forces, with visits to local museums and striking coastal views. Alternatively, choose a walking tour of Eskifjörður, once a bustling Danish trading post, where you'll explore the Maritime Museum, the shoreline to Randulff's Sea House, enjoy sightings of seabirds and perhaps even a whale. (B,L,D)

Thursday, August 20

## TORSHAVN, Faroe Islands, Denmark

Call today in the Faroe Islands in the middle of the North Atlantic, seldom visited because they are so remote. We disembark in Torshavn, the small port town that has been the capital of the islands since the 9th century, when the Vikings founded a settlement here. Our exploration includes the quaint old quarter of Tinganes, where small wooden houses are roofed with turf; 16th-century Fort Skansin; and the National Museum of the Faroe Islands. (B,L,D)

Friday, August 21

## ELDUVÍK, Eysturoy Island

Elduvík rests at the end of a lush valley, embraced by dramatic mountains and divided by the river Stórá. Enjoy a walking tour through the vibrant village, browsing handicraft shops, meeting a local farmer, and visiting the homes of a couple of local residents. With its rugged coastline and ever-changing surf, Elduvík embodies the untamed beauty of the Faroe Islands. (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 22

## LERWICK, Shetland Islands, Scotland

The 100 islands of the Shetland Archipelago were first inhabited during the Stone Age and later ruled by Norsemen for hundreds of years, before being annexed by Scotland in 1472. *Diana* will dock at the harbor of Lerwick, capital of the island and Britain's northernmost town. Drive through Tingwall Valley to the Keolka Croft, where you will learn about the lives of farmers who till the land within the peculiarly Scottish system of small-scale tenant farming called "crofting." On our return to Lerwick, we will visit the Shetland Museum. (B,L,D)



*Diana* in Heimaey Island, Iceland

Sunday, August 23

**STROMNESS, Orkney Islands**

Stromness is our gateway to Neolithic Orkney, an extensive area on the island of Mainland designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its wealth of prehistoric ruins. Discover the Standing Stones of Stennes, the henge and stone circle of the Ring of Brodgar, and Skara Brae, the best-preserved Neolithic village in Northern Europe. Explore this fascinating site and the beautifully curated exhibits at the modern visitor center that illustrate what life was like here in the distant past. (B,L,D)

Monday, August 24

**PORTREE, Isle of Skye**

Portree serves as our base for exploring the magnificent Isle of Skye, known for its stark beauty. Visit massive Dunvegan Castle, said to be the oldest continuously inhabited castle in the country, which sits in the midst of a 42,000-acre estate, the historic seat of Clan MacLeod. There will also be time to explore the charming town of Portree. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 25

**FORT WILLIAM, Loch Linnhe**

Along the shores of Loch Linnhe rests Fort William, a hub for outdoor enthusiasts. Here, seals drift in the loch's calm waters, and Ben Nevis, the UK's highest peak, rises majestically nearby. Built in 1654 by Cromwell and later tested during the Jacobite uprisings, the old fort gave the town its name. Today, Fort William invites visitors to wander the West Highland Museum, sip whisky at the

Ben Nevis Distillery, and feel Scotland's timeless spirit. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, August 26

**PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland**

Call at Portrush, a small resort town on Northern Ireland's spectacularly scenic Antrim Coast. Our excursion takes us to the nearby Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site of over 40,000 interlocking, hexagonal basalt columns formed by the cooling of molten lava some 6 million years ago. On the way back to the ship, stop to enjoy views of Dunluce Castle, perched on a dramatic basalt headland. Plan to spend time on deck as we cruise the stunning coastline of Rathlin which is renowned for its wildlife and lies a mere 6 miles off the coast of Ireland. (B,L,D)

Thursday, August 27

**DOUGLAS, Isle of Man**

Set out from Douglas on a drive toward to Castletown, the island's original capital. Pause to admire Castle Rushen—one of the best-preserved medieval castles in the British Isles. Traveling along the coast, arrive in Peel, affectionately known as "Sunset City," where the dramatic ruins of Peel Castle stand watch over the harbor. Conclude your journey inland at Tynwald Hill in St. John's, the ancient site of the world's oldest continuous parliament, before returning to Douglas. (B,L,D)

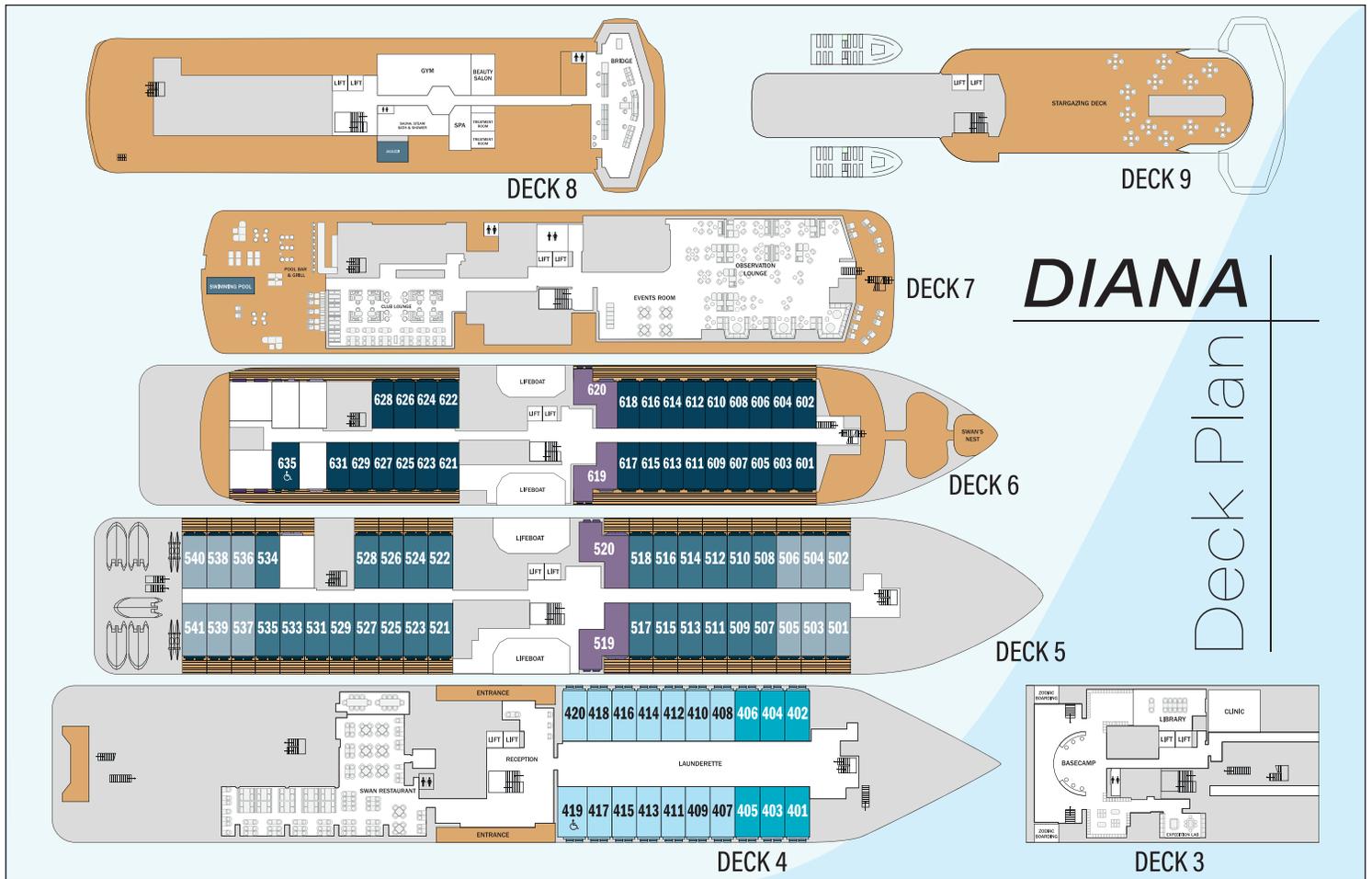
Friday, August 28

**DUBLIN/DISEMBARKATION**

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



Colorful Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland



All accommodations aboard *Diana* are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATES PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
<b>E</b>	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 401–406.	\$ 11,990
<b>D</b>	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 407–420.	\$ 12,390
<b>C</b>	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501–506, 536–541.	\$ 13,390
<b>B</b>	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 507–518, 521–529, 531–535.	\$ 13,790
<b>A</b>	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601–618, 621–635.	\$ 14,290
<b>AA</b>	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 474 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 519, 520, 619 & 620.	\$ 17,990

**FOR SOLO TRAVELERS** | A limited number of cabins are available for single occupants in Category D at 120% of the per-person, double occupancy rate, and in Categories C, B, and A at 150% of the per-person, double occupancy rate.

### LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM

Travel on this cruise program and enjoy savings of **\$400 to \$900** per person on your next voyage with **WELLESLEY COLLEGE and THALASSA JOURNEYS** aboard a Swan Hellenic ship. Savings are determined by the stateroom category booked and is applicable when you reserve your trip within 30 days of the completion date of **ICELAND TO IRELAND**

This saving cannot be combined with other offers and is subject to change.

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as shore excursions or embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include:

- Accommodations for one night at the *Hotel Hilton Reykjavik Nordica* (or similar) in Reykjavik.
- Cruise aboard the *Diana*, as described in the itinerary.
- Group airport/hotel/pier transfers at designated times, and handling of luggage on arrival and departure dates.
- Lectures and discussions with Professor Heather Mattila and Associate Teaching Professor Justin Armstrong.
- Complete program of tours and excursions as mentioned in the itinerary with professional English-speaking guides.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, guides, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.

## ACTIVITY LEVEL

Travelers can expect an estimated total of 2-3 hours of walking per day. Nature and town excursions may involve walking on inclined or uneven surfaces such as rocky or slippery trails, unpaved paths, cobblestones, or stairs without handrails. During some site visits guests may need to stand if seating is not available. Embarking and disembarking from motor coaches will also be necessary.

## REGISTRATION

WELL 26D-0815

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **PASSAGE FROM ICELAND TO IRELAND**, August 15 - 28, 2026 with Wellesley College. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or Discover credit cards.

**For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611 or email: [reservations@thalassajourneys.com](mailto:reservations@thalassajourneys.com)**

or make a check payable and mail with this registration form to:

**Thalassa Journeys:** 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

Visa

Mastercard

Discover

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE SELECT STATEROOM CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

1st choice  \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice  \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd choice  \_\_\_\_\_

Double Occupancy

Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates)

### PREFERRED BED CONFIGURATION

Double  \_\_\_\_\_ Twin  \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.**

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_

(CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 71-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 70 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

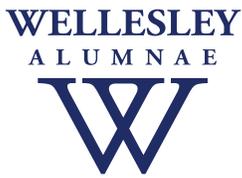
**INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

**ITINERARY:** The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be effected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

**RATES:** Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

**CST 2138603-50  
ST 42048**



Wellesley College Alumnae Association  
106 Central Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Brentwood, NY  
Permit No 36

WELL 26D-0815

Join **Professor Heather Mattila**, and **Associate Teaching Professor Justin Armstrong**, on **PASSAGE FROM ICELAND TO IRELAND | August 15 - 28, 2026**



For Reservations and Information, Please Call **866-633-3611**  
or Email: [reservations@thalassajourneys.com](mailto:reservations@thalassajourneys.com)

Eskifjörður, Iceland

**PASSAGE FROM ICELAND TO IRELAND | August 15 - 28, 2026**