

Nicholas M. Mogensen '15

**“BECAUSE THEY ARE  
THERE”**

June 29 - July 12 2015

The Faroe Islands (*Føroyar*)

*"O something unprov'd! something in a trance!  
To escape utterly from others' anchors and holds!  
To drive free! to love free! to dash reckless and dangerous!  
To court destruction with taunts, with invitations!  
To ascend, to leap to the heavens of the love indicated to me!  
To rise thither with my inebriate soul!  
To be lost if it must be so!  
To feed the remainder of life with one hour of fullness and freedom!  
With one brief hour of madness and joy."*

If you're wondering where the above verses stem from, they are equally found in the closing stanza of Whitman's "One Hour to Madness and Joy" and inscribed on my heart.

"College." These past 3 and a half years have been a fair sight more than those 7 letters can adequately encapsulate. If this scholarship is meant to help Aggies who have never been abroad, I should be disqualified immediately. With "Wanderlust" as my watchword and a desire for the unknown few understand my constant companion these handful of years, I have sought seized every chance to go abroad I could find. So here I am again, a final time.

10 days in the Philippines with the Corps of Cadets and three weeks in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania with the U.S. Army on a humanitarian aid mission. 10 days in Israel and a week at our satellite campus in Qatar. 9 months in Germany living in Bonn, Berlin, and Hamburg, and traveling throughout Europe on the weekends. All while working furiously to educate myself about the world when I could not be out in it through the the Bush School's accelerated master's program and reading through the many works of authors like Joyce, Hemingway, and Fitzgerald in equal measure.

And so now it comes to this. To feed the remainder of my college life with one (final) hour of fullness and freedom. With one brief hour of madness and joy.

I wish to go to one of the edges of the earth, and beyond the limits of what the average person even knows to exist, to travel to the Faroe Islands. All that has stopped me up to now is the cost. But I have been saving my army stipends and pay from ROTC for a good while now, whatever I could that I had left over from past travels, to prepare for the trip. Simply put, I want to go to the Faroe Islands because they are there on the map, and because a simple Google search of the place instantly presents you with some of the most breathtaking sights in nature that you will ever set eyes upon. You'll get no such pictures from me in this proposal, however. Pictures not taken by the person themselves, are, in my humble opinion, for people who are weak with words. I've thousands upon thousands of pictures from my past travels, and the only ones I'd like to share of the Faroes are the ones I take with my own camera. I'm a purist in that sense.

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
<b>1 (06/29)</b>	Transit from Washington, D.C. to Torshavn, Faroe Islands	“	“
<b>2 (06/30)</b>	“	Arrive in Torshavn	Walk the streets of Torshavn, check into hostel
<b>3 (07/01)</b>	Cliff Birdwatching via Boat to Vestmanna	“	Dinner in Torshavn
<b>4 (07/02)</b>	Helicopter Tour of the Islands	“	Dinner in Torshavn
<b>5 (07/03)</b>	Travel to Funningur Village (via bike)	“	Explore Funningur and check into hostel
<b>6 (07/04)</b>	Ascend Slaettaratindur (highest point)	“	Return home, exhausted
<b>7 (07/05)</b>	Easy morning, read and rest	Visit Gjógv Harbor	Easy evening in Funningur
<b>8 (07/06)</b>	Visit to Risin og Kellingin	Bike to Lake Eioisvatn	Night in village of Eioi
<b>9 (07/07)</b>	Bike to village of Gota	Gota Historical Museum	Explore Gota, spend night there
<b>10 (07/08)</b>	Bike to village of Fuglafjorour	Visit Fuglafjorour “varmakelda” (natural springs)	Night in Fuglafjorour
<b>11 (07/09)</b>	Ferry to Vagar	Bike to Lake Leitisvatn	Night in Village of Miovagur
<b>12 (07/10)</b>	The Culmination: Bike to GÁSADALUR	Gásadalur	Ferry to Torshavn
<b>13 (07/11)</b>	Final pictures around Torshavn	Last lunch	Transit from Torshavn to D.C.
<b>14 (07/12)</b>	“	“	HOME



## Estimated Costs

Flight Costs: \$1500

Buying a Bike (cheaper than renting for 2 weeks): \$200

Hostels: Market average of \$30 a night x 11 nights: \$330

Food: \$25 per day allowance x 14 days: \$350

Bird Tour: \$80

Helicopter Tour: \$150

Ferry Costs / Public Transpo: \$100

Cultural / Park / Museum Visits: \$100

Misc / Emergency: \$300

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Estimated Total Cost: **\$3,110**

Total Saved (Army stipends / pay): **\$1,800**

**Amount Remaining: \$1310**