My name is Dr. Tamie J. Jovanelly and I am one of the charismatic owners of Adventure Geology Tours (My husband, Joe Cook, is lucky enough to be my business partner). I define myself as a geologist, professor, best-selling author, international researcher, and adventurer. I have been a member of AWG since I was a Masters Degree student at University of Nebraska in 1999. Throughout the years I have served the AWG Organization as a Student Delegate, Secretary, and most recently, as Communications Coordinator.

Many are interested as to how this geology-focused travel company evolved? I became a professor in 2006 and immediately began leading study abroad trips and conducting international research. While Iceland became my second home, I have also spent a significant amount of time in Italy, East Africa, Costa Rica, India, Brazil, and the Arctic Circle. In 2017, while studying yoga in an ashram in India (and concurrently testing the water quality of the Ganges River), I came to the realization that the thing I loved most about being a professor was planning the field excursions. And, in doing that for more than a decade, I also realized that I was great at it! Thus, the first rendition of our tour company (Iceland Geology Tours) was born.

We launched IGT in December 2019, which corresponded with my book promotional tour (Iceland: Tectonics, Volcanics, and Glacial Features, Wiley, 2020). And, as you are aware, the global pandemic completely shut down all travel plans for the next year. The slow-down, however, provided me with time to grow the company into a full-time career whereby expanding and rebranding into Adventure Geology Tours. Thus, I now get to have all the fun of leading field excursions while still teaching geology, BUT it’s without the headache of having to grade papers.

Our company motto is, “active exploration with enthusiastic geologists”. Our trips are thoughtfully curated so that the traveler does not have to worry about logistics once they arrive in-country. Our trips will visit all of the famous geology localities and some of those that are off the beaten path. I will do the geology interpretation where appropriate, and then bring in my in-country colleagues to present their research, or to give a deeper sense of what we are seeing in the field. I keep you busy, but I also intentionally give you time to rest, and space for you to leave the group. I like to keep the size of the groups small; Costa Rica and Iceland are capped at 16 trip participants per tour, the Arctic Circle Cruise is capped at 28. Our trips are mostly-inclusive and, unlike large tour operators, our prices include the cost of all excursions and museum entrance fees. Ultimately, my husband and I call it a “tour” instead of a “field trip” because we want the experience to feel more like a vacation. We intentionally build comradery in the group early-on so that great discussions about geology can happen serendipitously. And, speaking of my husband, he is a Nurse Practitioner and can provide medical assistance if needed during our tours.

During Summer 2023, we are offering trips to Costa Rica (May 21-May 28), Iceland (July 6-18 and July 25-August 6) and the Arctic Circle (August 29-September 10). You can find out details about each of the trips on our website www.adventuregeologytours.com. As space is limited, we are starting to collect $500 refundable deposits to hold slots. If interested, I encourage you to take a look at our 5-star reviews on Trip Advisor (Iceland Geology Tours)!

Lastly, AGT is happy to affiliate and plan trips for organizations, and we also have the framework to lead Study Abroad programs. We are excited to be a corporate sponsor of AWG, an organization that has been critical to my success in the field of geoscience.