

Iceland & the Faroe Islands Cruise Itinerary

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Tour Overview

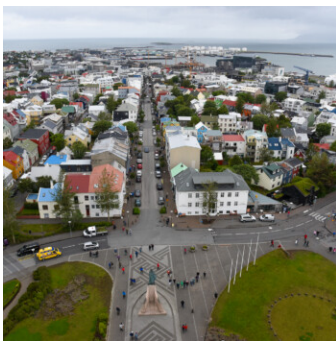
Explore Iceland and the Faroe Islands on an expedition through some of the North Atlantic's most spectacular landscapes. Travelling by sea reveals a side of Iceland few visitors experience, from the glacier-crowned Snæfellsnes Peninsula and remote Westfjords to the Arctic Circle island of Grímsey, the whale-rich waters of Húsavík and the volcanic shores of Heimaey.

Along the way, experience a land still being shaped by volcanoes, glaciers, geothermal forces and the ocean. Cross to the Faroe Islands, where towering basalt cliffs, green mountains, waterfalls and picturesque communities create an equally dramatic setting. Wildlife is part of the journey throughout, with opportunities to see whales, dolphins, puffins and thousands of breeding seabirds.

More than a journey through extraordinary scenery, this expedition explores how life has developed in these remote North Atlantic islands, where fishing traditions, contemporary culture and resilient communities remain closely connected to the land and sea.

Itinerary

Day 1: Reykjavík, Iceland



Reykjavík brings Iceland's natural forces into the rhythms of an inventive contemporary capital. Geothermal water heats its colourful homes and outdoor pools, mountains rise across the bay, and the working harbour keeps the city closely connected to the North Atlantic. Literature, music, design, and an ambitious food culture flourish within a city whose scale remains welcoming and intimate. Board the Ocean Victory and sail into Faxaflói Bay. As Reykjavík recedes, Iceland begins to reveal the long peninsulas, offshore islands, and deeply cut coastlines that make travelling by sea so compelling.

Day 2: Snæfellsnes Peninsula



Snæfellsnes gathers an extraordinary range of Icelandic landscapes along one narrow peninsula. Snæfellsjökull, a glacier resting upon a volcano, rises above lava fields, black shores, sea cliffs, and fishing communities. Ancient eruptions shaped the ground, while waves, weather, and glacial movement continue to work upon it. Ashore, the peninsula offers an intimate encounter with the forces still shaping Iceland. Seabirds gather along the coast, marine mammals may be seen offshore, and each change in terrain reveals another expression of a country built by fire, ice, and ocean. Delight in the many opportunities to observe seabirds and marine life as you explore this spectacular destination.

Day 3: The Westfjords



The dramatic Westfjords reveal why travelling Iceland by sea offers such a different perspective. Ancient volcanic plateaus plunge towards the ocean, while immense glaciers have carved deep fjords into the coastline. Sailing into these waterways reveals the geography that has shaped settlement for centuries: sheltered harbours, small coastal communities, towering bird cliffs, and the sea routes that connected them. Explore quiet communities where generations have built lives beside the sea, adapting to a landscape whose beauty and challenges remain inseparable.

Day 4: Grímsey



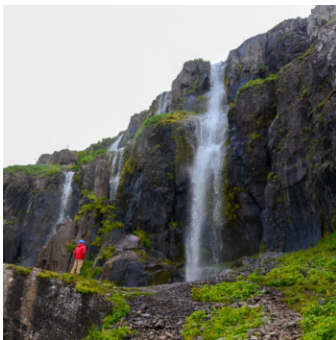
Grímsey sits astride the Arctic Circle, where latitude becomes something you can experience rather than simply measure. Surrounded by rich seas and spectacular bird cliffs, this small island offers an opportunity to stand at one of Earth's great geographic milestones. Walk through the welcoming community, cross the Arctic Circle on foot, and watch for nesting seabirds. Conditions permitting, take to the water by Zodiac for another perspective on Grímsey's dramatic cliffs and abundant birdlife. Together, these experiences reveal how people and wildlife have made a home in one of the North Atlantic's most distinctive island environments.

Day 5: Húsavík



Set beside the broad waters of Skjálfandi Bay, Húsavík has grown from a fishing community into one of Iceland's best-known centres for whale research and observation. Nutrient-rich waters attract humpback and minke whales, dolphins, seabirds, and other marine life, making the bay one of the country's most celebrated wildlife regions. Ashore, explore stories of whales, exploration, and Arctic discovery, including Iceland's complex relationship with whaling. It is a maritime history that also echoes across the North Atlantic in the Faroe Islands, where relationships between people, whales, and the sea have developed along their own distinct cultural path.

Day 6: Eastern Iceland



Eastern Iceland unfolds through long fjords, layered mountains, river valleys, and small communities gathered close to the sea. This is one of the country's quieter regions, where fishing harbours, farms, and villages occupy narrow spaces between steep slopes and sheltered water. Inland, Iceland's only wild reindeer range through remote highlands and valleys. The eastern coast reveals Iceland at a different tempo. Its geological scale remains immense, but the landscape also rewards close attention through changing rock, coastal vegetation, birdlife, waterfalls, and the distinctive character of communities shaped by their fjord settings.

Day 7: Western Faroe Islands



The Faroe Islands rise from the North Atlantic in dark layers of ancient basalt. Green slopes climb towards immense cliffs, waterfalls descend from high plateaus, and narrow sounds separate mountains and islands. Puffins, fulmars, guillemots, and kittiwakes gather along exposed ledges during the breeding season, bringing movement and sound to the vertical coast. Hikes and Zodiac cruises offer different perspectives on this extraordinary archipelago. From sweeping headlands to the foot of cliffs shaped by waves and weather, the western Faroes reveal how ancient volcanic foundations continue to influence wildlife, settlement, and the scale of everyday life.

Day 8: Tórshavn



Few capitals feel as closely tied to their harbour as Tórshavn. At Tinganes, red timber buildings with turf roofs occupy one of the world's oldest parliamentary meeting places, where assemblies have been held since the Viking Age. Nearby, narrow lanes wind between black-tarred houses and sheltered gardens. Tórshavn is also the creative centre of the Faroes. Language, visual art, music, design, and an ambitious food culture flourish in its galleries, workshops, cafés, and restaurants. Fishing boats and ferries keep the harbour in motion, while roads, bridges, ferries, and remarkable subsea tunnels connect the capital with communities across the archipelago. Tórshavn brings the culture and character of eighteen islands together in one lively harbour.

Day 9: At Sea



The journey back towards Iceland creates time to consider two archipelagos formed by volcanic forces at vastly different moments in Earth's history. In the Faroes, ancient basalt has been carved into steep green mountains and narrow sounds. In Iceland, eruptions, glaciers, and tectonic movement continue to create and reshape the land. Aboard, presentations and conversations explore these geological stories alongside the wildlife and cultures they support. On deck, fulmars and gannets follow the winds, whales may surface along the route, and the changing North Atlantic light keeps attention fixed beyond the ship.

Day 10: Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar



Heimaey rises from the North Atlantic in a dramatic meeting of volcanic earth and ocean. In 1973, Eldfell erupted without warning, forcing nearly the entire population to evacuate as lava and ash buried parts of the town. When molten rock threatened to close the harbour, islanders pumped seawater onto the advancing flows, helping preserve the sheltered waters at the heart of community life. Today, brightly painted homes and a busy fishing harbour stand beneath the still-young volcanic cone. Lava fields reach towards the town, while Atlantic puffins return in vast numbers to breed along the surrounding cliffs. Heimaey reveals an island continually shaped by powerful natural forces and by the ingenuity of those who call it home.

Day 10: Reykjavík, Iceland



The expedition returns to Reykjavík, completing a journey around a country whose volcanic, glacial, and maritime forces have remained present at every turn. The capital's geothermal warmth, creative energy, and lively waterfront now form part of a much larger Icelandic story extending through fjords, islands, wildlife-rich waters, and communities along the coast. After disembarkation, those staying on can explore Reykjavík's museums, galleries, restaurants, shops, and outdoor pools. The city offers many reasons to linger within an island that continues to reveal new expressions of earth, ocean, culture, and imagination.

What to Expect

Our small ship Iceland Circumnavigation cruise program allows you to experience the best of the natural world, while enjoying the comforts of our friendly floating hotel. The ship generally makes crossing between islands at night, so every morning you awake to new vistas and discoveries. Every day we offer a combination of interesting shore excursions and fun shipboard activities. You can choose which elements of the program you want to participate in.

This is a general natural history and cultural expedition rather than a dedicated birding tour. Travellers can look forward to a mix of wildlife viewing, cultural experiences, and time to appreciate the region's incredible scenery — with opportunities for birding included along the way.

This expedition cruise necessitates passengers to be in reasonably good health. Zodiac cruises and transfer times can be lengthy. You must be able to climb stairs between decks on the ship, as well as the external gangway stairs to transfer between the zodiac and ship.

Some of our shore landings will be 'wet', requiring waterproof boots. Once you have left the zodiac, you'll find our shore excursions accommodate both those who wish to enjoy a gentle stroll and those who prefer more active hikes. The excursion may involve walking over uneven or sandy terrain in variable weather conditions. Our onboard specialists will join us on these shore excursions to provide interpretation and narration to these wonderful landscapes and experiences.

Each evening we will gather in the lounge to recount the day's events and share memorable stories. Our onboard musician will provide some lively entertainment during happy hour and the expedition leader will outline the following day's schedule. Our resource staff of naturalists, historians, and other guest speakers will give informative talks at various times throughout the voyage.

Meals in the ship's dining room are a great opportunity to meet new friends and recount the day's adventures. Special diets can be accommodated with advance notice. Safety is also a top priority with Eagle-Eye Tours - our team has extensive experience in the field, and all of our Voyages are run in conjunction with operators with the highest safety standards.

When the ship is underway, it is a wonderful time to join a naturalist on deck, take photos of the stunning scenery, or get caught up on some reading in the library.

Weather, ice, government regulations, and community requests may necessitate changes to the planned itineraries and/or the cancellation of certain shore excursions and enhancements. Published itineraries are examples only and we reserve the right to change or modify the itinerary and landing sites at any time prior or during an expedition. Changes will be communicated at your expedition

orientation or during your onboard expedition briefings.

We know that everyone travels for different reasons. Over the years, however, we have found one common element among the guest who choose to travel with us - a thirst of knowledge and authentic experience. Knowing this drives us to ensure the highest quality learning experience on our trips, by taking time to carefully design each trip we offer.

What's Included

Tour Price Includes

- Passage aboard the Ocean Victory
- Applicable taxes and credit card fees
- Special access permits, entry, and park fees
- Complimentary expedition jacket
- Expert expedition team
- Guided activities
- Sightseeing and community visits
- All Zodiac excursions
- Port fees
- Pre-departure materials
- Educational program
- Interactive workshops
- Evening entertainment
- All shipboard meals
- Complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks are served with dinner
- 1 GB complimentary internet access

Tour Price Does Not Include

- Commercial and charter flights
 - Program enhancements/optional excursions
 - Gratuities
 - Personal expenses
 - Mandatory medical evacuation insurance
 - Additional expenses in the event of delays or itinerary changes
 - Possible fuel surcharges and administrative fees
 - Pre- and post-trip hotel accommodation
 - Kayak program
 - Premium Wi-Fi access
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