



## Northern Lights and Whales by Sea

**\*\*Details to follow on new date and prices for 2022.** Escorted by [Shauna Cook](#), our resident Iceland specialist. September is a special month for a cruise in Iceland. The lazy days of summer slowly come to an end and the island landscape transforms and is reborn into the vibrant colours of autumn. Get to know the island of fire and ice both on-board your ship and ashore.



YOUR  
ADVENTURE  
AWAITS

9 days/8 nights

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1, September 21: Arrive Keflavik - Reykjavik

On arrival to Keflavik, your tour escort will meet you at the airport to provide you with your airport transfer voucher and answer any questions you may have. Transfer as a group to downtown Reykjavik and store your bags at the hotel.

At 12:30 pm you'll meet your local food-walk guide at Harpa Concert Hall for a 3-4 hour Reykjavik Food Walk. You will be treated to some of the most delicious tastes within Icelandic cuisine through sampling local food, including the delicious, locally produced skyr. This beautiful and somewhat yogurt-like dairy product goes right back to the time when Iceland was settled by the Vikings, more than 1,100 years. How do we know this? There are references to Skyr in the legendary Icelandic Sagas. Of course, we can say this about other foods you will be offered such as lamb and fish, which featured heavily in the Icelandic diet right from the beginning. Tastings include: grass fed Icelandic Lamb, homemade local ice cream, local cheese, traditional Icelandic Skyr, a visit to the famous hot dog truck and authentic seafood soup.

The restaurants have been selected by your specialist local food guide for one reason only – they offer the most delightful Icelandic food to tempt your taste buds. Some of these places are famous “must-visit Reykjavik restaurants”, and others are little-known but local places, full of character, which are hidden down the back streets of the city.

Along the way, you will see some of the best-known buildings and sights in central Reykjavik and learn some fascinating stories about them. You can rest assured your guide has an eye for the quirky and the less obvious, so you will get to know some amazing tidbits of information as you wander around. This really is a walking tour for foodies, so make sure you wear your comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather!

Following our food walk we'll check in at our central hotel, right in the heart of Reykjavik, and freshen up.

In the late afternoon, enjoy a 'Flyover Iceland' experience. This flight-seeing tour without the flight does make you feel like you're actually flying over Iceland. You will hang suspended, feet dangling, in front of a 20-metre, spherical screen, while the film whisks you away on an exhilarating journey across Iceland. Special effects, including wind, mist and scents, combine with the ride's motion to create an unforgettable experience.

This evening, we will join as a group for a drink at the unique Magic Ice bar! A winter cape is provided, as is one drink in a unique Ice glass!

Overnight in downtown Reykjavik.

#### Day 2, September 22: South Coast



Today enjoy a full day South Coast tour. This tour gives you the chance to see all the most beautiful sights on the south shore. There is a good reason the southern parts of Iceland are such popular destinations. Locals have been admiring it for centuries, now it's your turn. Enjoy the mesmerizing waterfall of Skógar, go behind the magical Seljalandsfoss, walk on the volcanic black sand beach of Reynisfjara and get in close contact with a glacier.

Then, this evening, you will have a northern lights tour into the countryside in a unique Superjeep! These vehicles are quite common in Iceland and are specially designed to travel over pretty much any terrain! You will hang suspended, feet dangling, before a 20-metre spherical screen while our film whisks you away on an exhilarating journey across Iceland. Special effects, including wind, mist and scents, combine with the ride's motion to create an unforgettable experience.

Overnight in Reykjavik.

#### **Day 3, September 23: Embarkation at Reykjavik Old Harbour**

This morning you will check out of the hotel, and we can travel as a group to the cruise port to check in our luggage for the cruise. They will hold it for us all day, and the day is free to explore Reykjavik at your leisure. Boarding the ship is between 4:00pm and 6:00pm – you must be on board by 6:00pm. The OCEAN DIAMOND docks in Old Reykjavik Harbor in the heart of the city, a five-minute stroll from the main squares, shopping and dining. The ship departs in the evening. Tonight you may already have a first opportunity to see the Northern Lights while on board!

Overnight on-board MS Ocean Diamond.

#### **Day 4, September 24: Snaefellsnes Peninsula**

In the morning the OCEAN DIAMOND reaches the small village of Stykkisholmur, the starting point for our exploration of the Snaefellsnes peninsula. Snaefellsnes is also known as "Iceland in miniature" since this region contains nearly all different kind of Icelandic scenery. In the evening the OCEAN DIAMOND leaves Stykkisholmur for the direction of the Westfjords. And again dark clear sky might offer great opportunities for the Northern Lights.

Overnight on-board MS Ocean Diamond.

#### **Day 5, September 25: Ísafjörður**

Today's destination is the idyllic town of Isafjordur, capital of the Westfjords region. This secluded peninsula is connected to the rest of Iceland by only a narrow strip of land. Even by Icelandic standards, the area can be described as unusually isolated. The landscape is characterized by mesas and dramatic fjords that cut deep into the landscape.

Overnight on-board MS Ocean Diamond.

#### **Day 6, September 26: Husavik - Lake Myvatn**

In the early morning hours we steam into Skjalfandi Bay and Husavik. After disembarkation we explore the natural beauty of the Lake Myvatn area, including the peculiar lava formations at Dimmuborgir and the pseudo craters at Skutustadir. The pseudo craters were formed by gas explosions when boiling lava flowed over the wetlands. Lunch will be provided on the way.

Dinner and overnight in the Husavik area.

#### **Day 7, September 27: Husavik - Akureyri - West Iceland**

Husavik is often called the "Whale watching capital" of Iceland. The town's offshore waters are home to 15 different whale species, as well as dolphins. Watching these graceful ocean giants in their Arctic habitat is an unforgettable experience. An exciting trip with RIB boats (Rigid Inflatable Boat) to search for the gentle giants awaits you. On our way to Akureyri we visit the impressive Godafoss, "the waterfall of the Gods". In the year 1000, the Icelandic parliament (Althing) decided to give up their pagan religion in favor of Christianity. The story goes that the idols of the ancient Nordic religion (godars) were then thrown from the top of the waterfall (foss). The cascade retains its name, Godafoss in memory of this event. Lunch will be provided on the way.

Dinner and overnight in West Iceland.

#### **Day 8, September 28: West Iceland - Reykjavik**

On our way back to Reykjavik we pass Deildartunguhver, the most powerful hot spring in the world. A stop will be made to admire the beautiful Hraunfossar waterfalls, before continuing to Thingvellir National Park, the ancient site of the world's first parliament. Our journey ends after a city tour in Reykjavik. Lunch will be provided the way.

Overnight in Reykjavik.

#### **Day 9, September 29: Reykjavik - Blue Lagoon - Keflavik for Departure**

Airport transfers have been booked to travel via the Blue Lagoon. Admission and towel rental has been included for you. Once finished, transfer back to Keflavik airport for your flight home.



## Details

### 2022 Group Dates:

Date to be advised.

### 2022 Group Prices:

From Cat. P/ Deck 3, Double cabin with porthole – US\$4,899 (estimate based on 2020 prices, subject to change)

Prices are starting from rates, shown in US\$, per person based on two people sharing a double cabin. Triple and single cabins may be available, on request.

[Check out the MS Ocean Diamond deck plan!](#)

### Trip Code:

009445-W20

## INCLUDED

- One-way, non-guided transfer from Keflavik Airport to downtown Reykjavik hotel, day of arrival
- One-way transfer downtown Reykjavik hotel to Keflavik, via the Blue Lagoon
- Blue Lagoon admission and towel rental
- Two nights of moderate accommodation in Reykjavik, including breakfast
- 4-hour Reykjavik Food Walk tour, with tastings
- FlyOver Iceland experience
- Full-day South Coast tour
- Northern Lights tour by Superjeep
- Magic Ice Bar experience including use of winter weather gear and one drink in an ice glass
- 7-day Northern Lights and Whales cruise on board the MS Ocean Diamond and land program, as outlined
- On-board accommodation in cabin category P, double with porthole
- All meals on-board the ship (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Coffee, tea and water
- Zodiac excursions (weather dependant)
- Icelandic/English speaking guide
- Presentations from cruise staff and guest speakers
- On-board entertainment program
- Light windbreaker jacket
- 3 nights of moderate hotel accommodation on land tour
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners on land tour
- Whale watching by RIB boat

## NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to/from Iceland
- Optional shore excursions and tours
- Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Passport and/or visa fees, as required

## TOUR NOTES

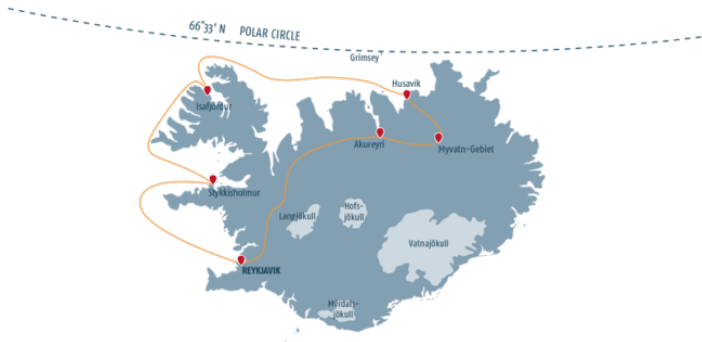
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## ROUTE MAP



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