# Adventure Iceland Circumnavigation



This small-ship expedition will get you into hard to reach places and introduce you to the fascinating, natural beauty of the Land of Fire and Ice. The country of Iceland was once a Viking stronghold, but is now a modern nation on an ancient island.



## 10 days/9 nights

## **ITINERARY**

#### Day 1: Reykjavik - the adventure begins!

Iceland's cosmopolitan capital, Reykjavík was established in 874 AD. Powered by geothermal energy, Reykjavík is widely considered one of the cleanest, greenest cities on Earth. Reykjavík, or "steamy bay", is a cosmopolitan capital city and as much a part of the Icelandic experience as the midnight sun or the fire and ice that creates the island's landscape.

Enjoy a day of exploration on your own before boarding the Ocean Endeavour this evening.

#### Day 2: Snaefellsnes Peninsula - meander dramatic landscapes

The hundred-kilometre-long landscape of Snæfellsnes Peninsula is characterized by sparkling fjords, golden beaches, and undulating lava flows. The area is crowned by the glistening ice-capped stratovolcano Snæfellsjökull, 700,000 years old and immortalized in Jules Verne's Journey to the Centre of the Earth. On clear days, the mountain can be seen from Reykjavík, 120 kilometres away. A few small settlements are located on the south side of the peninsula, and fishing villages can be found on the north.

## Day 3: The Westfjords - explore remote coastlines rarely visited

Only about ten percent of Iceland's visitors ever see this region, known for its jagged bird cliffs and multihued beaches. Coastal fjords, immense mountains, and tiny villages can be found here, and a traditional lifestyle is embraced by the region's inhabitants.

## Day 4: Siglufjörður and Grimsey - cross the Arctic Circle and learn about Icelandic history

Travel to far-flung Grímsey, which lies upon the Arctic Circle (66° 33' North) and earns Iceland its title as one of the world's eight Arctic nations—just barely! Take a Zodiac cruise around the island, brimming with a million seabirds, including puffins, guillemots, and gulls, that far outnumber its small human population.

Visit Siglufjörður which bustled with activity in its heyday as the centre of the herring fishing industry. Today Siglufjörður is resurging and plays host to the wonderful Herring Era Museum, which includes re-enactments of life in days gone by. Foodies will enjoy visiting the bakery, chocolate factory, and brewery. The folk music centre is a wonderful resource for Icelandic folk music.

#### Day 5: Akureyri - Iceland's Capital of the North, museums and botanical garden

Known as Iceland's Capital of the North, Akureyri, enjoys a relatively mild climate and ice-free harbour. Walk up to the steps of Akyureyri's monumental Lutheran church to catch the full view of Iceland's second-largest urban area—it will be well worth it! Poke around and explore the city's shops, cafés, and restaurants and take your pick from a selection of ten museums to discover.

#### Day 6: Husavik - whale watching

Húsavík, on Skjalfandi Bay, is known as the "Whale Capital" of Iceland. Fifteen different whale species frequent the area; we also hope to see dolphins, and thirty varieties of birds.

The Húsavík Museum is located by the harbour. There are also numerous other museums including the Exploration Museum, which houses artifacts from Apollo astronaut training in the area; a whale museum, and a turf house museum.

## Day 7: Seyðisfjörður - charming town and Skálanes Nature Reserve

Seyðisfjörður is nestled at the tip of its namesake fjord. The town of seven hundred is known for its flourishing art scene, colourful roads, and shopping.

We will also have the opportunity to visit the Skálanes Nature Reserve. Family-owned and -operated, this is a centre for research and interpretation of Iceland's environment and cultural history, and a model for sustainable tourism. The 3,000-acre area is a habitat for approximately fifty different bird species during the summer time, and, in particular, the eider duck.

#### Day 8: Southeast Iceland - glaciers, lagoons and volcanoes

Soak in the sights of south Iceland, home to some of the country's most beautiful natural attractions. Explore a unique mix of volcanoes, lagoons, and glaciers—as well as hot springs, geysers, and spectacular waterfalls—either ashore on foot or by Zodiac cruise.

#### Day 9: Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar (Westman Islands) - volcanic landscapes

Learn about the compelling history of this volcanically active area that has experienced two major eruptions in recent times. 1963 saw the formation of the island of Surtsey and the Eldfell eruption ten years later destroyed much of Heimaey, the largest of the Vestmannaeyjars and the only island here that is inhabited.

Enjoy a beautiful Zodiac cruise searching for the numerous species of seabirds, including the famous puffin, that nest in the steep rock faces along the ocean cliffs here.

## Day 10 - Reykjavik

Today we arrive back to Reykjavik harbour where we will disembark the <u>Ocean Endeavour</u> and transfer to the airport for our flights home. Or, you may choose to stay on for a few more days to explore this fascinating country further. Ask us to customize a program for you.

#### Details

Group Size: Max. 198

**Trip Code:** 004223 - W20

## **INCLUDED**

- Ten days of on-board accommodation in the cabin category booked
- Shipboard meals, afternoon tea, 24-hour coffee, tea and snacks
- Hors d'ouevres and snacks during evening recaps
- Expertise and guidance of expedition staff
- On-board educational programming and interactive workshops
- Complimentary expedition jacket
- Use of ship's pool, sauna and gym facilities
- Evening entertainment
- Nikon Camera Trial Program
- Sightseeing including museum entries, park access and port taxes
- Zodiac tours
- Discovery Fund Fee

## **NOT INCLUDED**

- Commercial flights to/from Reykjavik
- Mandatory medical/evacuation insurance
- Additional touring options
- Personal expenses
- Additional expenses in the event of delays or itinerary changes

- Discretionary gratuities to ship's crew (suggest US\$15 per passenger, per day)
- · Passport and visas fees, or inoculations, if required
- · Possible fuel surcharges as assessed

#### **TOUR NOTES**

**Singles:** Free single supplement! Singles get their own cabin in categories 3-7 aboard the Ocean Endeavour at no additional cost-subject to availability.

**Multiple expedition savings:** Book multiple expeditions with Adventure Canada in a single calendar year aboard the Ocean Endeavour and receive 10% off the total berth cost of Arctic itineraries and 20% off the total berth cost of east coast itineraries!

**30 Under 30:** Save 30% on the berth cost of travellers under thirty aboard Ocean Endeavour expeditions! Great option for family multi-generational travel!

**Children & Infants:** Children under two travel for free, and children between two and four pay for charter flights only! **Price Guarantee:** If the price of the berth portion of your program decreases more than 120 days prior to departure, previously booked clients may claim the lower rate. So, no need to wait for sales to get the best price!

**League of Adventurers Loyalty Program:** Return travellers are eligible for savings of 5% and up, as well as added benefits when booking on an Ocean Endeavour expedition voyage.

To check availability for any of these special offers and applicable terms and condition, just give us a call!

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#### **ROUTE MAP**



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