

THE ARCTIC - ICELANDIC NATURE & TRADITIONS | LE BOREAL



INTRODUCTION

On your 12-day cruise, see some of the most stunning scenery along Iceland's west coast. This circumnavigation will give you the chance to explore Iceland's wild and romantic landscapes, which are situated on the border of the Arctic, amid immense glaciers, precarious fjords, volcanoes, and boiling geysers.

You will board Le Boréal and sail from Reykjavik to Heimaey, the only inhabited island in the Westman archipelago. It is a unique location with volcanoes and nearly desert-like environments, where fishing is the primary food source. The Vatnajökull National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Hornafjörður are the next stops for your ship as it continues to go south. The stunning surroundings of the Jökulsárlón glacier lake will astound you. Le Boréal will set sail for Grimsey, a small, remote island where the volcanic rock has formed stunning basalt columns in some locations. Here, seabirds rule.

The capital of northern Iceland, Akureyri, will greet you on the Eyafjörður fjord's shores, not far from the Arctic Circle. You will travel to Siglufjörður, whose rugged silhouettes are evocative of French alpine reliefs, which is located to the north of the Tröllaskagi peninsula. This tiny port, which dates back to the 10th century and is famous for its herring fishery, is also renowned for the beauty of its fjord. You will stop in the settlement of Safjörður before setting sail for the harbour of Grundarfjörður, which is close to Kirkjufell. There will be a chance to take some great pictures of this magnificent cone-shaped mountain, which has a certain charm.

Finally, you'll arrive in Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital.

GREEN POINTS!

â€¢ Ponant fleets are awarded the international "Clean Ship" label which proves their reduced environmental impact
 â€¢ Refrigerant gas is used for AC and refrigeration units which minimizes impact on the greenhouse gas effect and has no impact on the ozone layer
 â€¢ Water reduction is implemented by reusing water supplies such as bath, kitchen, laundry for washing external decks
 â€¢ All waste is separated and sorted on board
 â€¢ Dynamic positioning systems are used to drop anchor in sensitive marine environments, to minimise damage to coral reefs and protect the seabed.
 â€¢ Marine

TRIP CODE

ACPOINT

DEPARTURE

31/7/2023

DURATION

12 Days

LOCATIONS

Iceland



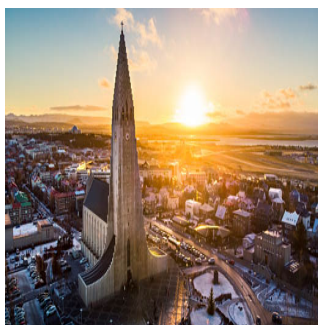
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gas oil is used where possible as an alternative to heavy burning gas fuels.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Reykjavik & Embark

Arrive in Reykjavik for embarkation from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm and departure at 6:00 pm. Iceland's capital stretches along the edge of a vast bay in the west of the country. Perlan, the "Pearl of Reykjavik", a museum located on 'Oskjuhlíð hill, offers a panoramic view of the lush, green landscapes. A little further, one can easily spot the signpost showing the way to the evangelical Hallgrímskirkja church, and to the historical centre where one can stroll along the Skólavörðustígur and the Laugavegur, two lively streets with charming small shops. For some relaxation just outside of the city, visitors have the opportunity to visit the Reykjanes peninsula and its famous thermal lagoons of the Blue Lagoon.



DAY 2: Surtsey Island & Heimaey

A small drop of basalt in the North Atlantic Ocean, Surtsey is a volcanic island formed by a submarine eruption that lasted from 1963 to 1967, off the Westman Islands to the south of Iceland. The island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To protect its virgin ecosystem against human presence, it is forbidden to land there. Only a few scientists have access to Surtsey to study the plant and animal colonisation of the island. Mosses, fungi and lichens were followed by vascular plants. Around 300 invertebrate species and 90 bird species have gradually colonised it. While sailing around Surtsey, you will enjoy a unique panorama of this extraordinary island's contours. This land seated off the southern coast of Iceland is the largest of the Vestmann islands, and is the only inhabited island in the archipelago. The steep Edfell volcanoes and the green prairies of Herjólfsdalur offer rich contrast of nature. On the Stórhöfði road, look out over grey sand beaches and cliffs carved out by the Arctic ocean. From here, you can also see the bronze landscapes of the mountaintops. You could visit Eldheimar, an ultra-modern and interactive museum which traces the volcanic eruption has experienced Heimaey in 1973.



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DAY 3: Hornafjörður

Hornafjörður is a small town located in the eponymous fjord in the south-east of Iceland, in Vatnajökull National Park where the country's largest ice cap can be found. From this fjord that is also home to the small town of Höfn, you will have the possibility of discovering the Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon. In this incredible landscape, the glaciers calve icebergs that are carried toward the ocean by the currents via a small channel and eventually beach themselves. You will be able to admire the beauty of these blue icebergs on the black volcanic beaches. On the very aptly named Diamond Beach, the striking contrast between the colours and the elements is breathtaking.



DAY 4: Seyðisfjörður

At the end of your journey through the heart of a very beautiful 17-km-long fjord, discover Seyðisfjörður, on the north-east coast of Iceland. Its typically Scandinavian, colourful houses and small blue church stand in the middle of an enchanting setting, between rivers and waterfalls. The village, surrounded on all sides by mountains with snow-topped peaks, has around 700 inhabitants. This small fishing port with a very picturesque charm is not far from Skálanes, a nature reserve of more than 1,000 hectares that is home to about fifty bird species. This port of call combines nature and culture, with wonderment guaranteed.



DAY 5: Húsavík

According to the Landnámabók, a manuscript describing the discovery of Iceland by the Scandinavians in the 9th and 10th centuries, Húsavík is the site of the first Nordic settlement in Iceland. This small fishing port very close to the Arctic Circle is known for being the place where there is the highest chance of spotting whales. A museum is even dedicated to them. The small town is also the ideal departure point for discovering Ásbyrgi Canyon, a geological treasure that is the subject of Nordic legends. The horseshoe-shaped canyon is divided in two by a huge rock formation called Eyjan (island in Icelandic). Covered in trees, the canyon is said to have appeared when Sleipnir, the god Odin's horse, set one of his eight hooves down on the ground.



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DAY 6: Grímsey

Grímsey is the northernmost island of Iceland surging from the Arctic ocean, with the Arctic circle running through the island. Its contrasted contours are surprising. From Grímseyjarhreppur, the island's only town located on the west coast, then heading due south, you can take in the beauty of the hillsides, lushly carpeted with moss and grass. On the rest of the coastline, imposing basalt cliffs inhabited by sea birds stand proud.



DAY 7: Akureyri

The elegant city of Akureyri is located very close to the Arctic circle, tucked away in the Eyjafjörður fjord. It displays a stunning palette of colours: blue waters in the harbour, bronze mountain ash on the squares and brightly-coloured houses in the historical centre. As you walk along the cobbled streets, you will come across rows of terraces with wooden furniture. A vast stairway cut into the hillside leads up to the emblematic feature of the town, namely the Akureyrarkirkja church. The very beautiful botanical garden made possible by a microclimate offers the opportunity to discover the Icelandic flora as well as plants from all over the world.



DAY 8: Siglufjörður

Set on the banks of a magnificent fjord edged with summits with alpine silhouettes, Siglufjörður is a small fishing village in the north of the Tröllaskagi peninsular. Former "herring capital", the small town flourished until the beginning of the 1960s and saw its population grow as a consequence. The Herring Era Museum, the country's largest maritime museum, will let you travel back in time and discover, thanks to faithful reconstructions, people's lives at the time: fishing boats, salting station, and the dwellings and offices of the fishing captains.



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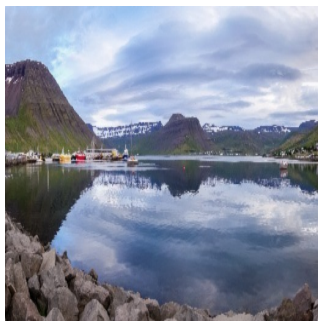
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DAY 9: Isafjörður

Your ship will take you to the heart of the fjords of North-West Iceland, a wild land of lost valleys and steep cliffs, where man struggles to survive. In this very isolated region we find the Isafjörður fjord, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful in the country, mainly for its relief, forged by many very ancient basaltic flows. The town of Isafjörður, which nestles at the back of its fjord, between imposing mountains, is a delightful little town that lives exclusively from fishing. The capital of the Western fjords, its old wooden houses bear witness to its past as a major fishing port.



DAY 10: Grundarfjörður

This secret boreal hideaway is located at the foot of the Kirkjufell, on Snaefellsnes peninsula. Arriving by boat means you will get a closer view of the lava-stone rock standing like a sentinel at the entrance to the bay; Grundarfjörður lies sheltered behind this cone-shaped rock. A stone's throw from the jetty, crystal clear waters, tundra and beaches give onto the cerulean waters of Breiðafjörður. Scattered with its emerald-coloured lawns, this town, with its buildings that merge into the surrounding countryside, will most certainly win your favour.



DAY 11: Arrive back in Reykjavik & Disembark - Day 11-12

Arrive early on day 11 into Reykjavik and disembark around 7:00am on day 12. Iceland's capital stretches along the edge of a vast bay in the west of the country. Perlan, the "Pearl of Reykjavík", a museum located on 'Oskjuhlíð hill, offers a panoramic view of the lush, green landscapes. A little further, one can easily spot the signpost showing the way to the evangelical Hallgrímskirkja church, and to the historical centre where one can stroll along the Skólavörðustígur and the Laugavegur, two lively streets with charming small shops. For some relaxation just outside of the city, visitors have the opportunity to visit the Reykjanes peninsula and its famous thermal lagoons of the Blue Lagoon.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<p>INCLUSIONS</p> <p>Cabin accommodation on board ship</p> <p>All meals whilst on board</p> <p>Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition crew</p> <p>Unlimited Open bar & included Mini bar</p> <p>Free WiFi on board</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS</p> <p>International flights</p> <p>Transfers to/from airport to vessel</p> <p>Pre and post land arrangements and accommodation in Reykjavík</p> <p>Any optional activities not mentioned in itinerary</p> <p>Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)</p> <p>Travel Insurance</p> <p>Any Personal Expenses</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available on request. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	<p>Please note this expedition may be subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.</p> <p>On some days of the itinerary there may be optional shore excursions available, please ask your Destination Specialist for more information.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are

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paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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