THE ARCTIC - ICELAND CIRCUMNAVIGATION: HELICOPTERS, GLACIERS AND VOLCANOES | ULTRAMARINE



TRIP CODE
ACQEICIR
DEPARTURE
10/07/2028
DURATION
12 Days
LOCATIONS
Iceland, The Arctic

INTRODUCTION

Explore the untamed beauty of Iceland on a 12-day circumnavigation aboard the Ultramarine, combining the power of nature with immersive adventure. Journey by ship, zodiac, coach and helicopter to discover waterfalls, lava fields, puffin colonies, volcanoes, and glaciers - Including iconic sites like Kirkjufell and Vatnajokull National Park. This one-of-a-kind expedition offers a rare chance to cross the Arctic Circle and witness Iceland's raw wilderness beyond the usual tourist routes.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Iceland



Arrive at the international airport in Keflavik, and transfer independently to your included hotel in Reykjavik, which is about 40 minutes away. Depending on your arrival time, you may wish to explore Iceland’s fascinating capital. Plenty of cultural and historical landmarks are located right near the walkable city center.

DAY 2: Embarkation



Enjoy your complimentary breakfast at the hotel. Your transfer to the ship is scheduled for the afternoon, leaving you time to explore Reykjavik in the morning and have lunch on your own before you rendez-vous back at the hotel for the bus transfer to the port.

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DAY 3: West Snaefellsnes Peninsula

The scenic Snaefellsnes Peninsula in West Iceland is renowned for its diverse landscapes: glaciers, mountains, lava fields, geothermal areas and ruggedly beautiful coastlines. Often referred to as “miniature Iceland” or “Iceland in a nutshell,” the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, while not vast, is a microcosm of all of the natural wonders and dramatic landscapes you’ll see throughout Iceland. This exciting day begins with guests disembarking Ultramarine and traveling by coach bus—with local guides and members of our expedition team—to visit the lonely Kirkjufell (“Church Mountain”), which rises from the sea as a dramatic backdrop for Kirkjufellsfoss waterfall—undoubtedly the most photographed location in all of Iceland. Kirkjufell may be extra familiar to fans of “Game of Thrones” in which the mountain appeared as one of the landmarks beyond “The Wall.” The tour of the peninsula may also include visits to some of the tiny, beautiful villages that dot the peninsula. The majority of these small settlements, the most notable of which include Arnarstapi, Grundarfjörður and Stykkishólmur, are located on the northern side of the peninsula, where communities rely on the rich fishing grounds of Breiðafjörður Bay. Tourism and fishing drive the local economy. You’ll also be able to stretch your legs on a short walk along a craggy but undemanding foot path along coastal cliffs that offers views of the Arnarstapi rock arch, also known as Gatklettur, formed from massive basalt columns. A section of this short trail passes through a lava field, a signature Icelandic experience. Other highlights of today’s outing include a visit to the Bjarnarhöfn Shark Museum, and an Icelandic food tasting experience. You can’t leave Iceland without sampling hakarl (fermented shark).



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DAY 4: The Westfjords - Day 4 to 6

Each region of Iceland has its own appeal for nature seekers, birding enthusiasts and history-lovers, and the seldom-visited Westfjords, where the land meets the sea in the most dramatic fashion, is no exception. Often referred to as “Iceland’s best-kept secret,” this rugged peninsula at the country’s remote northwestern tip is rife with fjords, and mountains that slope gracefully down to the sea. We’ll spend our time exploring the fjords and shores of Iceland’s oldest region, enjoying its kaleidoscope of diverse land and seascapes. Here, tumbling cliffs and gushing waterfalls alternate with colorful beaches, and rolling green hills lead up to high moorlands dotted with rocky outcrops, small lakes, and the occasional shaggy Icelandic sheep or pony grazing in the distance. A few modest outposts of civilization, in the form of small fishing communities nestled along the fjords and shores of the Denmark Strait, face out into the mighty Atlantic—keeping alive a maritime heritage going back to the Viking days.



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DAY 7: Northern Iceland - Day 7 & 8

Iceland is truly a land of contrasts. This becomes increasingly evident over the next two days as our coach bus follows the iconic Diamond Circle route. You'll soon learn that the north of Iceland, with its long valleys and peninsulas, is interspersed with mountains, lava fields, and smooth hills carved out over time by the unceasing river flow. Many firsttime visitors to the region are surprised to discover that the deep and numerous indentations along the northern coasts are alternately lush with vegetation—or completely barren. Your sense of awe will be intensified as we approach the Arctic Circle and the captivating brilliance of the midnight sun. Prepare to be overwhelmed by some of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe: Dettifoss (unrivalled in its thunderous roar), the historic Goðafoss (also known as "Waterfall of the Gods") and the beautiful Aldeyjarfoss (which cascades 20 meters over a wall of hexagonal basalt columns). You'll be equally awestruck by the spectacular Kolugljúfur and Jökulsárgljúfur gorges, the rocky sea stacks of Hvítserk and Stórakarl, the horseshoe-shaped Ásbyrgi Canyon, the geological wonders of Mývatn and the lava fields of Dimmuborgir—which appeared in numerous scenes in "Game of Thrones." Anticipate some surreal moments at Hverir, where you'll witness bubbling mud pots and geothermal vents, and likewise at Skútustaðir, where you'll encounter pseudocraters, volcanic features formed not by eruptions but by steam from underground. You can also fulfill a polar milestone on this voyage by crossing the Arctic Circle. In fact, you'll get to visit the small island of Grímsey (population: 70), which is the only part of Iceland that lies within the Arctic Circle. Expect to see large populations of puffins. While the stunning scenery will prompt you to reach for your camera over and over again, we invite you to stand still for a moment, put down your device, and simply embrace the wonder of this enchanting landscape.



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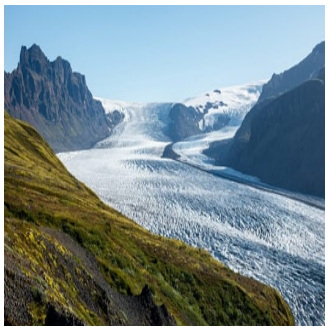
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DAY 9: East Iceland - Day 9 & 10

East Iceland is characterized by fantastic scenery, featuring deep narrow fjords, and tall mountains. The region is home to the country's largest forest (Hallormsstaðaskógur), lush farmlands and plenty of streams and mountains. Thanks to the abundant fjords and their natural harbors, picturesque fishing villages line the coast. Iceland's biggest rhyolite (volcanic) formations—those easily accessible from an inhabited area—are found around the village of Borgarfjörður Eystri, while impressive magma chambers filled with colorful mineral deposits can be visited along the eastern coast. In the summer months, the east of Iceland becomes a creative hub for artists and young people from Iceland and abroad. You'll have opportunities on these two days to view some of this stunning scenery during a heli flightseeing adventure (weather permitting, of course), and during a coach excursion to Vatnajökull National Park, with its abundance of glaciers (notably Vatnajökull), volcanoes, waterfalls and geothermal springs. Plentiful activities await us in the park: we'll travel to Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, a stunning glacial lake; explore the spectacular icebergs at Jökulsárlón; spend time at black sand Diamond Beach; and take a guided glacier hike in Skaftafell area.



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DAY 11: The Westman Islands

East Iceland is characterized by fantastic scenery, featuring deep narrow fjords, and tall mountains. The region is home to the country's largest forest (Hallormsstaðaskógur), lush farmlands and plenty of streams and mountains. Thanks to the abundant fjords and their natural harbors, picturesque fishing villages line the coast. Iceland's biggest rhyolite (volcanic) formations—those easily accessible from an inhabited area—are found around the village of Borgarfjörður Eystri, while impressive magma chambers filled with colorful mineral deposits can be visited along the eastern coast. In the summer months, the east of Iceland becomes a creative hub for artists and young people from Iceland and abroad. You'll have opportunities on these two days to view some of this stunning scenery during a heli flightseeing adventure (weather permitting, of course), and during a coach excursion to Vatnajökull National Park, with its abundance of glaciers (notably Vatnajökull), volcanoes, waterfalls and geothermal springs. Plentiful activities await us in the park: we'll travel to Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, a stunning glacial lake; explore the spectacular icebergs at Jökulsárlón; spend time at black sand Diamond Beach; and take a guided glacier hike in Skaftafell area.



DAY 12: Disembark in Reykjavik

You'll disembark in Reykjavik, Iceland's bustling capital, at the end of your journey. If you have booked postexpedition accommodation, we provide a transfer to a central downtown location.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Cabin On Board Ship

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Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Leadership throughout your voyage by experienced Expedition Leaders, including shore landings and other activities All zodiac transfers and cruising as per the daily program All shore landings as per the daily program Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage Free beer, standard wines, spirits, and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner Complimentary coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled A photographic journal documenting the expedition A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and zodiac cruising excursions An official parka to keep Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin Complimentary Wi-Fi service on one device permitting basic internet browsing, email, posting on social media and voice applications All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program All luggage handling aboard the ship **EXCLUSIONS** International airfare Arrival and departure transfers in Reykjavik Passport and visa expenses Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above Meals ashore unless otherwise specified Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance - Strongly recommended Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights Mandatory waterproof pants for zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified Phone charges may vary by location Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew Additional overnight accommodation Adventure options not listed
Difficulty Rating	2 (Light Adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.

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Notes	Prices are based on per person, and vary from single, triple, and twin cabins. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages.

SUSTAINABILITY

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