Itinerary

8 Day Iceland Expedition Cruise ~ Circumnavigation from Reykjavík

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Reykjavík

Today marks the beginning of your Icelandic adventure as you head to Reykjavík Harbour to board your expedition cruise. Reykjavík, a delightful city known for its relaxed atmosphere and rich cultural tapestry, offers a wealth of art, history, and unique experiences. It's definitely worth spending some time exploring before you embark on your voyage.
When you arrive at Reykjavík Harbour, your expedition ship will be waiting to welcome you. After a friendly reception and the presentation of your complimentary expedition jacket, you can settle into your comfortable cabin and prepare for your first dinner on board. This marks the start of what promises to be an unforgettable journey.

If you have some extra time before your cruise, consider enhancing your experience by booking our Pre-Programme. This optional extension is a perfect way to delve into Iceland's natural wonders and highlights before your expedition begins. It's a wonderful opportunity to add even more adventure and exploration to your trip, ensuring you make the most of your time in this extraordinary destination.

MEALS: Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 2: Stykkisholmur

The majestic Kirkjufell mountain, one of the best-known landmarks of Iceland, rises just two miles west of the small harbour of Grundarfjörður, a quaint fishing town in Breiðafjörður bay. This iconic peak is often depicted in photographs and postcards, capturing its striking shape and scenic surroundings.
Nearby lies Snæfellsnes Peninsula National Park, home to the stunning, ice-capped Snæfellsjökull volcano at the peninsula's western tip. This area is affectionately nicknamed 'Little Iceland' due to its diverse array of landscapes, encapsulating many of Iceland's natural wonders in one region.

At Snæfellsnes Peninsula National Park, you can explore the dramatic black sand beach of Djúpalónssandur, known for its smooth pebbles and shipwreck remnants. The Saxhóll crater offers an opportunity for a short hike to its summit, providing breathtaking views of the surrounding area. For a truly unique experience, consider riding a snowcat to the top of the Snæfellsjökull glacier, where you'll be treated to panoramic vistas of the peninsula.

Alternatively, delve beneath the earth's surface with a guided underground tour along a gigantic lava tube, uncovering the volcanic history of this captivating landscape.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 3: Isafjörður

Flanked by towering mountains on all sides, Ísafjörður boasts a nearly perfect natural harbour, making it an excellent gateway to the Westfjords region. This charming town invites you to stroll around and take in its unique architecture, shop for a variety of local handicrafts, and admire some of the oldest houses in Iceland.
One of these historic 18th-century buildings is home to the Westfjords Heritage Museum. Here, you can immerse yourself in the rich maritime history of this fascinating port, exploring exhibits that tell the story of the region's fishing and seafaring traditions.

For those seeking a more energetic adventure, the steep hike up to Naustahvilft, also known as the Troll's Throne, is a must. The trail may be challenging, but your efforts will be richly rewarded at the top with breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding fjords and mountains. The hike offers a perfect blend of physical exertion and natural beauty, providing an unforgettable experience for outdoor enthusiasts.

Whether you're interested in history, culture, or outdoor adventures, Ísafjörður has something to offer every visitor, making it a highlight of any journey through the Westfjords.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 4: Akureyri and Goðafoss

Gaze at snowcapped peaks as we cruise into Eyjafjörður, Iceland's longest fjord. This stunning fjord, along with the neighbouring Skjálfandi bay, is renowned as one of the best places in Europe to spot whales. The tranquil waters and dramatic landscapes create an ideal environment for observing these majestic marine creatures in their natural habitat.
At the head of the fjord lies Akureyri, Iceland's so-called 'Northern Capital'. This charming town offers a variety of attractions, including a lush botanical garden, where you can enjoy a peaceful retreat amidst an array of native and exotic plant species. Akureyri is also home to numerous local eateries and museums, providing a perfect blend of culinary and cultural experiences.

A short drive from Akureyri takes you to the picturesque Goðafoss waterfall. Here, you can marvel at the sight of turquoise waters cascading over black rocks, creating a mesmerizing display of natural beauty. The waterfall's name, which means "Waterfall of the Gods," reflects its significant place in Icelandic history and mythology.

Continuing your journey, you'll arrive at Lake Mývatn, an active volcanic area where geology truly comes to life. This region is one of the few places where you can see the Mid-Atlantic Ridge up close, offering a unique glimpse into the powerful geological forces shaping our planet. The area around Lake Mývatn is dotted with geothermal features, including hot springs, mud pots, and lava fields, making it a fascinating destination for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike.

Whether you're captivated by the allure of whale watching, the serene beauty of Akureyri, or the dramatic landscapes of Lake Mývatn, this journey through Eyjafjörður and its surroundings promises unforgettable

experiences and lasting memories.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 5: Húsavík

Húsavík is a charming small town renowned for its exceptional whale-watching opportunities, and we'll be arriving here in the morning. Nestled on the shores of Skjálfandi bay, Húsavík offers stunning views and the chance to witness a variety of marine life. The bay is frequented by humpback and minke whales, white-beaked dolphins, harbour porpoises, and occasionally the majestic blue whales. If you're fortunate, you might spot one or more of these magnificent creatures. To deepen your understanding of these giants of the sea, a visit to Húsavík's Whale Museum is highly recommended, where you can explore fascinating exhibits about whale biology, conservation, and history.
Húsavík is also regarded as the gateway to many of the northern region's most spectacular natural wonders. Nearby, you can explore Jökulsárgljúfur National Park, home to a dramatic landscape shaped by volcanic activity and glacial rivers. The park features the powerful Dettifoss waterfall, renowned as Europe's most forceful cascade, where you can feel the sheer power of nature as the water plunges into the canyon below. Another highlight is the horseshoe-shaped valley of Ásbyrgi, which, according to Icelandic myths, was formed by the hoofprint of Sleipnir, the eight-legged horse of Odin. This lush, forested valley offers serene walking trails and breathtaking views.

In the afternoon, we will sail along the coast of Grimsey Island, known for its seabird colonies and rugged cliffs. Although we won't be landing, this scenic journey takes us across the Arctic Circle, providing a unique opportunity to experience the dramatic change in latitude as we continue to our next destination.

Whether you're captivated by the marine wildlife of Húsavík, the geological wonders of Jökulsárgljúfur National Park, or the mythic beauty of Ásbyrgi, this part of Iceland promises unforgettable experiences and stunning natural beauty at every turn.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 6: Bakkagerði

Your Iceland cruise continues to Bakkagerði, a tiny and remote settlement steeped in folklore and natural beauty. According to local legends, Bakkagerði is inhabited by a large population of huldufólk, or 'hidden people'—the elves of Icelandic lore. As you walk around town, you'll have the chance to explore this enchanting place and perhaps even spot signs of its mystical residents.
Bakkagerði is a popular hiking area, offering trails that wind through lush, green valleys and stunning scenery set against colorful rhyolite rocks. These vibrant landscapes provide a picturesque backdrop for your outdoor adventures. In season, the coastal cliffs come alive with an array of birdlife, including fulmars, kittiwakes, eiders, and the iconic puffins.

One of the highlights of our visit may include a trip to the Atlantic Puffin colony on Hafnarhólmi. This small islet is a true gem for nature lovers and wildlife photographers, providing unparalleled opportunities to observe these charming birds up close in their natural habitat. The sight of puffins nesting and taking flight

is sure to be a memorable experience.

Whether you are enchanted by the tales of huldufólk, captivated by the stunning landscapes, or thrilled by the vibrant birdlife, Bakkagerði offers a unique and magical stop on your Iceland cruise.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 7: Heimaey

Heimaey is the only inhabited island in the Westman Islands, located off the south coast of Iceland. This unique island boasts a fascinating history and still bears the dramatic scars of a powerful volcanic eruption that nearly destroyed it in 1973.
A visit to Eldheimar Museum is a must. This captivating museum features an excavated home that was buried under volcanic ash, preserved as a time capsule of the eruption's aftermath. Through interactive exhibits and detailed displays, you can learn about the eruption, the incredible efforts to save the town, and the resilience of Heimaey's inhabitants.

For nature enthusiasts, a hike to Stórhöfði is highly recommended. Known as one of the windiest places in Europe, Stórhöfði is also home to around eight million puffins during the summer nesting season. This is an unparalleled opportunity to observe these charming birds up close as they nest in the cliffs and fly over the ocean.

Another highlight is the hike up Mount Eldfell, the volcano responsible for the 1973 eruption. The ascent to Eldfell’s summit is not too strenuous and offers breathtaking panoramic views of the island and the surrounding sea. The red lava fields and volcanic craters create a surreal landscape that is both beautiful and haunting.

Exploring Heimaey provides a unique blend of geological wonders, rich history, and abundant wildlife. Whether you're delving into the island's volcanic past at Eldheimar Museum, seeking out puffins at Stórhöfði, or enjoying the stunning vistas from Mount Eldfell, Heimaey promises an unforgettable experience filled with natural and historical marvels.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 8: Reykjavík

Your Iceland expedition cruise wraps up as you return to Reykjavík, offering a perfect chance to explore the attractions you might have missed during your initial visit.
Immerse yourself in Icelandic culture by unwinding with friends in a heittur pottur, or geothermal pool – affectionately known as a “hot pot.” This quintessential Icelandic experience is a soothing way to relax. For an iconic taste of this tradition, consider visiting the Blue Lagoon, one of Iceland’s most renowned natural wonders. Here, you can indulge in the therapeutic blend of silica, algae, and minerals in its geothermal waters, known for their rejuvenating properties.

If you’re eager to delve deeper into Iceland’s unique landscapes and experiences, take advantage of our Post-Programme. This extension offers a chance to further explore the wonders of this remarkable

country before heading home.

MEALS: Breakfast