

Iceland Voyage: Land of Fire and Ice – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **08/08/2022**
to **15/08/2022**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

From **Reykjavík**
to **Reykjavík**



In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys.

This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture.

Discover the most beautiful landscapes on the **Icelandic west coast** during an **8-day PONANT cruise**.

On **the edge of the Arctic**, between vast glaciers, vertiginous fjords, volcanoes and boiling geysers, **Iceland** offers a kaleidoscope of wild and romantic landscapes.

You will board the ship in **Reykjavik**, the world's northernmost capital city. With its houses with colourful roofs and its lake that is home to countless ducks, the city offers a picture-postcard setting.

The first port of call on your cruise: the bay of Grundarfjordur, right near **Kirkjufell**. This **stunning cone-shaped mountain** possesses a unique charm and this will be an opportunity to take some beautiful photos.

Your ship will then reach **Grímsey**, a small, hard-to-reach island where, in certain places, the volcanic rock forms **magnificent basalt columns**. Sea birds reign here.

Finally, you will discover **Heimaey**. This is the only inhabited island in the Westman archipelago. It is an exceptional place composed of volcanoes and almost-desert landscapes, where fishing is the main food source.



Shore excursion or activity in each port of call + transfers included



The information in this document is valid as of 06/07/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

REYKJAVÍK

Embarkation 08/08/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 08/08/2022 at 21:00

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**.

GRUNDARFJÖRDUR

Arrival 09/08/2022 midday

Departure 09/08/2022 late afternoon

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.

GRÍMSEY

Arrival 10/08/2022 early afternoon

Departure 10/08/2022 evening

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.

AKUREYRI

Arrival 11/08/2022 early morning

Departure 11/08/2022 mid afternoon

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.

ISAFJÖRDUR

Arrival 12/08/2022 early morning

Departure 12/08/2022 early afternoon

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.

HEIMAÆY, VESTMANNAEYJAR

Arrival 13/08/2022 midday

Departure 13/08/2022 early evening

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.

REYKJAVÍK

Arrival 14/08/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 15/08/2022 at 07:00

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**.