

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£200**  
PER PERSON

# ICELAND'S NATURAL WONDERS

A circumnavigation of Iceland  
aboard the **Ocean Diamond**

7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019



NOBLE CALEDONIA



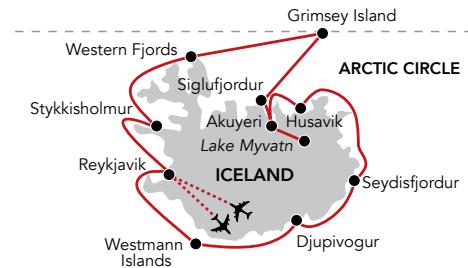
Lake Myvatn

Join us for our circumnavigation of Iceland aboard the ideally suited Ocean Diamond which we have chartered for our exploration. There is nowhere better to see nature in the raw than Iceland, the ‘Land of Ice & Fire’ and during our expedition we will witness huge ice-caps and glaciers, active volcanoes, gurgling mud pools, steaming hot springs and lava fields. If this were not enough, the immense scale of the landscape is dominated by towering snow-capped mountains, thundering waterfalls and spontaneous erupting geysers.

Iceland, Europe's least populated country offers the visitor an unparalleled experience of elemental forces at work and whilst we sail its waters we will look out for humpback whales, orcas and white-beaked dolphins, taking advantage of weather conditions and possible sightings to achieve the maximum with our time. Early June is the optimum time for our expedition, the skies and rocks will be filled with the sights and sounds of puffins, guillemots and gannets, the wildflowers will be prevalent and the seas will hopefully be rich with whales and marine life.

In addition to the wildlife, the island also provides a unique historical, cultural and geological experience. Under the surface, Iceland simmers with the sparks that are the tell-tale signs of its youthfulness as Europe's most recent geological addition, only 16-20 million years old. Iceland is continuously being created; some of its newest land is a mere 40 years old.

A journey by small ship is the ideal way to get up close to nature and explore areas inaccessible to larger vessels and an expedition such as this can only be undertaken by a special vessel with the self-sufficient qualities of the Ocean Diamond. With her expert expedition team and fleet of Zodiacs we will be able to land on remote beaches and cruise close to shorelines and cliffs crowded with birdlife. Join us on our summer expedition as we explore the magnificent landscapes and learn more of the centuries old legacies of a Viking and Norse heritage. Whether your passion lies in the natural world or discovering lesser visited sites this itinerary will have something for you.



## EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Full circumnavigation of the island
- Excellent bird watching opportunities, most notably whilst cruising past Latrabjarg and Hornbjarg cliffs
- Whale watching, most notably in the waters off Husavik, Iceland's whale watching capital
- Discovery of the island's cultural heritage in Seydisfjordur and Siglufjordur
- Ability to access small ports which larger vessels are unable to access
- Fleet of 14 onboard Zodiacs allows for flexibility and impromptu exploration when and where conditions permit
- Crossing the Arctic Circle on Grimsey



Godafoss Falls



Breidafjordur



Grimsey Island



Husavik

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Reykjavik, Iceland.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Ocean Diamond and sail this evening.

**Day 2 Stykkisholmur.** Arrive this morning at Stykkisholmur located in Breidafjordur Bay and surrounded by an archipelago of islands. The town is famed for its beautiful and well preserved old houses and is also the gateway to the Snaefellsnes Peninsula which is dominated by the Snæfellsjökull volcano, regarded as one of the symbols of Iceland and known as the setting for Jules Verne's "Journey to the Centre of the Earth". A morning tour will drive through the lava landscape to the glacier visiting pretty fishing ports and beaches along the way. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure in the town or maybe join a Zodiac cruise in the archipelago looking for some of the local flora and fauna. Sail this evening past the Latrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Europe and home to thousands of birds including puffins, northern gannets, guillemots and razorbills.

**Day 3 Western Fjords and Isafjordur.** Awake this morning in the Western Fjords, an isolated but spectacular area of Iceland. We will explore Isafjordur with the Ocean Diamond and, depending on local weather conditions, we will also use local boats or our fleet of Zodiacs to land on Vigur, a serene little island with only five residents but home to many more puffins, eider ducks, black guillemots and Arctic terns. Our island walks will also visit Iceland's only extant windmill dating from the 19th century. Alternatively take a scenic drive to the village of Thingeyri, one of the oldest settlements in the Westfjords and the location of the area's first trading post and return to the ship via the thunderous Dynjandi, the highest waterfall in the Westfjords. Ensure you are on deck this evening as we cruise around the north coast of Iceland at the Hornbjarg Cliffs. These stunning cliffs rise 534 metres from the sea and this is one of the largest centres for puffins in Iceland.

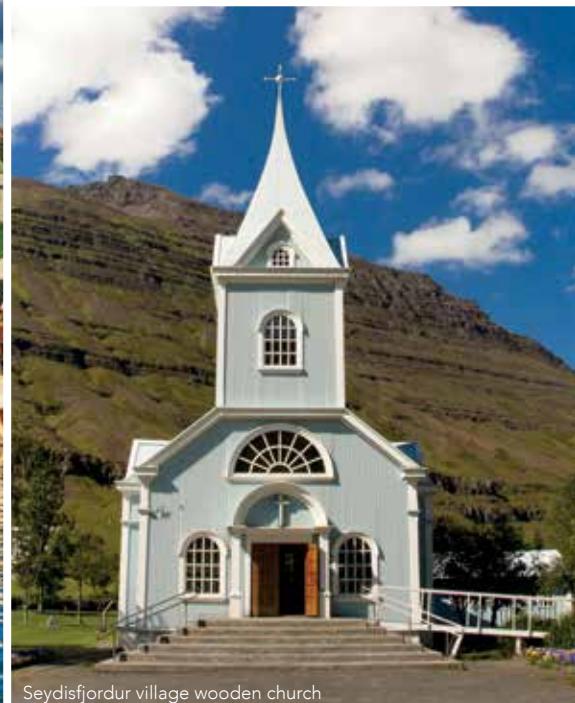
**Day 4 Siglufjordur and Grimsey Island.** Siglufjordur is a picturesque town that enjoys an idyllic setting in a small fjord backed by mountains. Here in the early

1900s, a booming economy due to the herring industry resulted in a prosperous town with some marvellous Icelandic architecture. Stroll through the town and visit the Herring Era Museum. In the afternoon we head to Grimsey Island. The Arctic Circle bisects this island which is known for its tiny community, basalt cliffs and large variety of birdlife. Here we enjoy free time to enjoy a nature walk on the island.

**Day 5 Akuyeri.** This delightful town on the north coast of Iceland is not what you would expect to find in such a remote location. In summer months the gardens and window boxes are ablaze with colour and on a morning tour we will explore the botanic garden where we find species from Africa, China and the Mediterranean growing alongside the Alaskan, Greenlandic and indigenous specimens. We will also have time to explore the town to visit Art Alley, where artisans keep their workshops and galleries, or the local church with its beautiful views over the fjord. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon. Alternatively join a full day tour to the Lake Myvatn-Krafla area, a fine

example of the volcanic world with lava fields, boiling and steaming mud pools and steam vents of sulphur and craters. The area illustrates the sheer magnitude of Iceland's forces at work. The lake itself, with beautiful natural rock formations and hot springs, is also a unique ecosystem and the largest migratory bird sanctuary in Europe. Our route will then take us by Godafoss (falls of the Gods), an imposing sight.

**Day 6 Husavik.** This morning we hope to use the Zodiacs to land on one of the islands of Skjalfandi Bay such as Flatey or Lundey, which translates as "island of puffins". Here you can join nature walks taking in the thousands of birds including puffins, terns and skuas that nest here. Over lunch we will sail to Husavik, the whale capital of Iceland. Using local boats we will explore the bays looking for one of the 15 species of whales that can be found here as well as dolphins and many different kinds of birds. Alternatively explore the pretty town at your own pace and maybe spend time at the excellent whale museum, the exploration museum and the quaint local church.



**Day 7 Seydisfjordur.** Today we arrive at the natural harbour at Seydisfjordur which has preserved its fishing heritage from the early 19th century and its architectural style. On a walking tour we will pass brightly painted and well preserved wooden buildings and visit the shops famous for their Icelandic patterned woollens. The keen walkers might prefer an energetic hike up the river trail through a verdant landscape of wildflowers.

**Day 8 Djupivogur.** Today we will see the shimmering white Vatnajokull Glacier, Europe's largest glacier which is sometimes called an icecap. The 600 metre thick ice surmounts active volcanoes, one of which erupted in 1996, creating a crater on the surface of the glacier, a most unusual phenomenon. There will be a range of options today and the keen birders can join our ornithologist for a hike. A town walk will include the local museum with sculptures by Rikadur Jonsson as well as the stone garden workshop. Meanwhile there will be an option to visit nearby Papay Island where we will see the lighthouse and some

of the nesting birds. Alternatively a full day tour will venture to Jokulsarlon where we can watch the glacier which calves icebergs into the land-locked lagoon.

**Day 9 Westmann Islands.** Our last morning in Iceland is spent at the Vestmannaeyjar (Westmann Islands). Islanders here live with a dramatic volcanic history. In 1973 the island of Heimaey experienced an eruption which created a new mountain, Eldfell, known as Mount Fire. This morning, as part of our exploration of the Westmann Islands, we will circumnavigate Surtsey Island which was created volcanically in 1963 and is a closed nature reserve. Few places in the world illustrate more dramatically the powerful forces of nature. Later we will arrive at the only community, Heimaey, where half buried houses can be partially seen peeking out through the lava and ash. This afternoon if time permits we will use the Zodiacs to explore the cliffs and coves.

**Day 10 Reykjavik to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

## REYKJAVIK POST-CRUISE EXTENSION 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019

If you would like to spend some time in Reykjavik, we are offering a two night optional extension staying at a centrally located hotel on a bed and breakfast basis. During your stay there will be a half day Reykjavik city orientation tour and a full day tour to the Golden Circle including the Geysir geothermal area, Gullfoss Waterfall and Thingvellir National Park.

**Prices per person** based on double occupancy

Twin: £595 Single: £695

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy (triple occupancy for category H)

#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Deck	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
H	Triple Cabin	Lower	£4395	£4195
G	Twin Cabin with restricted Views	Upper	£4495	£4295
F	Twin Cabin with restricted views	Captains	£4595	£4395
E	Twin Cabin with portholes	Lower	£4695	£4495
D	Twin Cabin with window	Main	£4795	£4595
C	Twin cabin with window	Upper /Captains	£4895	£4695
B	Suite with two windows	Main	£5095	£4895
A	Balcony Suite	Observation	£5795	£5595
F	For sole use	Captains	£5695	£5495
E	For sole use	Lower	£5795	£5595

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Nine nights aboard the Ocean Diamond on a full board basis • House drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance. **NB.** Ports and itinerary subject to change.



## OCEAN DIAMOND

For our Iceland expedition we are working with our associates at Iceland Pro Cruises and the charming Ocean Diamond. The 224 passenger vessel was completely refurbished in Norway in 2012 and is perfect for our exploration being large enough to provide stability, speed, spacious cabins and ample public space, yet small enough to manoeuvre in remote areas. The vessel is outfitted with the most current navigational and communications technology as well as with retractable stabilisers for smooth sailing. The vessel is ice strengthened and features 14 Zodiacs for our forays ashore.

### Your Cabin/Suite

With a maximum of 224 passengers, the Ocean Diamond offers cabins across its five decks. There are a range of cabins and suites available and all feature outside views (porthole, window or balcony), full private en-suite bathrooms featuring bathtub or shower, a writing desk, individual temperature control, refrigerator, satellite phone access, hairdryer and flat-screen television and DVD player. Cabins range in size from 17 square metres to 30 square metres.

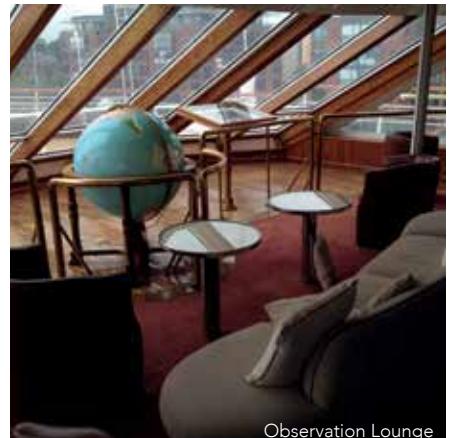
### Your Space

The Ocean Diamond features spacious public areas and ample deck space from where you can admire the beautiful passing landscapes. Public areas and facilities include an observation lounge

with bar, a fitness centre, pool with bar, Sun Deck, lecture theatre with state of the art audio visual equipment, library and lounge. The restaurant serves all passengers in one, open seating and the cuisine is international. There is also a gift shop, clinic and a spa on board.

### Your Dining

The single sitting restaurant is located on the Lower Deck and is both spacious and light. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style and dinner is served to your table. All meals include a vegetarian option. Afternoon tea is also served daily around the afternoon excursions and coffee, tea and water are available complimentary around the clock. Weather permitting, there will be the opportunity to dine outside on occasion.



Observation Lounge

