

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

# ICELAND'S NATURAL WONDERS

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

3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 & 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Geyser



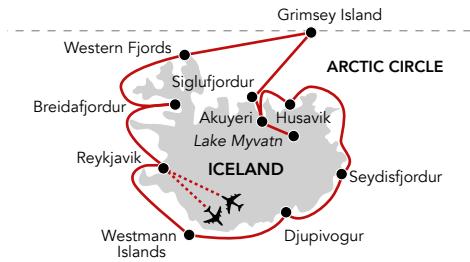
Puffin

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 is 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 whilst cruising, 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



Whale watching, Husavik



Breidafjordur



Godafoss Falls

## 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 Breidafjordur.** This morning we see the advantages of our small ship as we start to explore the fjords north of Reykjavik. We will start in Breidafjordur enjoying expedition cruising in the small islets where we will see thousands of birds. We will also keep an eye out for whales and if time permits try and land on one of the islands for a nature walk. In the afternoon we will cruise past the Latrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Europe and home to millions of birds including puffins, northern gannets, guillemots and razorbills.

**Day 3 Western Fjords.** Awake this morning in the Western Fjords, an isolated but spectacular area of Iceland. We will also use our Zodiacs to explore Isafjordur and Jokulfjordur and, whilst the itinerary will be dependent on local weather conditions, we hope to land on Vigur, a serene little island with only five residents but home to

thousands of puffins, eider ducks and Arctic terns. We can also visit Iceland's only extant windmill dating from the 19th century. Alternatively visit the villages of Thingeyri, one of the oldest settlements in the Westfjords and the location of the area's first trading post and Hrafnsseyri which boasts an old Viking farm and is also the birthplace of nationalist leader Jón Sigurðsson who was instrumental in Iceland gaining its independence from Denmark. Before returning to the ship we will see the thunderous Dynjandi, the highest waterfall in the Westfjords. Ensure you are on deck this afternoon as we cruise round 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.

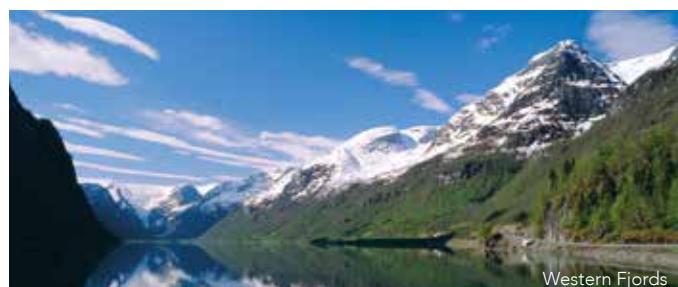
**Day 4 Sigrufjordur and Grimsey Island.** Sigrufjordur is a picturesque town that enjoys an idyllic setting in a small fjord backed by mountains. Here in the early 1900s, a booming economy due to the herring industry resulted in a prosperous town with some marvellous Icelandic architecture.

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.** From Akuyeri we travel by bus 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. Alternatively join a tour to the 3500 year old Lofthellir lava and on the way pass the unique Hverfell Volcano, the crater row of Ludentarborgir and to the base of Mount Hvannfell. From there it's a 20-minute walk across lava fields to the cavern. Within the 1200-foot-long cave you can observe what are considered to be the most impressive natural ice sculptures in Iceland.

**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



Western Fjords



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.

**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 Norwegian style 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, 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.

We will venture out on a guided excursion and, after a local seafood lunch, watch the glacier which calves icebergs into the land-locked lagoon of Jokulsarlon.

**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, a most unusual phenomenon.

## REYKJAVIK POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

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 willl 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: £475 Single: £595

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy (triple occupancy for category H)

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Deck	2017	2018
H	Triple Cabin	Lower	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>£4195</b>
G	Twin Cabin with restricted Views	Upper	<b>£4095</b>	<b>£4295</b>
F	Twin Cabin with restricted views	Captains	<b>£4195</b>	<b>£4395</b>
E	Twin Cabin with portholes	Lower	<b>£4295</b>	<b>£4495</b>
D	Twin Cabin with window	Main	<b>£4395</b>	<b>£4595</b>
C	Twin cabin with window	Upper /Captains	<b>£4495</b>	<b>£4695</b>
B	Suite with two windows	Main	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>£4895</b>
A	Balcony Suite	Observation	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>£5595</b>
F	For sole use	Captains	<b>£5195</b>	<b>£5395</b>
E	For sole use	Lower	<b>£5295</b>	<b>£5495</b>

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, nine nights aboard the Ocean Diamond on a full board basis, house drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia Expedition Team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB.** Ports and itinerary subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.



## 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 and 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.

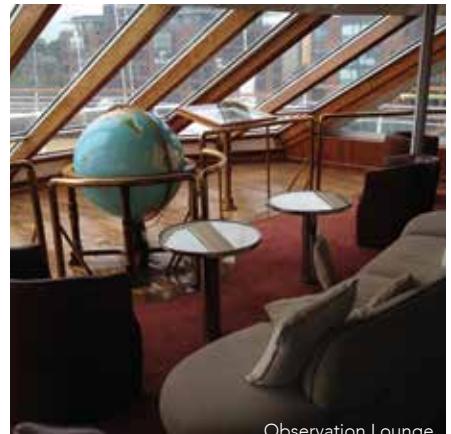
### Your Space

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 cuisine onboard is international. There is also a gift shop, clinic and a spa onboard.

### 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

