

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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£300
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ICELANDIC WONDERS

DISCOVER ICELAND'S NATURAL SPLENDOURS
INCLUDING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS
ABOARD THE OCEAN DIAMOND

JUNE & SEPTEMBER 2019

ICELAND'S NATURAL WONDERS

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

7th to 16th June 2019



Godafoss Falls



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.

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.

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 Snæfellsnes 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 Lundy, 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. 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 16th to 18th 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: £725 Single: £1095

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.

UNDER THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

A tour of Iceland in search of the Northern Lights & whales including a three night cruise aboard the **Ocean Diamond**

22nd to 28th September 2019

Iceland is a truly exceptional country and with majestic waterfalls, volcanoes, thermal pools, hot springs and geological formations, nature here reigns supreme. Due to its location on the edge of the Arctic Circle, Iceland is also well placed to view another of Mother Nature's amazing phenomena, the Aurora Borealis, a magnificent display of the Northern Lights forming spectacular arcs of colour in the sky. Witnessing the phenomena is of course dependent on weather conditions and cannot be guaranteed but having timed our visit for after the equinox when the nights are fully dark should increase our chances of seeing the auroras. In addition to our three nights spent in hotels, we have the added advantage of spending three nights at sea when we can retreat from any light pollution to enhance the odds even further.

Whilst we hope to view the Northern Lights during our six night visit to Iceland, there is much else included in our new tour to occupy us and by combining three nights of overland touring with a three night cruise, we will be able to discover both the interior and coastline. We will explore Reykjavik, experience Lake Myvatn's volcanic craters, ash cones, lava fields and boiling mud pools and spend time in Husavik, the whale capital of Iceland where during a local boat trip we have excellent chances of viewing some of the many species of whale in the region. After embarking the Ocean Diamond which we have chartered for three nights, we travel to the Westfjords, the least visited, wonderfully wild and relatively inaccessible region of Iceland before sailing around the west coast to access the ruggedly beautiful Snaefellsnes Peninsula.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Reykjavik, Iceland. Fly by scheduled flight and on arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free to explore independently.



Day 2 Reykjavik & West Iceland. After breakfast in the hotel we will take a city tour of Reykjavik seeing the Hallgrimmskirkja church, Harpa Concert Hall, the Solfar sculpture and the historic Hofdi House where the summit between Reagan and Gorbachev was held in 1986. Leaving the city

we will visit Thingvellir National Park, the ancient site of the world's first parliament and will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before admiring the beautiful Hraunfossar

waterfalls and Deildartunguhver, the most powerful hot spring in the world. We will continue to our hotel for an overnight stay in West Iceland and will meet for dinner this evening. Hopefully we may have our first view of the Northern Lights this evening.

Day 3 Lake Myvatn & Husavik. After breakfast in the hotel we will drive to the imposing Godafoss, known as the "waterfall of the Gods" before continuing to 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. See the peculiar lava formations at Dimmuborgir and the craters at Skutustadir before driving to Dettifoss, Europe's most powerful waterfall. Continue to our hotel in Husavik for dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 4 Husavik. Husavik is often referred to as the whale capital



Snaefellsjökull Volcano



Humpback whale breaching



Londrangar Rock pinnacles

of Iceland. Using local RIB boats we will explore the bays looking for one of the 15 species of whales that can be found here as well as dolphins. Returning to Husavik we will enjoy lunch and an opportunity to explore the pretty town at leisure, perhaps spend time at the excellent whale museum, the exploration museum and the quaint local church. In the late afternoon we will embark the Ocean Diamond and sail tonight. Sailing off the coast of Iceland, away from light pollution, we hope to improve our chances of seeing the Northern Lights.

Day 5 Isafjordur. Awake this morning in the idyllic town of Isafjordur, the capital of the Westfjords region. This secluded peninsula is connected to the rest of Iceland by only a narrow strip of land and even by Icelandic standards can be described as unusually isolated. The landscape is characterised by mesas and dramatic fjords that cut deep into the landscape. Today a scenic drive will take us to the small village of Thingeyri with only 260 residents. This is one of the oldest settlements in the Westfjords and the location of the area's first trading post. We return to the Ocean Diamond via the

Day 6 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, known as "Iceland in miniature" since this region contains nearly all different kinds of Icelandic scenery and is dominated by the Snæfellsjökull volcano. This is regarded as one of the symbols of Iceland and known as the setting for Jules Verne's "Journey to the Centre of the Earth". Today we will drive through the lava landscape to the glacier visiting pretty fishing ports and beaches along the way as well as the Londrangar Rock pinnacles and Bjarnhofn shark museum. Return to the ship this evening and spend a final evening at sea as we sail to Reykjavik

Day 7 Reykjavik to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight to London.

thunderous Dynjandi, the highest waterfall in the Westfjords. Be on deck tonight when, if weather permits, we hope for further Northern Light viewings.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy (triple occupancy for category H)

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Deck	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
H	Triple Cabin	Lower	£3095	£2795
G	Twin Cabin with restricted Views	Upper	£3195	£2895
F	Twin Cabin with restricted views	Captains	£3295	£2995
E	Twin Cabin with portholes	Lower	£3395	£3095
D	Twin Cabin with window	Main	£3495	£3195
C	Twin cabin with window	Upper /Captains	£3595	£3295
B	Suite with two windows	Main	£3895	£3595
A	Balcony Suite	Observation	£4295	£3995
F	For sole use	Captains	£3995	£3695
E	For sole use	Lower	£4095	£3795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Three nights hotel accommodation as described with breakfast • Lunch & dinner on days 2 & 3 • Three nights accommodation aboard the Ocean Diamond on a full board basis • Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Shore excursions • Expedition Team & Tour Managers • Gratuities • Transfers • Lunch on day 4 • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, dinner on day 1.

NB. The Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon so sightings cannot be guaranteed and sightings are weather dependent.



OCEAN DIAMOND

For our Iceland expeditions 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 explorations 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.

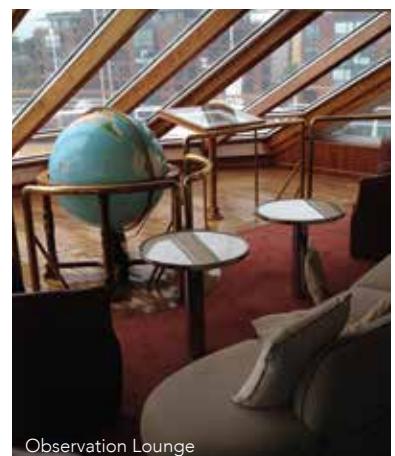
Your Space

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



Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is focused on exploration and discovery with all the creature comforts you would expect from a vessel of this calibre. The onboard crew offer excellent service and in addition the Noble Caledonia Expedition Team will enrich your experience with their knowledge of the region. Through a lecture programme and shore expeditions, they will share their expertise and passion with you. After a day of exploration ashore, you will return to the comfort of a sophisticated ship with a friendly crew and informal atmosphere. A fleet of Zodiacs are used for landings and nature cruises, and during your voyage you will have the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to learn more about your journey, further fostering the expeditionary nature of our voyage.



Exploring by Zodiac

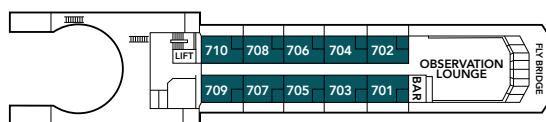


During these voyages you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings

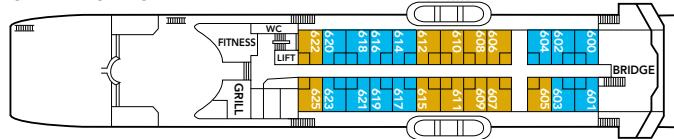
and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

DECK PLAN

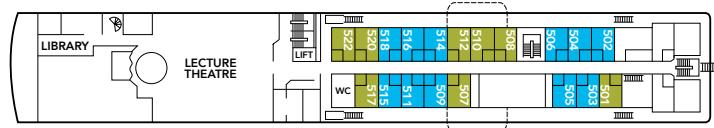
OBSERVATION DECK



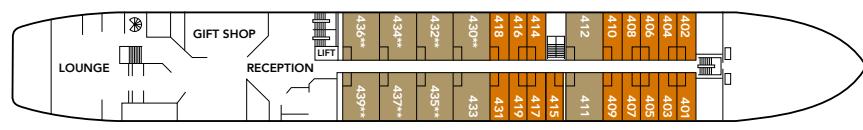
CAPTAIN'S DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



LOWER DECK



* Please note, a few "window" cabins may have partially obstructed views eg. Portion of lifeboat on the deck fore/aft, or view is obstructed looking down.

** Cabins with two upper berths

CATEGORY A
CATEGORY B

CATEGORY C
CATEGORY D

CATEGORY E
CATEGORY F

CATEGORY G
CATEGORY H



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports subject to change.
Cover image: Isafjordur town.

