

# EAST GREENLAND AND AURORA BOREALIS ICELAND GOLDEN CIRCLE

### FROM ELEGANT CITIES TO FAMOUS FJORDS

Embark on an incredible voyage as you are guided by one of the most stunning light shows in the world. On board the Hondius, you will depart on an incredible 9-day voyagethrough the Arctic Circle. Sail through Scoresby Sund, the largest fjord system in the world, filled with giant icebergs and home to multiple species of whale. Encounter the unique and hardy residents of Ittoqqortoormiit, the largest settlement in Scoresbylund, as sled dogs dash past colorful huts, bringing stark contrast to the dramatic surroundinglandscape. Spot unique wildlife from arctic hares to narwhals and polar bears. Last but not least, you will undertake this incredible voyage all the while looking to the stars to witness one of the most incredible natural visual displays as you gaze upon the mystifying Northern Lights.

Today you will visit some of Iceland's most famous attractions with a guided personal small group tour of the classic "Golden Circle" route in South Iceland. One of the many highlights on this journey is Pingvellir National Park, a place of great historical and geological significance that is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Pingvellir is the site of the country's first parliament and is located along the edge of the great rift created by the drifting of the Eurasian and American tectonic plates. Other attractions include the beautiful two-tiered Gullfoss waterfall and the spouting hot springs of Geysir. While Geysir lies dormant, its neighbour Strokkur erupts every few minutes, gushing steam and water from the bowels of the earth. A taste of Icelandic food and drink is included during the tour. On return to Reykjavik, you will see the beautiful waterfall Faxi.



#### **ITINERARY**

DAY 1:7 SEPTEMBER 2023 - ARRIVE BERGEN FREE DAY TO EXPLORE BERGEN



THE CAPITAL OF THE FJORDS

Despite being an international city, Bergen, "The Capital of the Fjords", has all the charms of a small town. Here you'll find **Bryggen**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, along with remarkably preserved old houses, a lively fish and flower market, cable cars offering stunning views, great museums and more. We recommend riding the **Fløibanen** Funicular to Mount Fløyen to enjoy the panoramic view of the city or a cable car up Mt. Ulriken. Bergen is also known for its museums dedicated to history within trade and fisheries, architecture, musical art and contemporary art.

Spend another night in Bergen.

**DAY 2: 8 SEPTEMBER 2023** 

DEPARTURE FROM BERGEN - Reykjavik (Iceland) by flight (not included)



When it's time for your trip to come to an end, make your way to Bergen-Flesland Airport. You can either take the airport bus from one of the many departure points in the Bergen city centre or you can take a taxi directly from your hotel to Bergen-Flesland Airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can choose to enjoy some last-minute shopping, visit one of Bergen's many museums or relax at a café, enjoying the last few moments of this amazing journey. Our journey to Iceland and Greenland will begin when we arrive in the capital of Iceland – **Reykjavik Overnight** 

DAY 3: 9 September 2023 On the Iceland Road



Your journey begins in the morning, where by request you can transfer via chartered bus\* from the city hall of Reykjavik (the meeting point) to the ship in Akureyri (the embarkation point). You arrive in the afternoon after a six-hour drive through northern Iceland. \*Please Note: This transfer is included and must be booked in

advance. In the early evening, the ship departs from the port of Akureyri, sailing north toward the Denmark Strait

# DAY 4: 10 September Sailing to East Greenland

While sailing north you're likely to see fulmars, kittiwakes, gannets, and common guillemots. Youthen cross the Arctic Circle, possibly spotting whales. By evening, the first icebergs flash into sight with your approach to the east Greenland coast, near Brewster.



Today you reach Scoresbysund, sailing along the glaciated Volquart Boons Kyst. You may also enjoy a Zodiac cruise past one of the glacier fronts, along with a visit to the basalt columns and ice formations of Vikingebugt. The afternoon goal is to visit Danmark Island, where you find the remains of an Inuit settlement abandoned around 200 years ago. The circular stone tent rings indicate the summer houses, while the winter houses can be seen closer to a small cape. The sites are well preserved, with easy identifiable





entrances, bear-proof meat caches, and grave sites. In the evening you continue sailing the berg-crowded fjords to the west.

## **DAY 6: 12 September 2023**

Colors of the cape

The goal is a Zodiac cruise near Røde Ø, one of the world's most cherished iceberg attractions:
The austere blue-white of the icebergs sets sharp against the brooding red backdrop of the sediment slopes. The afternoon plan is to sail through the northern parts of Røde Fjord, with the chance to see musk oxen and warm autumnal foliage.



# **DAY 7: 13 September 2023**

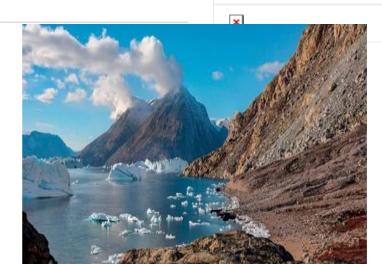
**Enormous bergs, Arctic Hares** 

In the morning you encounter colossal icebergs, some over 100 meters (328 feet) high and more than a kilometer (.62 mile) long. Most of them are grounded, as the fjord is only about 400 meters deep (1,312 feet). You then land near Sydkap, with fine views of Hall Bredning and a good shot of seeing Arctic hares.



# DAY 8: 14 September 2023 Settlement at Scoresbysund

Today you make a tundra landing on Liverpool Land, in Hurry Inlet. The afternoon stop is Ittoqqortoormiit, the largest settlement in Scoresbysund at

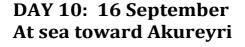


about five hundred inhabitants. At the post office you can buy stamps for your postcards, or just stroll around to see the sled dogs and drying skins of seals and musk oxen. In the afternoon you sail south, passing the picturesque landscapes of the Blosseville Coast.

## **DAY 9: 15 September 2023**

## Narwhal waters, polar bear shores

Turner Sound and Rømer Fjord grant you the opportunity to sail far inland, as they have no glacier front at the head and are not clogged with ice. In this location, you have your best shot at spotting narwhals and polar bears.



A sea day grants you the opportunity to spot whales and seabirds – and at night, the magical northern lights.





# DAY 11 Day: 17 September Disembarkation in Akureyri

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. You disembark in Akureyri, where on request you can transfer by chartered bus(a six-hour drive that you must book

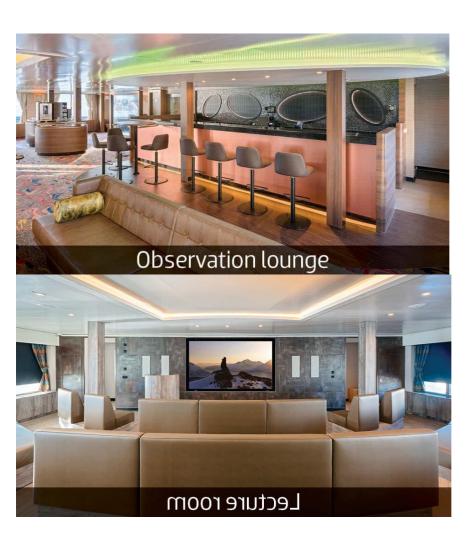


in advance) to the Reykjavik city hall, taking home memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

After settling in, the rest of the day is free for you to explore Reykjavik.

You can stroll the charming capital city, visit museums, and explore landmarks. Downtown Reykjavík offers numerous excellent restaurants, cafés, coffeehouses, and bars, for those who want to experience the renowned Reykjavík nightlife. **Overnight Reykjavík** 





#### **ICELAND GOLDEN CIRCLE TOUR**

# DAY 12: 18 SEPTEMBER 2023 Snaefellsness peninsula



Today your tour begins with collection from your hotel in Reykjavik and progress west towards Snaefellsness peninsula, following a scenic route of dramatic landscapes. We will make a short stop in **Borgarnes** for refreshments, allowing you to pick up supplies for the day ahead.

We'll drive to the northern coast os Snaefellsnes, where we'll come across a spectacular lava field named **Berserkjahraun**. According to Viking legends, this is the place where two Swedish "berserkers" forged Iceland's first road, which went over to the south side of the peninsula through a highland pass.

Return to Reykjavik and In the evening, get ready to search for the otherworldly northern lights. You will join a guided small group bus tour with a knowledgeable driver that will find a great spot to view the white, green and sometimes red lights dancing and flickering in the sky. This added optional upgrade features a northern lights hunt with a modified super jeep. This large vehicle is perfect for the wild Icelandic terrain and can reach places that a coach or minibus cannot. During this 4-hour tour, you will be driven wherever the lights appear in the guide 's search for the best locations to view this incredible natural phenomenon.

As soon as the guide sees the lights, you will stop for photos and a professional photographer will take your picture with the northern lights in the background. Please bring warm clothes, a camera and some snacks for the ride. Overnight Reykjavik (B)

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Snaefellsnes Peninsula
- Village of Arnarstapi
- View Over Snæfellsjökull Glacier
- Mt. Kirkjufell
- Ytri-Tunga
- Djúpalónssandur Black Sand Beach
- Borgarnes
- Ólafsvík

In the evening, get ready to search for the otherworldly northern lights. You will join a guided small group 4 wheel drive tour with a knowledgeable driver that will find a great spot to view the white, green and sometimes red lights dancing and flickering in the sky.

# DAY 13: 19 SEPTEMBER 2023: REYKJAVÍK CITY WALK & BLUE LAGOON



After breakfast, enjoy an exclusive guided small group walking tour in the heart of Reykjavik with a friendly local guide. The tour starts at the famous Hallgrímskirkja church, one of the best-known landmarks of Reykjavik. Over the course of the 3-hour walk, your guide will introduce you to the bustling downtown area while pointing out great restaurants, charming cafés and museums in the area. Highlights you will visit include the concert hall Harpa, the old harbour area, the parliament building, the small city lake and more! This is a great way to see the best of Reykjavik and get some inside info on hidden gems in the city.

Later in the afternoon, you will be picked up for a bus transfer to the famous Blue Lagoon. You can spend your time bathing in the heated geothermal pool, which is rich with silica and soothing for your skin. You can also enjoy a sauna or steambath and an array of spa services (which must be booked in advance). After relaxing in the water, you can choose to dine at the luxurious Lava Restaurant at the lagoon, before transfering back to Reykjavik.

Spend the night in Reykjavik.(B)

#### • DAY 14: 20 SEPTEMBER 2023 THE GOLDEN CIRCLE - GEYSERS & WATERFALLS



Today you will visit some of Iceland's most

famous attractions with a guided personal small group tour of the classic "Golden Circle" route in South Iceland. One of the many highlights on this journey is Pingvellir National Park, a place of great historical and geological significance that is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Pingvellir is the site of the country's first parliament and is located along the edge of the great rift created by the drifting of the Eurasian and American tectonic plates. Other attractions include the beautiful two-tiered Gullfoss waterfall and the spouting hot springs of Geysir. While Geysir lies dormant, its neighbour Strokkur erupts every few minutes, gushing steam and water from the bowels of the earth. A taste of Icelandic food and drink is included during the tour. On return to Reykjavik, you will see the beautiful waterfall Faxi.

# Spend the night in Reykjavik.(B)

# DAY 15-16 SEPTEMBER 2023 THE SOUTH COAST - GLACIERS AND BLACK SAND BEACHES



Enjoy a guided small group tour along the striking south coast of Iceland. The tour starts with the picturesque Seljalandsfoss waterfall, which is 40-metres high and its main attraction, besides the scenery, is the pathway leading behind the waterfall, giving visitors a chance to view the falls from within. Next up is a view of the vast glacier Sólheimajökull before continuing to Reynisfjara, a hauntingly beautiful black sand beach. The last stop before heading back to Reykjavik is the graceful, 60-metre high Skógafoss waterfall to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and pose for the perfect picture.

Spend the night in Reykjavik. (B)

#### • DAY 17: 22 SEPTEMBER 2023 YOUR ICELANDIC ADVENTURE

Today is up to you! You could choose to join an exciting optional activity like snorkeling in the Silfra fissure at Þingvellir National Park, or riding a stocky and adorable Icelandic horse, or even venturing inside a glacier. The Into the Glacier tour is highly recommended. You would be transported to Húsafell in the west, transfer to a customised vehicle to climb the glacier, and get to explore the actual ice in Iceland from the inside.

If you are up for a more leisurely day, you could choose to relax in Reykjavik. Options include visiting a local swimming pool, checking out museums, or strolling the charming streets to see where the day takes you. Keep in mind that your travel consultant can fulfill customised requests like renting a car or booking activities that you enjoy.

Spend the night in Reykjavik (B)

# DAY 18: 23 SEPTEMBER DEPARTURE FROM REYKJAVÍK - COPENHAGEN

Transfer to Keflavik International Airport via semi-private transfer. If your flight is in the afternoon, you will have time to visit some of Reykjavik's boutiques or museums. If you have an afternoon flight, you may also choose to take an exciting optional activity (not included).

#### **ICELAND INCLUSIONS**

- One private transfer from Keflavík Airport to Reykjavík
- Accommodation (Comfort Plus/Superior) for 5 nights
- Daily Breakfast
- Guided Walking Tour of the Reykjavík City Centre
- Guided Small Group Northern Lights Bus upgraded to Jeep Tour
- Blue Lagoon: Experience Comfort Package (including entrance, towel and a drink)
- Return transfer from Reykjavik to/from the Blue Lagoon
- Guided Small Group Bus Tour of the Golden Circle
- Guided Small Group Bus Tour of the South Coast
- One semi-private transfer from Reykjavík to Keflavík Airport on departure
- Nordic Visitor's Iceland Travel Guide
- Map of Reykjavík and detailed personal itinerary
- 24/7 helpline
- Taxes & service fees

#### NOT INCLUDED

- Flights
- Personal travel insurance
- Meals, drinks & entrance fees, unless otherwise stated
- Any services not listed above as "Included"

#### **OPTIONAL EXTRAS**

- Extras
- Cancellation Insurance