

Icelandic nature and traditions

From **8/11/2021**
to **8/22/2021**

Ship: **LE DUMONT-D'URVILLE**

From **Reykjavík**
to **Reykjavík**



Discover the most beautiful landscapes on the **Icelandic west coast** during an **12-day PONANT cruise**.

On the edge of the Arctic, between vast glaciers, vertiginous fjords, volcanoes and boiling geysers, this **circumnavigation** will enable you to discover the wild and romantic landscapes of Iceland.

Departing from **Reykjavík**, you will set off aboard *Le Dumont-d'Urville*, heading for **Heimaey**, 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. You will then set sail for the bay of **Grundarfjörður**, right near **Kirkjufell**. This **stunning cone-shaped mountain** possesses a unique charm and this will be an opportunity to take some beautiful photos.

After visiting the villages of **Isafjörður** and **Djúpavík**, you will head for **Siglufjörður**, to the north of the **Tröllaskagi** peninsula, whose mountainous silhouettes are reminiscent of French alpine reliefs. Founded in the 10th century, this small port reputed for herring fishing is also known for the beauty of its fjord.

Le Dumont-d'Urville will sail for **Grímsey**, a small, hard-to-reach island where, in certain places, the volcanic rock forms **magnificent basalt columns**. Birds such as guillemots and puffins reign here.

Akureyri, the capital of north Iceland, will welcome you on the shores of the **Eyafjörður** fjord, very close to the Arctic Circle.

Your ship will then head south again to **Hornafjörður**, in the **Vatnajökull National Park**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. You will be dazzled by the beauty of the landscapes around the **Jökulsarlon** glacial lake.

Finally you'll reach **Reykjavík**, the most northerly capital in the world.



The information in this document is valid as of 2/26/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

REYKJAVÍK

Embarkation 8/11/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 8/11/2021 at 18h00

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**.

SAILING AROUND SURTSEY ISLAND

Arrival 8/12/2021 early morning

Departure 8/12/2021 late morning

A small drop of basalt in the North Atlantic Ocean, **Surtsey** is a volcanic island formed by a submarine eruption that lasted from 1963 to 1967, off the **Westman Islands** to the south of Iceland. The island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To protect its **virgin ecosystem against human presence**, it is forbidden to land there. Only a few scientists have access to Surtsey to study the plant and animal colonisation of the island. Mosses, fungi and lichens were followed by vascular plants. Around 300 invertebrate species and 90 bird species have gradually colonised it. While sailing around Surtsey, you will enjoy a unique panorama of this extraordinary island's contours.

HEIMAÆY, VESTMANNAEYJAR

Arrival 8/12/2021 early afternoon

Departure 8/12/2021 late afternoon

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.

GRUNDARFJÖRDUR

Arrival 8/13/2021 midday

Departure 8/13/2021 early evening

This secret boreal hideaway is located at the foot of the **Kirkjufell**, on Snæfellsnes peninsula. Arriving by boat means

you'll 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.

ISAFJÖRDUR

Arrival 8/14/2021 early morning

Departure 8/14/2021 evening

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.

DJÚPAVÍK

Arrival 8/15/2021 early morning

Departure 8/15/2021 early afternoon

Located in the Westfjords region, **Djúpavík** is a small Icelandic village that was home to one of the biggest herring processing factories in Europe in the early 20th century. Closed down in 1954 due to dwindling fish stocks along the coasts, the abandoned factory was eventually bought by a couple who transformed it to make use of the unusual acoustics. Indeed, inside the plant's silos you will be able to feel the vibrations of music during a unique experience. The waterfall overlooking the town adds an extra touch of magic to this out-of-the-way place.

SIGLUFJÖRDUR

Arrival 8/16/2021 early morning

Departure 8/16/2021 late morning

Set on the banks of a magnificent fjord edged with summits with alpine silhouettes, **Siglufjörður** is a small fishing village in the north of the **Tröllaskagi** peninsular. Former "herring capital", the small town flourished until the beginning of the 1960s and saw its population grow as a consequence. The **Herring Era Museum**, the country's largest maritime museum, will let you travel back in time and discover, thanks to faithful reconstructions, people's lives at the time: fishing boats, salting station, and the dwellings and offices of the fishing captains.

GRÍMSEY

Arrival 8/16/2021 early afternoon

Departure 8/16/2021 evening

Grimsey 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 **Grimseyjarhreppur**, 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 8/17/2021 early morning

Departure 8/17/2021 late 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'll 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.

HÚSAVÍK

Arrival 8/18/2021 early morning

Departure 8/18/2021 early afternoon

According to the *Landnámabók*, a manuscript describing the discovery of Iceland by the Scandinavians in the 9th and 10th centuries, **Húsavík** is the site of the first Nordic settlement in Iceland. This small fishing port very close to the **Arctic Circle** is known for being the place where there is the highest chance of **spotting whales**. A museum is even dedicated to them. The small town is also the ideal departure point for discovering **Ásbyrgi Canyon**, a geological treasure that is the subject of Nordic legends. The horseshoe-shaped canyon is divided in two by a huge rock formation called *Eyjan* (island in Icelandic). Covered in trees, the canyon is said to have appeared when Sleipnir, the god Odin's horse, set one of his eight hooves down on the ground.

SEYDISFJÖRDUR

Arrival 8/19/2021 early morning

Departure 8/19/2021 late afternoon

At the end of your journey through the heart of a very beautiful 17-km-long fjord, discover **Seyðisfjörður**, on the north-east coast of Iceland. Its typically Scandinavian, colourful houses and small **blue church** stand in the middle of an enchanting setting, between rivers and waterfalls. The village, surrounded on all sides by mountains with snow-topped peaks, has around 700 inhabitants. This small **fishing port** with a very picturesque charm is not far from **Skálanes**, a nature reserve of more than 1,000 hectares that is home to about fifty bird species. This port of call combines nature and culture, with wonderment guaranteed.

HORNAFJÖRDUR

Arrival 8/20/2021 early morning

Departure 8/20/2021 late afternoon

Hornafjörður is a small town located in the eponymous fjord in the south-east of Iceland, in **Vatnajökull National Park** where the country's largest ice cap can be found. From this fjord that is also home to the small town of Höfn, you will have the possibility of discovering the **Jökulsárlón** glacier lagoon. In this incredible landscape, the glaciers calve **icebergs**

that are carried toward the ocean by the currents via a small channel and eventually beach themselves. You will be able to admire the beauty of these **blue icebergs** on the **black volcanic beaches**. On the very aptly named **Diamond Beach**, the striking contrast between the colours and the elements is breathtaking.

AT SEA

Arrival 8/21/2021

Departure 8/21/2021

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

REYKJAVÍK

Arrival 8/22/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 8/22/2021 at 07h00

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**.