



## A CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF ICELAND (NG EXPLORER)

Iceland's geology in all its manifestations—glaciers, thundering waterfalls, immense cliffs, geothermal springs, boiling mud pots, and rock and lava-scapes of unearthly beauty—is world-class. It alone makes a circumnavigation a very compelling idea. And when you add in the other itinerary components—Iceland's people, their unique cultural heritage and contemporary character, the island's geography and birdlife—seeing it all in one 360° expedition is irresistible. There's one place on Earth where geology is so exciting, it's downright sexy, even if you're not a geologist: Iceland. Geologically young, Iceland is located on both the Iceland hotspot and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge—which means it is highly geologically active with many volcanoes—hundreds of them, in fact. Most famously, the volcano in Eyjafjallajökull erupted in 2010. Experience an enchanting land of geological extremes View one of Europe's largest ice cap. Feel the percussive cascade and the spray of Godafoss Waterfall. Walk along lava fields and ice sheets. Zodiac cruise among magnificent icebergs in Jökulsárlón. Kayak into fjords and serene bays, or take a snowmobile jaunt on a glacier. Go hiking on magnificent and remote stretches of the coast. And cap off the adventure with a soak in the famous Blue Lagoon. Every day is active and engaging You'll get out on adventures every day—to Zodiac cruise, hike and walk, or kayak for personal encounters with beauty and wildness. You'll have a choice of activities, plus your choice of naturalists to join—for a moveable feast of personalities, insights, and interests. Choice also includes opting to relax, too. Enjoy the view from behind Explorer's panoramic glass windows. Or visit the fitness center with its generous views of the vistas, or ease into the sauna or a

massage in the Wellness Center. Travel in excellent company Explore under the sure guidance of an expedition leader, an assistant expedition leader, eight veteran naturalists, a National Geographic photographer, plus a National Geographic certified photo instructor, a Global Perspective guest speaker, an undersea specialist, a wellness specialist and a video chronicler. Their knowledge and passion for the fascinating Arctic region is the key to your extraordinary



experience.

### ITINERARY



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### DAY 1: Reykjavik/Embark

Arrive in Reykjavik, the world's northernmost capital, which lies only a fraction below the Arctic Circle and receives just four hours of sunlight in winter and 22 in summer. Have a guided overview of the Old Town, including Hallgrímskirkja Cathedral with its 210-foot tower, and perhaps shed some light on Nordic culture at the National Museum, with its Viking treasures and artifacts, and unusual whalebone carvings on display. Embark National Geographic Explorer. (L,D)

### DAY 2: Látrabjarg/Flatey Island

National Geographic Explorer navigates Iceland's wild western frontier, sailing past the immense Látrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Iceland and home to a huge population of razorbills. The cliffs are an area once famous for egg collecting; the men were tied to ropes and lowered like spiders down onto the ledges. Continue to Flatey Island, a trading post for many centuries, for walks around the charming little hamlet that grew here, and take a Zodiac cruise along the coast. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3: Exploring Northwestern Iceland

Explore the beautiful and peaceful Westfjords region of Iceland. Perhaps take a hike to a remote waterfall or a Zodiac cruise alongside bird-covered cliffs. Enter Ísafjarðardjúp and land at Vigur Island to visit the Eider Farm and view the down cleaning process. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4: Ísafjörður

Located in the Westfjords, Ísafjörður is surrounded by water on three sides, sculpted by glaciers. Explore remote Hornstrandir, Iceland's northernmost peninsula. Soak up the tranquil beauty of this pristine place by Zodiac. Watch for seabirds such as puffins, guillemots, razorbills, and kittiwakes, and bask in nearly

24 hours of daylight. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5: Siglufjörður and Akureyri

Siglufjörður was the center of Iceland's once-thriving herring industry. We stop by the Herring Museum for a talk and a tasting. Continue to picturesque Akureyri, backed by snow-capped mountains. Explore the old town, with its beautifully maintained period houses, or visit the botanical garden. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6: Lake Mývatn and Húsavík

Drive to Mývatn, the most geologically active area in Iceland. This is world-class field geology! See the bizarre mud pools at Hverarönd — so hot they actually bubble. At the Krafla geothermal area see the explosion crater at Viti and continue to an unforgettable sight: Godafoss, the waterfall of the gods. Meet the ship in Húsavík, and watch for whales as we sail north to the land of the midnight sun. Take Zodiacs ashore to the tiny island of Grimsey, which lies exactly on the Arctic Circle. Here we celebrate being officially in the Arctic, in the company of nesting arctic terns, fulmars, and puffins in burrows, all bathing, courting and fishing — another wonderful photo op. (B,L,D)

### DAY 7: Exploring Northeast Iceland

With plenty of rarely-visited coastline, this day is left open to explore Iceland's rugged east coast. Join our naturalists for a hike or a Zodiac cruise to get a better view of the beautiful stacks at the end of the peninsula. Or, conditions permitting, we may have our first chance to kayak today under the steep cliffs. (B,L,D)

### DAY 8: Djúpvogur, Iceland





Explore the vast Vatnajökull icecap and take the opportunity for either a snowmobile or super jeep adventure. Via small boat, get up-close and personal with the deep blue icebergs of the large ice lagoon of Jökulsárlón. (B,L,D)

**DAY 9: Islands of Heimaey & Surtsey, Westman Islands**

The Westman Islands were formed by undersea volcanoes between 5,000 and 10,000 years ago and are among the youngest of the world's archipelagos. In 1963, the world witnessed on film the birth of its newest island, Surtsey – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – which we see as we cruise past the coast. In 1973, Heimaey was threatened by lava flows that nearly closed off its harbor. We visit the crater, where the earth is still hot, and have amazing views of areas that had been engulfed by lava. (B,L,D)

**DAY 10: Reykjavik/Disembark/Home**

Today we complete our circumnavigation of Iceland, disembarking in Reykjavík. Stop by the famous Blue Lagoon thermal baths, prior to our flight home. Whether you choose to enjoy the surreal bath and spa facilities or just stroll around the fascinating environs, the Blue Lagoon is unforgettable! (B, L)

**Please Note:**

All day-by-day breakdowns are a sampling of the places we intend to visit, conditions permitting.



## YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>National Geographic Explorer</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>Luxury Expedition</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>108 meters</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>148 (single &amp; twin cabins)</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>1982 / 2008</b>

National Geographic Explorer is a state-of-the-art expedition ship. It is a fully stabilized, ice-class vessel, enabling it to navigate polar passages while providing exceptional comfort. It carries kayaks and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft. An Undersea Specialist operates a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) and sophisticated video equipment, extending access to the underwater world. Public areas : Bistro Bar; Chart Room; Restaurant; Global Gallery; Library, Lounge with full service bar and state-of-the-art facilities for films, slideshows and presentations; Mud Room with lockers for expedition gear, and Observation Lounge. Our "Open Bridge" provides guests an opportunity to meet our Officers and Captain and learn about navigation. Meals : Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menu is international with local flair. Cabins : All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities and climate controls. Expedition Equipment : Zodiac landing craft, kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, SplashCam, underwater video camera, Crow's Nest remote controlled camera, video microscope, snorkeling gear. Special Features : A full-time doctor, Undersea Specialist, LEX Photo Specialist and Video

Chronicler, Internet Cafe and laundry. Wellness : The vessel is staffed by two Wellness Specialists and features a glass enclosed Fitness Center, outdoor stretching area, two LEXspa treatment rooms



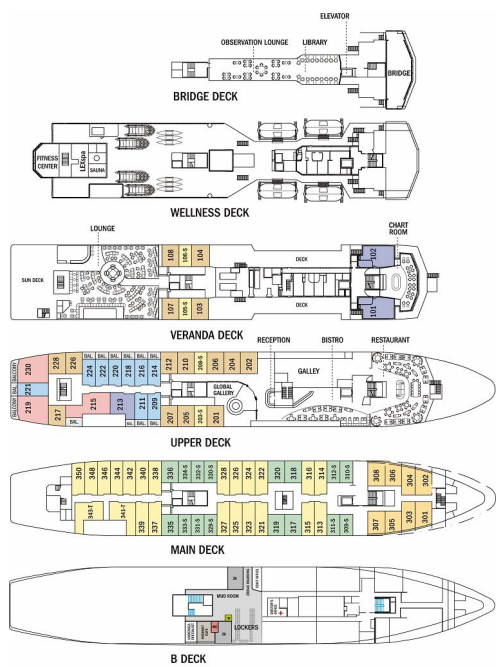
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP





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