

ICELAND & GREENLAND: IN THE WAKE OF THE VIKINGS

On this 12-day voyage, note the striking contrasts between the geological treasure trove of Icelands Westman Islands and Greenlands iceberg-stacked Skjoldungen Fjord as you retrace the steps of the indomitable Vikings those great Norse pirates from Prince Christian Sound to Eriksfjord. A special photography departure means ample opportunities to capture the shot of a lifetime.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Reykjavik, Iceland

Arrive into Reykavik, Iceland's modern and cosmopolitan capital. You will be transferred to the city centre for a leisurely walking tour and time to explore. After lunch you are transferred to 'Le Boreal' to board your luxury expedition cruiser. The afternoon to settle in before weighing anchor (L,D).

Day 2: Westman Islands | Volcanic Archipelago

This morning, arrive in the Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar), a beautiful volcanically active archipelago on the south coast of Iceland studded with giant rock stacks. The Westman Islands





are also home to all of Icelands seabirds, including its iconic puffin. Visit Heimaey Island, which in 1973 experienced an eruption that created a new mountain, Eldfell, also known as Mount Fire. Excavations of the ruins of this remote island suggest there were once inhabitants here dating back to 100 BC. Today, the islands 4,500 locals share the island with a population of approximately eight million puffins during the summer months. Visit the local village, including ruins of historic farmhouses dating back to the year 650. Later, trek to Helgafell to experience the volcanic landscape. This afternoon, conditions permitting, board your Zodiac for an up-close view of Surtsey Island. Considered Icelands southernmost point, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is also considerably young: Approximately 50 years old, Surtsey was created from volcanic eruptions occurring between 1963 and 1967. Meals: B L D

Day 3: The Denmark Strait | Confluence of Waters

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea, cruising the relatively narrow strip of water that separates Iceland from Greenland and connects the Arctic Sea with the Atlantic Ocean. Watch for seabirds and whales from the deck in between thought-provoking lectures presented by your Expedition Team. This evening, join them along with your fellow guests for the captains welcome reception and gala dinner. Meals: B L D

Day 4: Skjoldungen Fjord, Greenland | Wild Wonderland

This morning the ship arrives on Greenland's Southeast Coast. Much of the day is dedicated to Expedition cruising in the stunning Skjuldungen Fjord. This u-shaped fjord is dominated by glaciers that feed directly from the Greeland Icecap. This morning, we plan to land and explore the beautiful glacial valley dubbed the "Valley of the Heart". The late summer flowers will be in full bloom supporting a wide range of birds such as

Common Redpoln, Great Raven and Northern Wheatear. This afternoon, cruise in Zodiacs to view stunning glaciers (B,L,D).

Days 5-8: South Greenland | On the Viking Trail

For the next three days, Le Boreal explores Greenlands southern coast, inland waterways and remote villages. Following a flexible itinerary shaped by conditions and opportunities, look to retrace the early colonization trail of Erik the Red, who founded the first European settlement on Greenland, You also trace Greenlands history of explorations, which ultimately led to the discovery of North America. Surrounded by mountain pinnacles, fjords and dramatic ice fields, your captain and expedition leader will determine the best exploration opportunities, which may include areas such as: Prince Christian Sound: A stunning fjord that connects the Southern Atlantic with the Labrador Sea is nearly 60 miles long and approximately 1,500 feet wide, with sheer cliffs that reach as high as 3,200 feet. Qagortog: The area surrounding Qagortag has been inhabited for more than 4,300 years. Today, the village is still supported by a traditional subsistence economy. Visit the Qagortag Museum, which was formerly the village blacksmith shop; the beautiful village fountain, Mindebrnden, which depicts whales spouting water; and the Stone & Man project, designed to transform the town into an open air art gallery. Hvalsey Ruins: Located in the eastern settlement region (Eystribygg) of southern Greenland, this UNESCO World Heritage Site, also known as Qagortukuloog, was settled by Erik the Reds uncle. It is considered southern Greenlands largest and best preserved Norse site. Narsag: This colorful village is pre-dated by its ancient Norse roots that date back to 1000. Originally a trading post due to its deep water port, the present day village was and still is supported primarily by its fishing industry and sheep farming. The local population



climbs just over 1,500, giving the town its status as Greenlands ninth largest community. Eriksfjord: Explore this beautiful fjord where Erik the Red chose to settle his home. Visit Brattahli, his homestead settled in 982 and site of the first Christian church in the western hemisphere. Brattahli also served as an ever important launching point for the first voyages to North America. Meals: B L D

Day 9: Nuuk | Ancient Dwelling Meets Big Culture

Nuuk has the dual distinction of being both the worlds northernmost and smallest capital city. Today, explore this quaint yet surprisingly vibrant city. Visit the prominent Nuuk Cathedral, the Nuuk Katuaq (cultural center) and art museum, and the National Museum, which features the famous 15th-century Qilakitsoq mummies. Back on board, join your Expedition Team and other newfound friends for the captains farewell reception and gala dinner. Meals: B L D

Day 10: Exploring West Greenland | Cathedrals of Ice

Today, explore the spectacular fjords of West Greenland, starting with a Zodiac cruise among towering icebergs and glaciers. Land on shore for a walk across the high Arctic tundra, alive with wildflowers and migrating seabirds. Meals: B L D

Day 11: Reykjavik | Creative Capital

Disembark 'Le Boreal' in Kangerlussuaq, Denmark and board the return charter flight to Reyjkavik. Arrive this evening and transfer to the hotel. This evening join fellow travelers and the A&K; team for a farewell dinner and reception (B,L,D).

Day 12: Depart Reykjavik

This morning, enjoy breakfast and then check in for your international flight home. Meals: B

Please Note:

Due to the nature of expedition cruising, final itinerary is subject to change due to ice, weather, sea and other conditions and is at the discretion of the ships captain and Expedition Leader. This journey contains some active elements.



YOUR SHIP: LE BOREAL

YOUR SHIP:

Le Boreal

VESSEL TYPE:

142 metres. Passenger Capacity: 264 (in twin cabins, just 200 in Antarctica). Built: 2011

LENGTH:

Antarctica). B

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

cabins, she is the fruit of the expertise of the Italian Fincantieri shipyard and French sophistication, as interpreted by designer Jean-Philippe Nuel. Le Boreal creates a unique atmosphere, a subtle blend of luxury, intimacy and well-being. The best materials, discreet elegance and a tasteful decor combined with exterior and interior lines to reflect a nautical mood. On board, soothing neutral tones are enlivened by splashes of red, our signature theme linking tradition and innovation to create personal touches in the spirit of a "private yacht". Cuisine Loyal to the great French tradition, the haute cuisine on board is worthy of the finest restaurants, where discreet, attentive service is the hallmark. Choose from two restaurants for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Gastronomic Restaurant is situated on Le Liberte Deck and serves you French and international cuisine accompagnied by fine wine. In the Grill Restaurant, you have the opportuning to eat outside and enjoy buffet lunch and themed dinner. Life On Board Whether you want to join other guests in

the theatre or games area (Wii™ consoles, etc), or relax on your

Luxury Expedition / Cruise Ship A superb mega-yacht with 132

own in a quiet corner of the library, Le Boreal has been designed to meet the needs of every guest. Everything has been done to preserve the independence of each guest to suit their personal tastes: lounges for lectures and shows, a spa in partnership with Carita™, but also more intimate spaces such as the library and internet corner. Comfortable cabins, nearly all with private balcony, are available for families either as triples or as communicating cabins. There is also a games area with Wii™ consoles, children's menus, and a baby-sitting ser vice. Just as if you were on a private yacht, your time is your own to do as you please. Fitted with the latest equipment (Kinesis Wall, running machine) and in partnership with the famous Carita™ brand, the Beauty Centre on Le Boreal welcomes you for some relaxation and pampering (beauty treatments, hairdresser, hammam, balneotherapy). Wheelchairs 3 specially adapted wheelchair cabins (Deck 3 = Superior cabin no. 307, no balcony, Deck 4 = Prestige Cabin no. 407 - with balcony and Deck 5 = Prestige Cabin no 509, with balcony) and lifts to all decks/areas. Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant

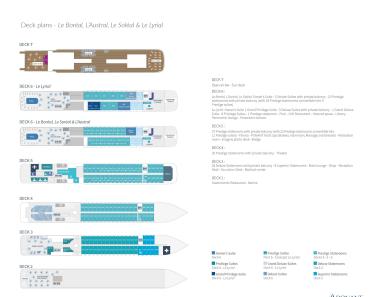




cruise ships.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP





PRICING