



## LUXURY ICELAND CRUISE

Cruise on the beautifully-presented luxury liner L'Austral to the fringes of the Arctic Circle, where the first Vikings went ashore in the 9th Century. Fjords with their abyssal sides, unfathomable glaciers, high volcanic plateaux - Iceland's natural heritage is both wild and fascinating and has retained all of its mystery. On the edge of the Arctic, between vast glaciers, vertiginous fjords, volcanoes and boiling geysers, Iceland offers a kaleidoscope of wild and romantic landscapes; a rare and tormented beauty redolent of the dawn of Time. Cruise from Reykjavik around the wild and almost deserted Westfjords, a peninsula connected to the rest of Iceland by just a thin strip of land. Even by Icelandic standards, this region is unusually isolated. A landscape of dramatic fjords that cut deep into the landscape.



### ITINERARY

Day 1: Reykjavik - Hafnarfjörður (Iceland)

Embarking from 5pm to 6pm.

Day 2: Reykjavik - Hafnarfjörður (Iceland)

Reykjavik, the "Bay of Smoke": nestled in a bay that protects its dreamlike beauty from the wind, Reykjavik's rhythm is determined by the infinite movements of the ocean. The capital of Iceland is also merely a stone's throw away from the magnificent Icelandic outback, as evidenced by the large numbers of Arctic terns and wild geese and duck that are to be found in the town centre! Established in around 874 by a Viking chief, the world's northernmost capital is simultaneously fierce and fascinating. Nearby, in the rugged lava fields, natural springs throw their turbulent water towards the sky, performing an incredible geyser dance dressed in amber tones. Don't miss out on this natural resplendence and the reflections of



astonishing geological phenomena.

#### Day 3: Heimaey (Vestman Islands - Iceland)

The Westman Islands were formed from a succession of underwater eruptions and consist of 15 islands and around 30 islets. As you will discover, Heimaey has a rich history and captivating landscapes. Dominated by the Eldfjall, it's the only island in the chain that is inhabited. This exceptional site has a very pronounced relief taking in vertiginous cliffs, reefs, sea caves, and surf. Guided by our specialists and experienced naturalists, you will have the opportunity of reaching the summit of the steep Sprangan cliff, offering a splendid view from where are visible a number of islets formed by the most recent volcanic eruptions. At the crossroads of the four elements, hikers will discover an uninterrupted view of the lands of fire and ebony, encircled by the sea. And lastly, raise your eyes and you will be able to admire the incessant ballet of the sea birds, including the spectacular dives of the Gannets.

#### Day 4: Grundarfjörður (Iceland)

#### Day 5: Grimsey island (Iceland)

Grimsey is a little island located 40 km north of mainland Iceland and is crossed by the symbolic line of the Arctic Polar Circle. It is formed from volcanic rock that has generated majestic basalt pillars, a delight for photographers. The island has been inhabited since the Vikings came to Iceland and legend says that it takes its name from the colonial sailor Grímur who sailed from the region of Sogn in Norway. This site is the home to fabulous wildlife, with many bird colonies having chosen to nest along the jagged cliffs. Here we can observe the "clowns of the sea", better known as the Atlantic Puffins. While many travellers come here in order to cross the invisible line into

the Arctic Circle, the island is also famed as a place to observe the Midnight Sun.

#### Day 6: Akureyri (Iceland)

Located at the back of a magnificent fjord, the capital of the North of Iceland unfurls its charms along the shores of the Eyjafjörður, offering you the spectacle of its multicoloured houses seen by the midnight sun. You will set out from this delightful city to discover Lake Myvatn, with its wild beauty that has been sculpted by a succession of volcanic eruptions. Lake Myvatn boasts an ecosystem that is unique in the world and lies at the crossroads of the great migratory routes; this natural sanctuary is therefore home to many species of birds. This is a paradise for birdwatchers and above all for contemplative souls looking for secret landscapes with mysterious charm. In such a wild place, the imagination is constantly sought by the strange shapes of the landscape. Trolls, elves and the other fairy folk that people Icelandic folklore live here...without a doubt!

#### Day 7: Isafjörður (Iceland)

L'AUSTRAL's route 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. With its relief and its bold and raw colours, Iceland offers lovers of wide open spaces an endless variety of unlimited pleasures.



# The Small Cruise Ship Collection

[www.small-cruise-ships.com](http://www.small-cruise-ships.com)

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Day 8: Reykjavik - Hafnarfjörður (Iceland)  
Disembarking.



## YOUR SHIP: L'AUSTRAL

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>L'Austral</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>142 metres. Passenger Capacity: 264 (200 in Antarctica). Built: 2011</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	

Luxury Expedition / Cruise Ship This superb mega-yacht with 132 cabins is the result of the expertise of the Italian Fincantieri shipyard and French sophistication, as interpreted by designer Jean-Philippe Nuel. L'Austral has a unique atmosphere, a subtle blend of luxury, intimacy and well-being. A sleek silhouette softened by elegantly smooth contours and large, arched windows opening up to the sea and the light: so many features come together to give L'Austral her distinctive shape. Precious materials, discreet elegance and a perfect balance between chic and casual, combine to make you feel as if you are on your own private yacht. A design blending tradition and innovation, where a nautical mood has been subtly recreated. Precious materials in smoothing neutral tones are brought to life with splashes of cheerful reds. So many personal touches create the spirit of a "private yacht". Suites and staterooms You can expect magnificent ocean views as 124 staterooms and suites have balconies. Individually-controlled airconditioning · Cabin layout: kingsize bed, or twin beds, communicating cabins available (children welcome) · Minibar · Flat screen satellite TV · iPod™

players · Desk with stationery · Electronic safe · French bath products · Dressing table and hairdryer · Bath robes · Satellite direct line telephone · 110/220 volts · 24hr room service · WiFi · Balcony 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 breakfasts, lunch and dinner. The Gastronomic Restaurant is situated on Le Liberte Deck and serves you French and international cuisine accompanied by fine wine. On the Grill Restaurant, you have the opportunity 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 own in a quiet corner of the library, L'Austral 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 Sothys™, 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 service. 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 Sothys™ brand, the Beauty Centre on L'Austral welcomes you for some unforgettable moments of relaxation and pampering (beauty treatments, hairdresser). Wheelchairs 3 specially adapted wheelchair cabins (Deck 3 = Superior cabin no. 307, no balcony, Deck 4 = Prestige Cabin no. 407 - with

A group of people in a zodiac boat on a glacier lake. The boat is filled with people wearing winter gear, some waving. The water is calm with small ice floes. In the background, there are large, jagged ice formations under a cloudy sky. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.



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balcony and Deck 5 = Prestige Cabin no 509, with balcony) and lifts to all decks/areas. Details Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant



cruise ships.



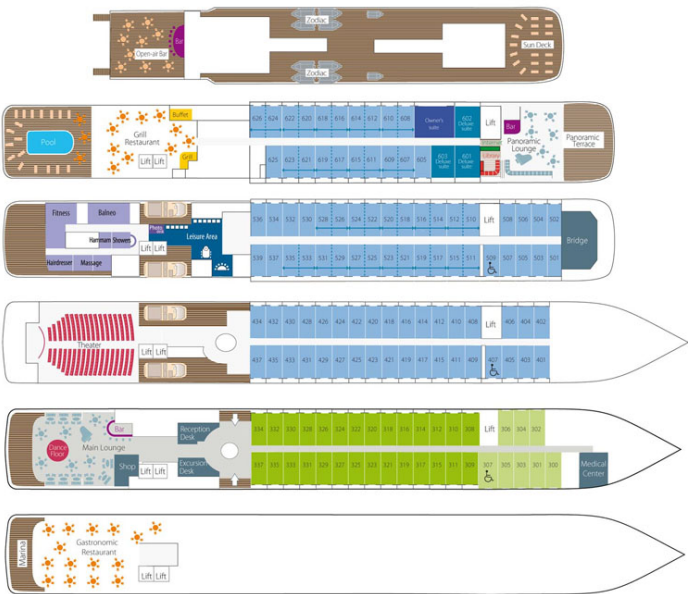
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP





The Small Cruise  
Ship Collection

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## PRICING

### ADDITIONAL CHARGES:

Safety and port taxes 274 GBP pp



The Small Cruise  
Ship Collection

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