



The Small Cruise  
Ship Collection

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info@small-cruise-ships.com

## NORTHWEST ICELAND EXPLORER - INTO THE PACK ICE - EXPEDITION CRUISE

Enter a world of Norse mythology, wild, dramatic coastlines, and seabirds in their thousands as you voyage from Iceland, crossing the Arctic Circle and encountering the fringes of the sea ice, with good possibilities of viewing seals, whales, and a lonely polar bear. Seabirds will be your constant companions as you visit islands, skerries, and fjords before landfall in Akureyri, Iceland.



### ITINERARY

Day 1: The start of an Arctic adventure

In the late afternoon, you will board m/v Hondius in the port of Keflavik, a short distance from the International Airport. With the port behind us, we sail north into the bay of Faxaflói and proceed to the Snæfellsnes Peninsula while looking for whales in this large bay.

Day 2 - 7: Ice caps and volcanoes

Ice caps and volcanoes



We land in Breidavik at Arnarstapi, with Snaefellsjokull, a glacier-capped volcano in the background. We will walk southward, along cliffs with seabirds, to Hellnar, where we embark the ship again. We may also proceed to Snaefellsjokull, where Jule Vernes: Journey to the center of the Earth began. In the evening, we will again look for whales northwest of the peninsula.

#### A land of islands, skerries and Norse legends

We sail in the broad and shallow bay of Breidafjordur, peppered with hundreds of islands and skerries, and may glimpse some white-tailed eagles. We will then land on Flatey and explore its traditional fishing village and the church with paintings by the Spanish-Icelandic artist Baltasar. Black guillemots and vast colonies of puffins breed along the shores, and red-necked phalaropes are common in ponds just inland.

We will pay a visit to Klofningur, a diminutive island featuring a lighthouse and extensive breeding colonies of shags, fulmars, and great black-backed gulls. In the evening, we will sail by the impressive Latrabjarg, featuring Iceland's biggest seabird colonies.

#### On the lookout for whales and eider ducks

Sailing into impressive Skutulsfjörður, home to the town of Isafjordur, we plan a visit to Aedey, where an Icelandic family keeps an eider duck farm where the many hundreds of birds can breed protected entirely and where, at the end of the breeding

season, all eiderdown is collected for trade. At the shores of the island we also meet breeding puffins. In the afternoon, we may sail into Jokulfirdir or directly out of the fjord, looking again for whales, while we sail northwest and pass the Arctic Circle.

#### At the fringes of the sea ice

North of Iceland, in the fringes of the southward-moving sea ice, we sail northeast with our ice-rated vessel. We look two days for harp and hooded seals, which sometimes frequent the area in great numbers. The presence of a lonely polar bear can not be discounted, as they sometimes reach Iceland's shores. Near and along the sea ice, we will see whales and seabirds as they migrate and forage along the productive edge of the sea ice. You will be in an impressive sea-scape with, to the west, sea ice as far as you see. This is a wild Arctic environment, constantly in motion and always changing.

#### Crossing the Arctic Circle once more

We find ourselves sailing southward. In the early morning, we will pass Kolbeinsey, a tiny uninhabited islet rapidly being eroded by the fearsome surrounding ocean. Later, we will land on Grimsey, a small island that straddles the Arctic Circle. Grimsey features a small but friendly fishing village and is home to colonies of kittiwakes, razorbills, puffins, fulmars, and Arctic terns. In the evening, at the mouth of Eyafjordur, we may again see some whales.

#### Day 8: Journey ends in Akureyri



With our journey ending, 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 bus stop Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre at Austurbakki, Reykjavik. While your time in the Arctic may be over, your memories and experiences will stay with you forever!

Please note:

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Landings are subject to site availabilities, permissions, and environmental concerns per AECO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with AECO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed of our vessel is 10.5 knots.





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## YOUR SHIP: HONDIOUS

### YOUR SHIP:

Hondius

### VESSEL TYPE:

### LENGTH:

### PASSENGER CAPACITY:

### BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Hondius is the first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel in the world, meeting the latest and highest Lloyd's Register demands for ice-strengthened cruise vessels. Hondius also exceeds the requirements of the Polar Code as adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), allowing you to enjoy the polar regions as much as possible while impacting them as little as possible. Upon completion, Hondius will be the most flexible, advanced, innovative ice-strengthened vessel in the polar regions. It is optimized for exploratory voyages that provide you the utmost first-hand contact with the Arctic and Antarctica. Hotel comfort, expedition class Hondius offers high-quality accommodation for 176 passengers in a range of suites and cabins. The spacious 'Hondius' suite (35 square metres, 377 square feet), six grand suites with balconies (27 square metres, 291 square feet), eight junior suites (19 to 20 square metres, 205 to 215 square feet), eight superior cabins (20 to 21 square metres, 215 to 226 square feet), 11 twin deluxe cabins, (19 to 21 square metres, 205 to 226 square feet), 14 twin window cabins (12 to 14 square metres, 129 to 151 square feet) as well as 28 twin porthole cabins, two triple porthole cabins, and four quadruple porthole cabins that vary in size from 12 to 18

square metres, or 129 to 194 square feet all offer a high level of accommodation. The passenger capacity certificate for Hondius is 196 persons. One deck consists of a large observation lounge and separate lecture room, which are reserved for a wide variety of interactive workshops, exhibitions, and performances particular to Hondius. Though elegantly designed in stylish mid-century modern decor, this vessel holds true to Oceanwide's distinctive cozy and informal atmosphere. Swift & safe ship-to-shore operations It is the philosophy of Hondius' managers to keep sea time as short as possible so that they can focus instead on fast, effective access to shore and near-shore activities. To give you the maximum contact with the nature and wildlife you traveled so far to see, they employ a tough fleet of rigid-hull inflatable Zodiac boats that guarantee swift and safe landing operations for all passengers at the same time. Hondius has two separate gangways and a sheltered indoor Zodiac embarkation platform that can also be used for special outdoor activities, such as kayaking. The fast, flexible, friendly heart of the polar regions The top priority is taking advantage of every wildlife and terrain opportunity as it occurs. To keep the itineraries flexible itineraries and the response time rapid, Hondius is equipped with advanced stabilizers and two main engines capable of powering the vessel up to 15 knots. But Hondius sacrifices no warmth to achieve its keen polar edge: You will have 72 crew and staff members (including expedition and hotel staff) at your service while on board, ensuring that what little time you do spend on the ship you will spend comfortably

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 surrounded by large icebergs and glaciers under a cloudy sky.



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entertained.







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## PRICING

29-May-2026 to 05-Jun-2026

Grand Suite with Private Balcony	£7662 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£7084 GBP pp
Superior	£6198 GBP pp
Twin Deluxe	£5467 GBP pp
Twin Window	£5159 GBP pp
Twin Porthole	£4736 GBP pp
Triple Porthole	£4274 GBP pp
Quadruple Porthole	£3426 GBP pp



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