Discovering Our Planet Together



Wild Arctic Shores: Circumnavigating Iceland & Exploring Greenland

Get a 360° View on the Land of Fire & Ice, Plus Greenland's Remote East Coast

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Trip Details:

Days
11 Days / Jun–Aug

Price
From $14900

Physical Requirements
Easy to Moderate

Wild Arctic Shores: Circumnavigating Iceland & Exploring Greenland

Get a 360° View on the Land of Fire & Ice, Plus Greenland's Remote East Coast

Experience geological extremes across two distinct Arctic islands, from the thundering waterfalls and simmering hot springs of Iceland to the glacier-scoured fjords that indent the coast of East Greenland. Hike and bike over volcanic landscapes, paddle among whales and seals in narrow fjords littered with icebergs, tap into rich history through ancient literary sagas, and experience local traditions in tiny seaside villages as we we make a full circuit around Iceland by expedition ship. Across the Denmark Strait, navigate a network of wild fjords fed by melting ice from Greenland's massive tidewater glaciers. Along the way, experts on Norse natural and cultural history, plus Icelandic musicians, add energy and insight to this immersive Arctic adventure.

Trip Highlights

Discover More of the Iceland Others Miss

Delve into far-flung corners of Iceland on our full-circuit voyage including the remote Westfjords, Westman Islands and the puffin colony at Borgarfjordur Eystri

Explore Greenland's Rarely Visited East Coast

In true expeditionary style, navigate East Greenland's glacier-carved fjords by ship, Zodiac and kayak, and hike ashore where few feet have trod

Watch Wildlife from Land & Sea

Look for Arctic fox, scour volcanic cliffs for millions of nesting seabirds including Atlantic puffins, and scout for whales, dolphins, seals and rare narwhals

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Wild Arctic Shores: Circumnavigating Iceland & Exploring Greenland Itinerary

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Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Keflavik / Reykjavik
Day 2	Westfjords / Vigur Island
Day 3	Siglufjordur
Days 4–5	East Greenland
Day 6	Husavik / Godafoss / Lake Myvatn or Asbyrgi Canyon
Day 7	Grimsey / At Sea
Day 8	Borgarfjordur Eystri
Day 9	Westman Islands
Day 10	Reykjavik



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Day 1

Keflavik / Reykjavik

Begin your circumnavigation of Iceland in Reykjavik

- Explore Iceland's capital independently beneath the long summer daylight
- Board your expedition ship late in the day, with dinner served aboard

Arrive at Keflavik International Airport and transfer to Reykjavik, Iceland's capital, about a 45-minute drive. Lying less than two degrees below the Arctic Circle, Reykjavik is the world's northernmost capital. Its high latitude location provides 22 hours of sunlight at high summer, with the near-perpetual light creating a lively, energetic atmosphere. Explore on your own today before boarding your expedition ship late this afternoon, with dinner served aboard.

Day 2

Westfjords / Vigur Island

Explore Iceland's remote Westfjords and seabird-rich Vigur Island

- Hike along a fjord to a towering waterfall in the remote Westfjords
- Look for puffins, black guillemots, Arctic terns and eider ducks on Vigur Island
- Meet the family that stewards the island's seabird colonies and gathers eiderdown

Explore the dramatic Westfjords region of Iceland today. Lying just south of the Arctic Circle, the far-flung Westfjords embrace Iceland's most northwesterly point. Exceptionally remote and peaceful, much of this corner of Iceland can only be accessed on foot or by sea. Erik the Red, father of Leif Eriksson, was among the first in a thousand-year line of settlers who survived on a peninsula here, living on herring and seabird eggs. Hike along the base of a fjord to a towering waterfall before entering the fjord network of Isafjardardjup, known for its wealth of wildlife, including whales, seals, and cliffs covered with huge colonies of cacophonous nesting seabirds. We land at Vigur Island, a birder's paradise home to a multitude of species including puffins, black guillemots, Arctic terns and eider ducks. The walkable island has only a handful of inhabitants—a farmer and his family who are active stewards of the seabird colonies and collect eiderdown from resident ducks' nests to sell for cushions and duvets.

Day 3

Siglufjordur

Discover the history and traditions of Iceland's herring coast

- Visit the Herring Era Museum, Europe's largest maritime and industrial museum
- Watch a traditional herring-salting demonstration and sample the finished product
- Join a local forestry group to learn how forests are established and maintained in Iceland

Today we call at Siglufjordur, Iceland's northernmost mainland settlement. The small town was the center of the country's once-thriving herring industry in the mid-20th century. We stop at the Herring Museum, which focuses on the wealth once provided by these small silver fish and how they were processed. Though the museum receives relatively few visitors in this remote location, it is the largest marine and industrial museum in Europe and has received the European Museum of the Year award. Our visit includes a salting demonstration and tasting. Though the herring are mostly gone today, the town's economy is still fishing-based. Then we join the local forestry association for a conservation-focused field tour in their local woods, learning what it takes to maintain and develop a forest in Iceland.

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Days 4–5

East Greenland

Explore East Greenland's ice-filled fjords and wild coastline

- Cross the Denmark Strait and cruise among fjords fed by calving tidewater glaciers
- Go ashore to hike or explore by Zodiac and kayak, conditions permitting
- Watch for humpback whales, seals and less commonly seen Arctic wildlife

Strike out across the Denmark Strait to the rugged coast and wild shores of Eastern Greenland. Known for its large volume of tidewater glaciers that flow down from the ice sheet, calving tremendous amount of ice into the fjords, this little-visited region offers an encounter with raw Arctic wilderness unmatched on conventional encounters with Greenland. We explore multiple fjords aboard ship as well as on landings, where hiking, kayaking or Zodiac cruising may all be possibilities. It's easy to imagine what it would have been like to be an early maritime explorer in these wild waters, as the scenes are little changed since Europeans first laid eyes on them, although these environs have been inhabited by Greenlandic Inuit and their Thule prececessors for thousands of years. Spend time on the bridge or at the ship's railing, scouring the sea's surface and shoreline for Arctic wildlife—we often see humpback whales and seals, and less often, beluga whales. Rarely, even an elusive narwhal or polar bear may make an appearance.

Day 6

Husavik / Godafoss / Lake Myvatn or Asbyrgi Canyon

Explore waterfalls, volcanic landscapes and birdlife in northern Iceland

- See Godafoss plunge over a broad, horseshoe-shaped lava cliff
- Walk among Lake Myvatn's steam vents, lava formations and pseudo-craters
- Choose an alternative exploration of Asbyrgi Canyon, Dettifoss or the coast

Return to Iceland and land at Husavik this morning, Iceland's oldest settlement and the site of the first house built on the island. It's also our gateway to the geological wonders of Iceland's northern reaches, including the remote Highlands. Depart for a full day of overland exploration, first visiting one of the largest waterfalls in Iceland, Godafoss, the "waterfall of the gods." The dramatic cataract plunge 40 feet over an ancient lava cliff shaped like a horseshoe, stretching 100 feet across. We also visit Lake Myvatn and environs, the most geothermally active area in Iceland. Lake Myvatn fills the remnant of a crater formed during a massive eruption 2,300 years ago, and the region around it is an introduction to world-class field geology. On display in the dynamic environment are various volcanic features, including pseudo-craters, lava formations, steam vents and hot springs. The lake is also one of the premier birdwatching areas in the world, with marshes providing habitat for huge numbers of migratory birds during the summer, with more than 115 species on view. Alternatively, choose an adventurous journey into Asbyrgi Canyon, said to be formed from the hoof of the Norse god Odin's eight-legged horse. The canyon is filled with waterfalls, and a stop is included to witness Dettifoss, the second most powerful waterfall in Europe. Or stay along the coast for slower-paced activities including forest bathing, bird watching and a soak in the GeoSea bath.

Day 7

Grimsey / At Sea

Cross the Arctic Circle and search Iceland's northern waters for whales

- Go ashore by Zodiac on Grimsey, an island that straddles the Arctic Circle
- Look for nesting Arctic terns, fulmars and puffins along the coast
- Watch for humpback, minke, fin and other whales while sailing south

Sailing northward into the land of the midnight sun, our destination is the tiny island of Grimsey, located about 30 miles off Iceland's north coast. Known as the land of a hundred people and a million seabirds, Grimsey lies exactly on the Arctic Circle. We go ashore by Zodiac and celebrate being officially in the Arctic once more, in the company of nesting Arctic terns, fulmars and puffins in burrows, all busily bathing, courting and fishing. This afternoon we are at sea, sailing around the northern corner of Iceland to start our voyage south. These waters offer some of the world's best whale watching, so you'll want to be out on deck to look for them as we cruise. Icelandic seas are home to 24 different whale species, and in this area, we may see humpback, fin, minke, sei, blue, sperm, northern bottlenose and long-finned pilot whales, as well as orca, harbor porpoise and white-beaked dolphin. Our naturalist guides are by your side to help you spot and identify the abundant marine life.

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Day 8

Borgarfjordur Eystri

Walk among puffins and mountain landscapes in eastern Iceland

- Watch puffins move between their burrows and the sea from a boardwalk through the colony
- Hike toward the summit of Svartfell or bike into the surrounding backcountry
- Explore the village with a local guide, stopping for eiderdown and local drinks

Our destination today is Borgarfjordur Eystri, regarded as one of Iceland's most wild and beautiful fjords. Surrounded by the Dyrfjoll Mountains, which rise more than 3,700 feet from the sea, the region is renowned for its stunning hiking terrain. Challenge yourself with a hike to the summit of Svartfell, standing over 1,000 feet above sea level, or bike into the backcountry to take in a different perspective on the surrounding mountain range. Join a local guide on a walk through the small village, including a stop at the local eiderdown shop and a chance to taste the local libations. Borgarfjordur Eystri, is also reputedly home to one of numerous “elfin communities” that thrive in Icelandic mythology. The fjord takes its name from the Icelandic elf-queen, Alfaborg, who is said to live nearby. But it is the fjord’s puffin residents that capture our attention most vividly: Here we find one of Iceland’s largest Atlantic puffin colonies. A boardwalk weaving through the busy colony allows easy access, and since the puffins are accustomed to human presence, we are able to get exceptionally close photos as they move in and out of their hillside burrows.

Day 9

Westman Islands

Explore Iceland’s young volcanic archipelago

- Cruise past Surtsey, an island formed by eruptions between 1963 and 1967
- Climb to the Eldfell crater, where heat remains beneath the ground
- Learn how seawater was used to slow the lava advancing toward Heimaey’s harbor

Overnight, our ship has rounded the southern side of Iceland to reach the Westman Islands. Formed by undersea volcanoes between 5,000 and 10,000 years ago, the islands comprise one of the planet's youngest archipelagos. We cruise past the newest island, Surtsey, which was formed by volcanic action from 1963 to 1967. The world witnessed its creation on film, and Surtsey was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site from its birth, providing the world with a pristine natural laboratory in which to observe how plant and animal life colonize new land. In 1973, the island of Heimaey, the largest and only populated island in the Westmans, was devastated by lava flows from Eldfell Volcano, which destroyed half its town and nearly closed off its harbor. An emergency operation to cool the advancing lava with sea water held it at bay. We visit the volcano crater, where the earth is still hot, and survey impressive views of the broad area once engulfed by lava.

Day 10

Reykjavik

Complete your circumnavigation of Iceland

- Disembark your expedition vessel in Reykjavik after breakfast
- Transfer to Keflavik Airport for homeward flights

Our circumnavigation of Iceland is complete today as we return to Reykjavik to disembark. After breakfast, a transfer to Keflavik Airport is included to meet homeward flights.

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National Geographic Endurance

This new expedition ship is a next-generation ice-class vessel that's purpose-built for year-round polar navigation, designed for 138 guests in 76 staterooms to safely explore uncharted waters in exceptional comfort.



National Geographic Explorer

The newly renovated ice-class polar expedition vessel accommodates 148 guests in 81 outside cabins, all with private facilities, plus the most innovative tools for exploration above and below the sea.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/adventure-cruises/iceland-greenland-nature-cruise/ships.

Sail with the World Leader in Small-Ship Conservation-Focused Cruising

Wild Arctic Shores: Circumnavigating Iceland & Exploring Greenland

We're proud to offer a worldwide slate of Expedition Cruises through our partner National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions. Nat Hab joined forces with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions in 2016 to expand our mutual collection of nature adventures. Founded in 1958 by Lars-Eric Lindblad, the company pioneered eco-conscious expeditions for "citizen explorers" and today is the world leader in conservation-focused small-ship cruises.

1 **Small Ships for Closer Nature Encounters**

National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' ships offer an intimate, up-close experience of Iceland's coast and islands. The small size of our National Geographic ships grants access to narrow fjords and secluded bays that big cruise ships can't reach, while full stabilization and state-of-the-art technology provide supremely safe passage. Guests also enjoy personal interactions with naturalists, guides and crew.

2 **Tap More than a Half-Century of Maritime Expertise**

This comprehensive Iceland nature cruise offers an expedition-style experience with a crew and staff who are veterans of Arctic waters. As pioneers in commercial polar cruising, National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions draws upon more than 50 years of experience, assuring safety and a thorough immersion in some of the world's most remote wild places. Aboard National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' ships, you'll sail with a highly experienced Expedition Leader, assistant Expedition Leader and a team of naturalists with relevant specialties. A photo instructor certified by National Geographic is also on board to help you get outstanding images of Iceland's grand scenery and marine life.

3 **Varied Activities Make Every Day a New Adventure**

A host of exciting adventures led by naturalist guides reveals the rugged, wild beauty of Iceland. Motorized Zodiac rafts get us close to cliffside bird rookeries and provide access for shore landings, while a fleet of double kayaks provides an eye-level look at marine life. These sea kayaks are chosen for their stability, and even beginners will find that maneuvering them is not difficult—and instruction is provided. A custom-designed floating platform allows kayaks to be launched from most any location.

4 **Take a Look at the World Below the Sea**

An undersea diving specialist accompanies every voyage. Wearing gear to survive in frigid Arctic waters and carrying nearly 200 pounds of equipment, this specialized expedition team member shoots high-definition footage of the world beneath the waves, teeming with life. It's then shared on plasma TV screens in the ship's lounge for all to enjoy. In addition, the ship's remotely operated vehicle (ROV) can dive to 1,000 feet below the surface to capture even more imagery of the deep ocean world.

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5 **Specialized Equipment Further Enhances Your View of Nature**

A video microscope helps naturalist guides show and explain a multitude of elements in the Arctic environment, including tiny organisms in the marine ecosystem's building blocks—like a krill's body, at 80x magnification. High atop the ship's mast, a crow's nest camera provides a 24/7, 360-degree view on our surroundings that you can watch on your cabin TV. And underwater microphones are deployed to listen in on marine mammals, offering real-time sounds of nearby whales and other life below the surface.

6 **Travel with Experts Who are Arctic Specialists**

Your voyage features a knowledgeable team of expert interpreters who will vastly enhance your appreciation for the natural and cultural history of Iceland and Greenland. Each voyage includes a senior Expedition Leader, a team of veteran naturalists, a National Geographic photographer, an undersea specialist, expert guest speakers, a video chronicler and a wellness specialist. You'll hear from a diverse slate of speakers including wildlife biologists, ornithologists, marine scientists and historians.

7 **We're Committed to the Planet**

Natural Habitat Adventures is a standard-setter in eco-conscious travel. We were the world's first 100-percent carbon-neutral travel company. And we continue to break ground in adopting practices that help protect our global environment. Because of our concern for the environment, we are pleased to partner with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions for our Expedition Cruises, a company that shares our values and commitment to the planet.

8 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our environmental commitment and the outstanding quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund has chosen Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation we're very proud of! When you book your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions cruise with us, a portion of your trip fee supports WWF.

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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $14900

Group Size
Limited to ~148 Travelers

Physical Requirements
Easy to Moderate

Wild Arctic Shores: Circumnavigating Iceland & Exploring Greenland Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jul 9 - Jul 18, 2027	From $15900	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Jul 18 - Jul 27, 2027	From $14900	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Jul 27 - Aug 5, 2027	From $16900	Aboard National Geographic Endurance

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jun 22 - Jul 2, 2028	From $15000	Aboard National Geographic Explorer
Jul 2 - Jul 12, 2028	From $15000	Aboard National Geographic Explorer
Jul 12 - Jul 22, 2028	From $15000	Aboard National Geographic Explorer
Jul 22 - Aug 1, 2028	From $15000	Aboard National Geographic Explorer
Aug 1 - Aug 11, 2028	From $15000	Aboard National Geographic Explorer

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See https://www.nathab.com/adventure-cruises/iceland-greenland-nature-cruise/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer, wine, cocktails, liquors and spirits aboard the ship (except certain premium brands which are available for purchase); hors d'oeuvres, 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water; excursions and airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; crew gratuities; exploration tools curated to destination, such as Zodiacs, kayaks, guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the National Geographic Photographer and National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor; access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary parka or jacket, complimentary reusable water bottle; onboard physician consultations; morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to exercise equipment; 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces; park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

Not Included

Airfare (except flights* when indicated as included); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, Wi-Fi, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees. *Recommended flight costs include flight(s) that take place during the date range of your trip to transport travelers from one itinerary destination to another. This cost also includes ground transportation, luggage transfer, and airport assistance.

Physical Requirements

Moderate

This is an active expedition that requires mobility and good health. In order to participate, you must be able to walk unassisted for a minimum of one mile over rough and uneven terrain, including rocky beaches, ice and snow. To participate in excursions ashore, you must walk down a steep gangway (steel ramp with stairs) and climb into and out of rigid inflatable Zodiac rafts, which can sometimes be unstable, depending on water and wind conditions. Travel via Zodiac occurs over variable conditions and can sometimes be quite bumpy. If it's windy, you may get wet from sea spray. Travelers with back problems or other health issues that could be exacerbated by such conditions should take this into consideration. Travelers must be prepared for any type of weather, including extreme conditions that may involve high winds, rain and snow. While seas are generally calm on this expedition, it's possible we could encounter rough conditions, which may cause issues for travelers prone to motion sickness. The ships are fully stabilized, but we recommend that you discuss preventive medication with your physician if you are susceptible to motion sickness. The ship carries a qualified physician who is available at any time in case of emergency, and whose services are provided free of charge; however, the limited infirmary carries only basic medicines and equipment. This voyage is not advisable for guests using wheel chairs, crutches, etc.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

You will depart from Reykjavik on Day 1. You can depart in the afternoon on the final day. For exact timing, please contact your Adventure Specialist.

We can best serve you by having National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' air department book your flights, since National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions is most familiar with the special requirements of each trip. Please call National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions directly at 800-397-3348. Note that while National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' air department will offer you its best available rates on airfare, you may find special web rates or better fares online.

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.