



Adventure
Canada

SMALL-SHIP EXPEDITION

Iceland & the Faroe Islands: Islands Born of Fire and Sea

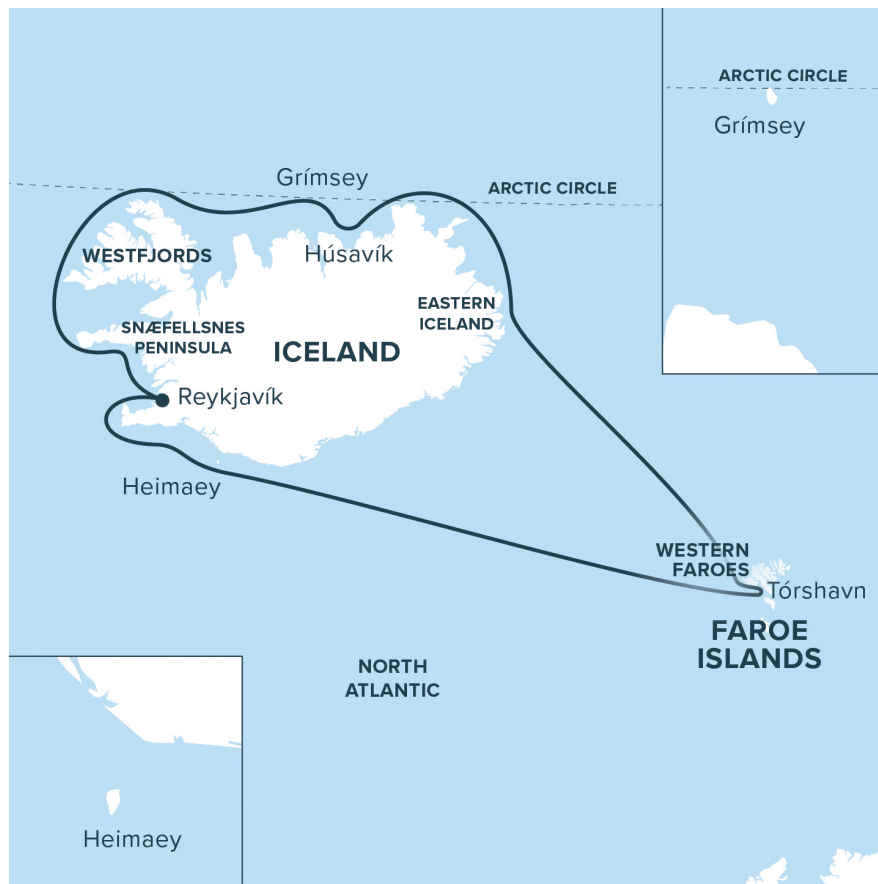
May 26–June 05, 2028

From **\$10,295** to **\$18,495** USD

Aboard the *Ocean Victory*

Starts: Reykjavík, Iceland

Ends: Reykjavík, Iceland





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Expedition Summary

Where the Earth Is Still Becoming

In Iceland, creation remains visible. Volcanoes build new ground, glaciers carve valleys, geothermal forces rise to the surface, and the North Atlantic works continually upon the shore. This is a country whose landscapes are still taking shape and whose communities have learned to live with remarkable natural forces.

Travelling by expedition ship reveals another side of Iceland. Beyond the familiar overland routes, long peninsulas, deeply cut fjords, offshore islands, and working harbours come into view from the water. From the glacier-crowned Snæfellsnes Peninsula and the immense coastlines of the Westfjords to Grímsey, Húsavík, and eastern Iceland, each region reveals a different relationship between geology, wildlife, and human life.

That relationship is especially vivid on Heimaey, where the 1973 eruption transformed the island and threatened its harbour. The community's response remains one of Iceland's most compelling stories of ingenuity and determination. Elsewhere, geothermal energy, fishing traditions, scientific knowledge, literature, and contemporary creativity reveal a society continually responding to the land beneath it and the ocean surrounding it.

In the Faroe Islands, ancient volcanic foundations have been sculpted into soaring cliffs, narrow sounds, and green mountains. Faroese culture has developed within this dramatic geography, sustaining communities through maritime traditions, creative expression, and an extraordinary commitment to connection across the archipelago. The Faroes add a distinct perspective to the voyage, revealing another way island societies continue to adapt without losing their sense of place.

Whales feed in productive northern waters, seabirds return in their thousands, and the long days of spring illuminate landscapes shaped at vastly different scales of time. Across Iceland and the Faroes, earth, ocean, wildlife, and human ingenuity come together in two island worlds that are still becoming.



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Expedition Summary

Website & brochure copy · 80 words

Where Earth Is Still Becoming

Iceland is a place where creation remains visible. Volcanoes, glaciers, geothermal forces, and the ocean continually reshape its shores, while communities respond with ingenuity and resolve. Travel by expedition ship beyond familiar overland routes to the Westfjords, Grímsey, Húsavík, eastern Iceland, and Heimaey. The Faroe Islands add towering basalt landscapes and a distinctive culture sustained across eighteen islands. Wildlife-rich waters, returning seabirds, and long northern days reveal two island worlds continually shaped by earth, ocean, and human imagination today.

Itinerary

Day 1: Reykjavík, Iceland

Day 2: Snæfellsnes Peninsula

Day 3: The Westfjords

Day 4: Grímsey

Day 5: Húsavík

Day 6: Eastern Iceland

Day 7: Western Faroe Islands

Day 8: Tórshavn

Day 9: At Sea

Day 10: Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar

Day 11: Reykjavík, Iceland



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Highlights

Walk a young Earth

Explore one of the youngest and most dynamic landscapes on the planet. In Iceland, volcanoes, glaciers, lava fields, and black sand shores reveal a world still taking shape as tectonic plates slowly drift apart beneath your feet. From the Snæfellsnes Peninsula to the Vestmannaeyjar, experience a landscape where the forces that shaped the Earth remain visible—and active—today.

Beyond the sagas

Most visitors come for Iceland's volcanoes and Viking history. Stay a little longer and another story emerges—one of renewable energy, artistic expression, scientific innovation, and a society that has repeatedly reinvented itself while remaining deeply connected to its language, landscapes, and traditions.

Follow the living North Atlantic

Experience Iceland and the Faroe Islands from the perspective that has shaped them for centuries: the sea. Sail beneath towering cliffs, enter fjords between mountains, and approach communities through the harbours that have long connected them to the wider world. Along the way, discover how the North Atlantic has carried people, wildlife, trade, and stories between these islands for centuries. Here, the sea is the thread that binds places together.

Experience the elemental Faroe Islands

Enter an archipelago of soaring basalt cliffs, green mountains, waterfalls, and narrow sounds. Discover a distinctly Faroese culture expressed through language, craftsmanship, music, food, and maritime traditions, alongside inventive infrastructure that helps sustain connections among eighteen islands.

Encounter an ocean rich with life

Watch for humpback and minke whales, dolphins, puffins, fulmars, guillemots, kittiwakes, and other wildlife throughout the voyage. Productive seas, offshore islands, and immense breeding cliffs support an abundance of life across Iceland and the Faroes.

Highlights at a Glance

- Walk a young Earth where volcanoes, glaciers, lava fields, and black sand shores reveal Iceland's dynamic geology.



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- Look beyond the sagas to discover contemporary Iceland's renewable energy, innovation, arts, and remarkable story of renewal.
- Follow the living North Atlantic through spectacular fjords, dramatic coastlines, and welcoming island communities.
- Discover the Faroe Islands, where towering basalt landscapes surround a distinctive and creative island culture.
- Watch for whales, puffins, dolphins, and seabirds in one of the North Atlantic's richest marine ecosystems.

Itinerary

Day 1: Reykjavík, Iceland

A Capital Powered by the Earth

Reykjavík brings Iceland's natural forces into the rhythms of an inventive contemporary capital. Geothermal water heats its colourful homes and outdoor pools, mountains rise across the bay, and the working harbour keeps the city closely connected to the North Atlantic. Literature, music, design, and an ambitious food culture flourish within a city whose scale remains welcoming and intimate.

Board the *Ocean Victory* and sail into Faxaflói Bay. As Reykjavík recedes, Iceland begins to reveal the long peninsulas, offshore islands, and deeply cut coastlines that make travelling by sea so compelling.

Day 2: Snæfellsnes Peninsula

Beneath the Glacier-Crowned Volcano

Snæfellsnes gathers an extraordinary range of Icelandic landscapes along one narrow peninsula. Snæfellsjökull, a glacier resting upon a volcano, rises above lava fields, black shores, sea cliffs, and fishing communities. Ancient eruptions shaped the ground, while waves, weather, and glacial movement continue to work upon it.

Ashore, the peninsula offers an intimate encounter with the forces still shaping Iceland. Seabirds gather along the coast, marine mammals may be seen offshore, and each change in terrain reveals another expression of a country built by fire, ice, and ocean.



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Day 3: The Westfjords

Land Carved by Ice

The dramatic Westfjords reveal why travelling Iceland by sea offers such a different perspective. Ancient volcanic plateaus plunge towards the ocean, while immense glaciers have carved deep fjords into the coastline. Sailing into these waterways reveals the geography that has shaped settlement for centuries: sheltered harbours, small coastal communities, towering bird cliffs, and the sea routes that connected them.

Explore quiet communities where generations have built lives beside the sea, adapting to a landscape whose beauty and challenges remain inseparable.

Day 4: Grímsey

Across the Arctic Circle

Grímsey sits astride the Arctic Circle, where latitude becomes something you can experience rather than simply measure. Surrounded by rich seas and spectacular bird cliffs, this small island offers an opportunity to stand at one of Earth's great geographic milestones.

Walk through the welcoming community, cross the Arctic Circle on foot, and watch for nesting seabirds. Conditions permitting, take to the water by Zodiac for another perspective on Grímsey's dramatic cliffs and abundant birdlife. Together, these experiences reveal how people and wildlife have made a home in one of the North Atlantic's most distinctive island environments.

Day 5: Húsavík

Where the Ocean Comes Alive

Set beside the broad waters of Skjálfandi Bay, Húsavík has grown from a fishing community into one of Iceland's best-known centres for whale research and observation. Nutrient-rich waters attract humpback and minke whales, dolphins, seabirds, and other marine life, making the bay one of the country's most celebrated wildlife regions.

Ashore, explore stories of whales, exploration, and Arctic discovery, including Iceland's complex relationship with whaling. It is a maritime history that also echoes across the North Atlantic in the Faroe Islands, where relationships between people, whales, and the sea have developed along their own distinct cultural path.



Day 6: Eastern Iceland

Fjords Beyond the Familiar

Eastern Iceland unfolds through long fjords, layered mountains, river valleys, and small communities gathered close to the sea. This is one of the country's quieter regions, where fishing harbours, farms, and villages occupy narrow spaces between steep slopes and sheltered water. Inland, Iceland's only wild reindeer range through remote highlands and valleys.

The eastern coast reveals Iceland at a different tempo. Its geological scale remains immense, but the landscape also rewards close attention through changing rock, coastal vegetation, birdlife, waterfalls, and the distinctive character of communities shaped by their fjord settings.

Day 7: Western Faroe Islands

An Archipelago Carved from Basalt

The Faroe Islands rise from the North Atlantic in dark layers of ancient basalt. Green slopes climb towards immense cliffs, waterfalls descend from high plateaus, and narrow sounds separate mountains and islands. Puffins, fulmars, guillemots, and kittiwakes gather along exposed ledges during the breeding season, bringing movement and sound to the vertical coast.

Hikes and Zodiac cruises offer different perspectives on this extraordinary archipelago. From sweeping headlands to the foot of cliffs shaped by waves and weather, the western Faroes reveal how ancient volcanic foundations continue to influence wildlife, settlement, and the scale of everyday life.

Day 8: Tórshavn

A Capital of Culture and Character

Few capitals feel as closely tied to their harbour as Tórshavn. At Tinganes, red timber buildings with turf roofs occupy one of the world's oldest parliamentary meeting places, where assemblies have been held since the Viking Age. Nearby, narrow lanes wind between black-tarred houses and sheltered gardens.

Tórshavn is also the creative centre of the Faroes. Language, visual art, music, design, and an ambitious food culture flourish in its galleries, workshops, cafés, and restaurants. Fishing boats and ferries keep the harbour in motion, while roads, bridges, ferries, and remarkable subsea



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tunnels connect the capital with communities across the archipelago. Tórshavn brings the culture and character of eighteen islands together in one lively harbour.

Day 9: At Sea

Between Two Volcanic Worlds

The journey back towards Iceland creates time to consider two archipelagos formed by volcanic forces at vastly different moments in Earth's history. In the Faroes, ancient basalt has been carved into steep green mountains and narrow sounds. In Iceland, eruptions, glaciers, and tectonic movement continue to create and reshape the land.

Aboard, presentations and conversations explore these geological stories alongside the wildlife and cultures they support. On deck, fulmars and gannets follow the winds, whales may surface along the route, and the changing North Atlantic light keeps attention fixed beyond the ship.

Day 10: Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar

Where Fire Meets the Sea

Heimaey rises from the North Atlantic in a dramatic meeting of volcanic earth and ocean. In 1973, Eldfell erupted without warning, forcing nearly the entire population to evacuate as lava and ash buried parts of the town. When molten rock threatened to close the harbour, islanders pumped seawater onto the advancing flows, helping preserve the sheltered waters at the heart of community life.

Today, brightly painted homes and a busy fishing harbour stand beneath the still-young volcanic cone. Lava fields reach towards the town, while Atlantic puffins return in vast numbers to breed along the surrounding cliffs. Heimaey reveals an island continually shaped by powerful natural forces and by the ingenuity of those who call it home.



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Day 11: Reykjavík, Iceland

Return to a Living Landscape

The expedition returns to Reykjavík, completing a journey around a country whose volcanic, glacial, and maritime forces have remained present at every turn. The capital's geothermal warmth, creative energy, and lively waterfront now form part of a much larger Icelandic story extending through fjords, islands, wildlife-rich waters, and communities along the coast.

After disembarkation, those staying on can explore Reykjavík's museums, galleries, restaurants, shops, and outdoor pools. The city offers many reasons to linger within an island that continues to reveal new expressions of earth, ocean, culture, and imagination.