



June 25 to July 3, 2024

Circumnavigation of Iceland

An aerial photograph of a dramatic, green cliffside in Iceland. A small white house with a dark roof is situated on a flat, grassy plateau in the middle of the cliff. The cliff face is dark and rocky, meeting the blue ocean at the bottom. The sky is a clear, light blue.

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EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER
FELICITY ASTON MBE

CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF ICELAND

Adventure awaits in this stunning Nordic wonderland where nature reigns supreme. With its mystical landscapes, friendly locals, a lively tourism scene, and millions of curious little puffins, Iceland wows visitors at every turn. Each day reveals more of Iceland's natural phenomenon and myriad gems, from black beaches to cerulean icebergs and impressive waterfalls.

Begin in cosmopolitan Reykjavik, the world's northernmost capital and a vibrant example of Iceland's egalitarian society. Cruise to seldom-toured islands and coastal hamlets where the mythic lore and epic sagas of Iceland's national identity are passed down through generations. Glide into Siglufjörður, walk across the Arctic Circle on Grímsey Island, touch ice fragments calved from Breiðamerkurjökull glacier, and stand in the mist of thundering Goðafoss waterfall. Uncover remarkable history on Heimaey Island, where houses hemmed by hardened lava flow from Eldfell volcano are clustered beneath towering cliffs populated by multitudes of birds. During your cruising adventure, keep watch for orcas, gregarious humpback whales, and playful harbor porpoises. This epic destination will tantalize all your senses!

Front cover: House on Ellidaey Island

This Page: Village of Seyðisfjörður





Dear Carolina alumni and friends:

Resting on the edge of the Arctic Circle, Iceland is a realm of astonishing beauty where nature reigns supreme. Come along on this unforgettable exploration through Iceland's vast wealth of magnificent scenery and fascinating cultural heritage.

During our specially designed, seven-night circumnavigation of this Nordic island nation, experience close encounters with Iceland's primal landscapes and unique wildlife at the best time of year, when the midnight sun of the summer solstice melds into lingering twilight.

Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, five-star WORLD NAVIGATOR, able to glide into small ports inaccessible to larger vessels and to alter course as ethereal waterways, rugged fjords, and magisterial glaciers unfold before you. From cosmopolitan Reykjavik to traditional villages and ancient landscapes, encounter endless splendors and connect with Iceland's history and Viking heritage. Plus, enjoy a special visit to Vigur Island, a wildlife sanctuary to see rare Arctic birdlife. The Land of Fire and Ice will surely take your breath away.

Enhance your Icelandic voyage with the Reykjavik and the Golden Circle Pre-Program Option. We encourage you to reserve now while extended booking savings and space are available.

Go Heels and travel the world,

Audrey, Catherine and Douglass

Audrey Liles '13, Catherine Nichols '89 and Douglass Payne '04
Carolina Alumni Travel Office

Participation in this tour is a Carolina Alumni member benefit. Join or renew today at alumni.unc.edu/join.

To secure your spot, call (877) 962-3980 or visit <https://alumni.unc.edu/reserve>



GUEST SPEAKER

FELICITY ASTON MBE

There is an anecdote on Felicity Aston MBE's website that talks about her first "expedition" at the age of nine, which involved "being bribed" up a modest peak in England by her parents. Aston, now one of the most accomplished polar explorers and climate scientists of modern times, says this childhood milestone changed her life. Today, she is both the only woman in the world to have skied across Antarctica alone and the first person in the world to have traversed the continent purely by muscle power, which gave her a place in the *Guinness World Records*. Her polar career began two decades ago when she traveled to Antarctica as a meteorologist with the British Antarctic Survey. By age 23, she was monitoring climate change at the Rothera Research Station on the Antarctic Peninsula. Her Kaspersky Lab Commonwealth Antarctic Expedition was the first to "Tweet to the Pole" and material from her Pole of Cold expedition has been developed into a traveling art exhibition. Aston has since written five books and produces articles for publications in the U.K. and abroad. She is also owner of Iceland's beautiful Vigur Island, where she lives with her family.



Vigur Island, Iceland

LAND OF FIRE AND ICE



Lava formations at Dimmuborgir

A land of unparalleled geological riches, Iceland is home to 4,500 square miles of glaciers, 30 active volcanic systems, 800 hot springs, and more than 10,000 waterfalls. Born of the monumental forces unleashed during the movement of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates and carved out by formidable glaciers and incredible waterfalls, the land is a combination of intense natural energy and veritable calm. The topography of Iceland continues to evolve, yet many of its landscapes remain nearly unchanged since the first Viking settlers laid eyes on them more than 1,100 years ago.

During your circumnavigation, see volcanic craters and fissures, watch as bubbling hot springs erupt steam into the air against a backdrop of Mars-like terrain, encounter pristine waterfalls and black lava deserts, and witness the stoic majesty of mountains capped with snow and volcanoes slumbering beneath sheets of ice. Along the coast, Iceland's characteristic fjords chronicle the powerful path of the glaciers. Enjoy these natural wonders, in constant flux as glaciers calve and shift and new mountains emerge from volcanic lava flow. A startlingly beautiful portrait of Earth's history and progress, Iceland is a primordial landscape hewn by the forces of fire and ice.



Jökulsárlón

INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



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CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF ICELAND

9-DAY/7-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1

Depart home city for an overnight flight to Iceland.

Reykjavík, Iceland/ Embark

Day 2

Arrive in Reykjavík, Iceland's vibrant Nordic capital. Following lunch on your own, join your group for a panoramic tour of Laugardalur Park, home to colorful botanical gardens, recreational facilities, and Iceland's only zoo. Continue to the National Museum, where over 2,000 artifacts provide a window to Iceland's rich history, culture, and heritage. Step into the impressive Hallgrímskirkja Church and visit the Perlan to take in panoramic city views. Cap off your tour in Reykjavík's old town center before embarking the five-star WORLD NAVIGATOR. (B,D)

Vigur Island/ Ísafjörður/ Bolungarvík

Day 3

Uncover fascinating Icelandic heritage on Vigur Island, a private wildlife sanctuary owned by Felicity Aston and her husband Gísli. Embrace the opportunity to get close to arctic terns, eider ducks,

puffins, and black guillemots. See Iceland's only windmill and a vintage working boat used for ferrying goods and sheep. Relax over coffee and traditional cake with the Aston family and mail a postcard from Europe's smallest post office. Return to the ship for a cruise to Ísafjörður; then set

Siglufjörður/ Grímsey Island/ Arctic Circle

Day 4

Welcome to Siglufjörður, one of Iceland's most dramatically sited towns. Visit the Herring Era Museum, Iceland's largest maritime museum. This praised museum recreates the history of



Puffins on Heimaey Island

off to explore the astonishing Westfjords. Witness Ósvör, a replica of a 19th-century fishing station. Continue to friendly Bolungarvík and enjoy a music program inside a small church. Upon your return to Ísafjörður, take a guided walk to view the colorful architecture and 18th-century, timber-framed houses. A visit to the lauded Westfjords Heritage Museum provides insight into the rich maritime heritage of the Westfjords. This evening, attend the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

fish salting and oil processing during the early 20th century and offers visitors insight into the lives of fishermen that once lived in the area. Return to the ship for lunch and cruise to Grímsey Island, which straddles the top of the world at 66 degrees north. Enjoy a special opportunity to walk across the Arctic Circle. (B,L,D)

Húsavík/ Lake Mývatn

Day 5

Explore northern Iceland's extraordinary natural landscapes, stopping

Húsavík, Iceland



at Námaskarð and the pseudocraters at Skútustaðir, formed when hot lava flowed across the wetlands over 2,000 years ago. Walk among the surreal “dark castle” lava formations of Dimmuborgir and drive along the shores of Lake Mývatn. Continue to Goðafoss, or the “Waterfall of the Gods,” and gaze at this scenic wonder. (B,L,D)

Seyðisfjörður

Day 6

Visit the picturesque Blue Church on the 11-mile-long fjords of Seyðisfjörður and enjoy a specially arranged cultural and musical performance. (B,L,D)

Djúpivogur/ Jökulsárlón

Day 7

Depart on a full-day scenic excursion along Iceland's eastern coast. During your

drive, take in stunning mountain views and landscapes peppered with unique land formations and charming villages. Board a specially designed small boat for a private cruise amid the luminous icebergs of Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon in the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Vatnajökull National Park and touch the ice that has calved off the outlet tidewater glacier. (B,L,D)

Heimaey, Westman Islands/ Cruise by Surtsey Island

Day 8

Arrive at Heimaey Island, part of the Vestmannaeyjar (Westman Islands) archipelago, and drive past Sprangan, where locals train for the island sport of rope swinging. See the ruins of

ancient Viking farmhouses dating from A.D. 650 in Herjólfsdalur Valley, observe Heimaey's largest puffin colony from the headland of Stórhöfði, and view a timbered stave church in scenic Skansinn. See the imposing Eldfell volcano and tour the Eldheimar Museum, which chronicles its fateful activity of 1973. This evening, cruise along the coast of Surtsey Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the youngest and most fragile islands on Earth. Tonight, toast to your fellow travelers during the Captain's Farewell Reception. (B,L,R,D)

Reykjavík/Disembark/ Return to Home City

Day 9

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

Ísafjörður, Iceland



Laugardalur Park, Reykjavík





WORLD NAVIGATOR This newly constructed small ship, an intimate yacht appointed in retro-chic elegance, is able to dock in smaller ports inaccessible to larger ships. Each of the 95 suites and staterooms (up to 465 square feet) features a stunning ocean view, and most include a private balcony. All accommodations in your private haven at sea offer a queen-sized bed that can be separated into 2 twin beds, a private bathroom with spa shower, and luxury hotel-style amenities—including bath products from L'Occitane. Complimentary alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages and Wi-Fi access are available throughout the cruise. All meals aboard ship are included, featuring culinary adventures that rival your discoveries ashore.



2024 DEPARTURE DATE: June 25 to July 3 (Embarkation: June 26 at 4:00 pm)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Extended Booking Rate through May 26, 2024	Rate after May 26, 2024
8	Stateroom with panoramic ocean view picture window. Deck 3	\$6,385	\$7,095
7	Stateroom with private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, forward.	\$6,835	\$7,595
6	Stateroom with private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, midship.	\$7,375	\$8,195
5	Stateroom with private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, midship.	\$7,735	\$8,595
4	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling Juliet-style balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, aft.	\$8,275	\$9,195
3	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling Juliet-style balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, aft.	\$8,635	\$9,595
2	Stateroom with balcony. Deck 6.	\$9,175	\$10,195
1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling Juliet-style balcony and interior sitting area. Deck 6.	\$9,985	\$11,095
Journey Suite 2	Suite with large private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5.	\$11,335	\$12,595
Journey Suite 1	Suite with large private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6.	\$12,505	\$13,895
Discovery Suite	Suite with larger private balcony and separate living room with sofa. Deck 5.	\$12,775	\$14,195
Navigator 2 Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate living room with sofa and floor-to-ceiling ocean view, large private balcony , bathroom has a tub and two sinks. Deck 5.	\$14,035	\$15,595
Navigator 1 Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate living room with sofa and floor-to-ceiling ocean view, large private balcony , bathroom has a tub and two sinks. Deck 6.	\$14,575	\$16,195

Single Supplement waived for solo travelers wishing to reserve in categories 6, 7, & 8! This offer is limited capacity controlled. Once capacity is filled single price goes to 200% of the per person double price and are subject to availability.

BONUS SAVINGS! Pay in full at time of booking for additional savings. Bookings made inside 121 days prior to departure are not eligible for this discount. Please call for details.

Port taxes are an additional \$395 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

Reservations require a \$1,000 per person deposit.

To secure your spot, call (877) 962-3980 or visit <https://alumni.unc.edu/reserve>

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Reykjavík, Iceland



PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Reykjavík and the Golden Circle June 23 to 26, 2024 (Tour Begins: June 24)

The captivating city of Reykjavík and its surrounding natural wonders provide you with the perfect prelude to Iceland. Soak in the mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon. Tour the imposing Hallgrímskirkja Church, take in panoramic views from the observation deck of the distinctive Perlan, and tour the National Museum. Enjoy a full-day excursion of Iceland's crown jewel, the legendary Golden Circle. Visit the UNESCO-listed Þingvellir National Park, the meeting point of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Encounter the geothermally active Geysir area, gaze at the Strokkur geyser, and see the picture-perfect Gullfoss waterfall, an impressive 104-foot-high double waterfall that provides a spectacular setting like no other. Accommodations are for 2 nights in the deluxe PARLIAMENT HOTEL.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,755

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$2,285

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Strokkur geyser



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Godafoss waterfall

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Space is limited.
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