



New
This Year

Zodiac Excursion

11 nights

\$8,999* p.p.

Departs Toronto/Kingston:
Jul. 3, 2019

Group size: 25 maximum

🦋 Visits to:

Reykjavík – snæfellsnes peninsula – the westfjords – northern iceland and grimsey – akureyri – húsavík seydisfjörður – southeast iceland – vestmannaeyjar (westman islands)

✔️ What's Included:

- * Roundtrip airfare
- Plaza Premium airport lounge pass
- Reykjavík: one night accommodation
- Adventure Canada cruise: 10 nights sailing onboard the *Ocean Endeavour* with meals (onboard the cruise only)
- Team of expedition staff
- Guided activities, sightseeing and community visits incl. the Blue Lagoon
- Interactive workshops
- Evening entertainment
- Zodiac excursions
- Special access permits, entry and park fees
- Complimentary expedition jacket
- Merit Travel tour host**
- All transfers, taxes and gratuities

Includes most meals!

ICELAND CIRCUMNAVIGATION CRUISE

Round-trip by sea: Reykjavík

HOST: LISE COGLAN

Europe meets North America in Iceland. At the edge of the Arctic Circle, Iceland is dominated by geology and defined by the sea. While circling the island on the *Ocean Endeavour*, an expedition ship with capacity for only 198 passengers, we'll witness the Earth in action. Passengers will pass by, see, explore and learn about active volcanoes, emerging islands, lava fields, and glaciers. First settled in 874AD, Iceland today is the most sparsely populated country in Europe.

Viking descendants live in fishing villages scattered around the coast and local folk share songs and stories, handed down through generations. The landscape is otherworldly. While on the cruise, superb photography, birding, whale-watching and hiking are a quick zodiac ride away.

Onboard you will be joined by an expedition team, who will inspire and entertain you and ultimately broaden your knowledge of Iceland's natural wonders and incredible history.

Single supplements available!
Call your local Merit Travel expert.





ACTIVITY LEVEL:
OUT & ABOUT

APPROPRIATE FOR:

Travellers who lead active lives and are comfortable participating in physically busy and full days of sightseeing. Not suitable for those requiring mobility aids.

Your Itinerary | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner = (B, L, D)

DAY 1 | Jul. 3, 2019 | Toronto/Kingston - Reykjavík

Board your overnight flight to Reykjavík, Iceland.

DAY 2 | Jul. 4, 2019 | Reykjavík

Arrive at Reykjavík and check in to your hotel.

Iceland's cosmopolitan capital, Reykjavík ("steamy bay") was established in 874 AD. Powered by geothermal energy, Reykjavík is widely considered one of the cleanest, greenest cities on Earth. Despite centuries of relative isolation, today Reykjavík is a contemporary city with plenty to see and do. The National Culture House preserves treasures like the Poetic Edda, and the Norse Sagas in their original manuscripts.

Visit to the Blue Lagoon and return to your hotel.

Accommodation in Reykjavík (1 night)

DAY 3 | Jul. 5, 2019 | Reykjavík - Snæfellsnes Peninsula (D)

In the evening embark on your cruise ship.

The hundred-kilometre-long landscape of Snæfellsnes Peninsula is characterized by sparkling fjords, golden beaches, and undulating lava flows. The area is crowned by the glistening ice-capped stratovolcano Snæfellsjökull, 700,000 years old and immortalized in Jules Verne's Journey to the Centre of the Earth. On clear days, the mountain can be seen from Reykjavík, 120 kilometres away. A few

small settlements are located on the south side of the peninsula, and fishing villages can be found on the north.

Accommodation onboard Ocean Endeavour (10 nights)

DAY 4 | Jul. 6, 2019 | The Westfjords (B, L, D)

Only about ten percent of Iceland's visitors ever see this region, known for its jagged bird cliffs and multihued beaches. Coastal fjords, immense mountains, and tiny villages can be found here, and a traditional lifestyle is embraced by the region's inhabitants.

DAY 5 | Jul. 7, 2019 | Northern Iceland and Grimsey (B, L, D)

Iceland's north is a geologist's dream. Lava fields, almost lunar in their composition, epic waterfalls, snow-capped peaks, and bays teeming with marine wildlife are characteristic of the region. Grimsey Island lies on the Arctic Circle. Its human population of about a hundred shares the island with nearly a million seabirds! These include puffins, guillemots, and gulls.

DAY 6 | Jul. 8, 2019 | Akureyri (B, L, D)

Iceland's second-largest urban area, Akureyri enjoys a relatively mild climate and ice-free harbour. In addition, Akureyri is surrounded by mountains, which shield it from strong winds. First settled in the ninth century, Akureyri provided a base for Allied units during the Second World War. Nearby Lake Myvatn offers stunning contrasts; one side of the lake features rugged volcanic remnants, while the other side is blessed with lush vegetation and varied bird life.





DAY 7 | Jul. 9, 2019 | Húsavík (B, L, D)

Húsavík, on Skjalfandi Bay, is known as the “Whale Capital” of Iceland. Fifteen different whale species frequent the area. We also hope to see dolphins, and potentially thirty varieties of birds. The Húsavík Museum is located by the harbour, as well as a whale museum, a turf house museum and the Exploration Museum, which houses artifacts from the Apollo astronaut training in the area.

DAY 8 | Jul. 10, 2019 | Seydisfjörður (B, L, D)

Seydisfjörður is nestled at the tip of its namesake fjord. The town of seven hundred is known for its flourishing art scene, colourful roads, and shopping. We will also have the opportunity to visit the Skalanes Nature Reserve. Family owned and operated, this is a centre for research and interpretation of Iceland’s environment and cultural history, and a model for sustainable tourism. The 3,000-acre area is a habitat for approximately fifty different bird species during the summer time, and, in particular, the eider duck.

DAY 9 | Jul. 11, 2019 | Southeast Iceland (B, L, D)

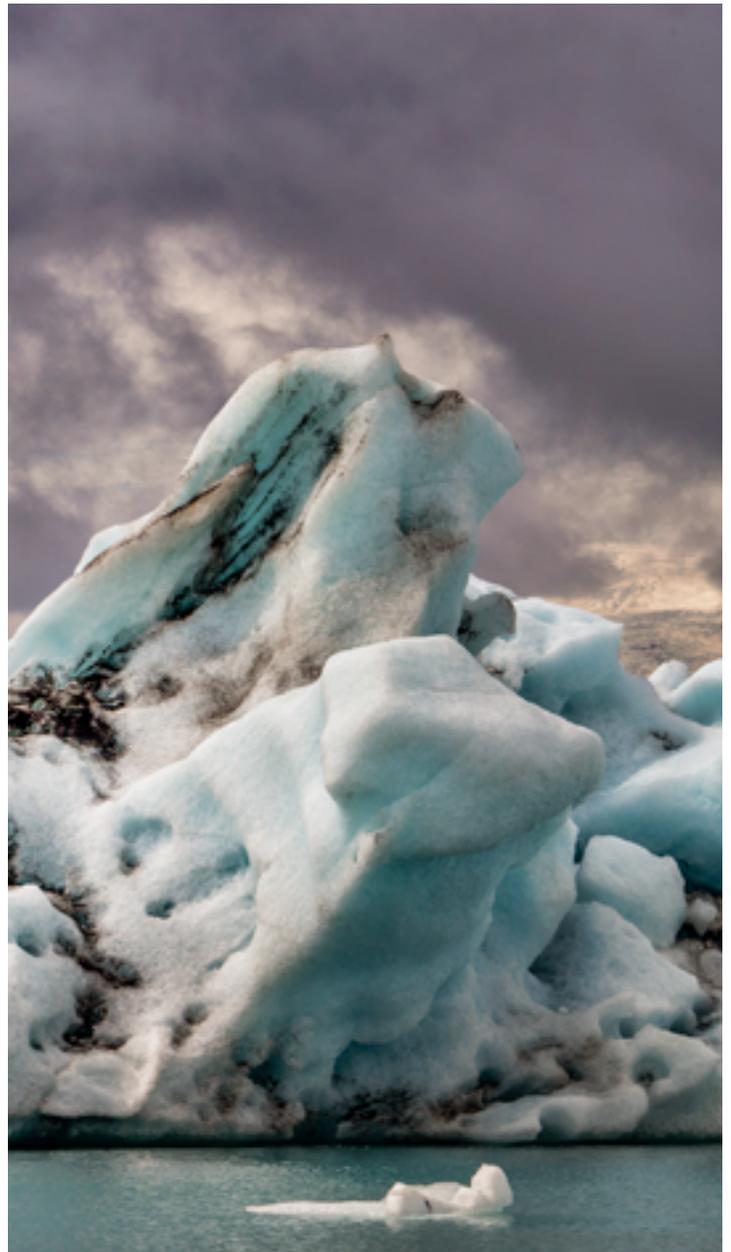
The south of Iceland is home to some of the country’s most beautiful natural attractions. It boasts a unique mix of volcanoes, lagoons, glaciers—as well as hot springs, geysers, and spectacular waterfalls.

DAY 10 | Jul. 12, 2019 | Vestmannaeyjar (Westman Islands) (B, L, D)

Vestmannaeyjar lies off the south coast of Iceland and comprises fourteen islands, numerous rocks and skerries. Only the largest island, Heimaey, is inhabited. Numerous species of sea birds nest in the steep rock faces along the ocean cliffs. The volcanically active area has seen two major eruptions in recent times which resulted in the formation of the island of Surtsey in 1963. The Eldfell eruption ten years later, destroyed much of Heimaey and nearly blocked its harbour.

DAY 11 | Jul. 13, 2019 | Reykjavík (B)

Here we will disembark the Ocean Endeavour and transfer to the airport for our return charter flight.



RESPONSIBILITY

Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

- a. Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
- b. Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
- c. Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations
- d. Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
- e. Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
- f. Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
- g. Personal injuries or death;
- h. Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Please note, some of our suppliers may require additional deposit or full payments at time of booking, pending seasonality. You will be advised of additional requirements at time of booking.

LIABILITY

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited. There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services. Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

- a. 121 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
- b. 120-91 days prior to departure: Loss of 65% of total tour cost.
- c. 90 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller's return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain at the passenger's expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Travel in writing upon your return.