

# Iceland Circumnavigation

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 05 – 14 June 2023





# Reykjavik

DAY 1 | Monday 05 June 2023

Position at 1200 on Jun 05

Latitude: 64° 09.1 N

Longitude: 022° 43.4 W

Course: Alongside at Faxagardur Port, Reykjavik

Speed: 0

Wind Speed: 3 SW

Barometer: 1021

Air Temp: 14°C

Explore. Dream. Discover.

—Mark Twain

Today we enjoyed exploring the vibrant capital city of Iceland, Reykjavik. Home to around 140,000 people, it has a vivid nightlife, modern museums, world-class restaurants, galleries, shops and bars.

Local guides led us to some of Reykjavik's popular landmarks, including the Hallgrímskirkja Church, The Harpa Concert Hall and the Althing – home of the oldest surviving parliament in the world. Afterwards, we experienced Iceland's Ultimate flying ride at Flyover Iceland. With dangled feet before a 20-metre spherical screen, we were whisked away on an exhilarating journey across the land of fire and ice.

At the port, the Aurora Expeditions team and ship's crew greeted us, took our photographs and helped us navigate the decks to our cabins - our home away from home for the next nine days. During check-in, we had time to enjoy embarkation refreshments before Expedition Leader John called us together to welcome us aboard the *Sylvia Earle*.

We were introduced to the Expedition Team, the Ship's Doctor, the Hotel Director, and his Heads of Departments in the lecture theatre. After the man overboard briefing, it was time to learn about the "Zodiac three-step", which will soon become second nature. There was a lot of information to take in, but necessary so we could get started with our adventure early the following day.

Finally, it was time to receive our lifeboat and safety briefing and ready ourselves for the abandon ship drill. The sound of seven-short-one-long rings from the ship's signal system was our cue to don warm clothes, bulky orange lifejackets and gather at the muster station to sample our safety gear. Our safety officers and crew guided us to the lifeboats to familiarise us with their whereabouts.

The Polar Class life vessels can hold 136 people each for five days!

As dinner approached, we completed our jacket swap and are now fully prepared to face whatever weather Iceland throws our way. Under the evening light, we pulled away from the pier to begin our circumnavigation of Iceland.

Equipped with a healthy appetite, we made our way to the Gentoo Restaurant to enjoy a delicious dinner our talented galley team prepared and served by our welcoming waiting staff.



After dinner, our four intrepid kayakers met with their guides, Ivan and Anula, to discuss the plan for tomorrow's outing and the coming days ahead.

Together we total 71 Expeditioners from Australia (28), France (1), Ireland (2), UK (7), and USA (6), an international Expedition Team and 86 ships crew from around the globe. We also have three local guides to share their knowledge of their homeland with us.

After many hours of travel to reach this corner of the world, it's time to kick back, breathe in the Icelandic air, and enjoy exploring the wonders of this magical land.

# Snæfellsness Peninsula

DAY 2 | Tuesday 06 June

Position at 1530 on Jun 06

Latitude: 65° 05.041' N

Longitude: 022° 43.263' W

Course: 296.8°

Speed: 0.2 knots

A first walk in any new country is one of the things which makes life on this planet worth being grateful for.

—Charles William Beebe

Today we anchored outside the town of Stykkishólmur, where we got into our Zodiacs and took a ride to the wharf. From there, we divided into buses with our local guides to explore Snæfellsness peninsula.

One of our stops was Kirkjufell mountain and the nearby waterfall, Kirkjufellsfoss. Kirkjufell means “Church Mountain,” and it is a well-known landmark in Iceland. It rises to a height of 463 metres, and you might recognise it if you are a “Game of Thrones” fan. Walking up to the waterfall made for a dramatic and moody view of the mountain.

During our bus ride, we experienced incredible views of sprawling lava fields, and passed by grazing horses and sheep. We saw abstract sculptures formed by lava, valleys carved by snow and ice, and a glacier peeking from the mountains. Our first impression of Iceland showed us how varied and otherworldly the landscape can be.

The black sand beach at Djúpalónssandur offered basalt cliffs in all directions, allowing us to experience Iceland’s rugged coastline. Scattered on the beach were iron remains from a shipwreck: a British trawler, the Epine GY 7, from 1948. As waves crashed against the shore, it was easy to imagine the rough conditions that many vessels have had to endure in Icelandic waters.

Some of us tested our strength by lifting the heavy stones at the beach, where we learned how sailors who rowed out from Dritvík did the very same—if they wanted to be eligible as an oarsman rowing a boat, they needed to be able to lift Halfrættlingur (a 54kg/120lb stone) to a platform at least hip-high.

Our tour also included a stop at some impressive bird cliffs at Arnarstapi, screeching with kittiwakes and Arctic terns as they circled around us. The green colour of the surrounding hillsides showed us how important the birds are to fertilising the area.

We were able to walk along the cliffs until we reached the statue of Bárður: a descendant of giants and men. He was the son of a king in Scandinavia, and he staked claim to the land of Laugarbrekka by the Snæfell glacier at the end of the 9th century. Later in life, Bárður’s giant nature became ever more apparent. In the end, he disappeared into Snæfell glacier, but did not die. He became a nature spirit and the local folk around the glacier petitioned him in matters large and small.

Wind Speed: 12.4 W

Barometer: 1023

Air Temp: 9°C

At Ytri Tunga, we walked on a beach containing minke whale bones, layers and layers of seaweed, and lounging harbour seals. The clouds cleared way for the sun, and we were able to enjoy a walk to enjoy the fresh sea air.

After a quick stop at the black church in Búðir, we drove back to the town of Stykkishólmur where our tour began, and got back into the Zodiacs for our journey back to the ship. It was a lovely day, filled with many impressions!

Congratulations to our intrepid kayakers for their first paddle in the northern Atlantic!

Back onboard we enjoyed cocktails and canapes in the Tektite bar before gathering in the Lecture Theatre to meet Captain Arsen and his senior officers. We toasted to a successful voyage around Iceland on this wonderful young vessel, the *Sylvia Earle*.



# Patreksfjörður

DAY 3 | Wednesday 07 June 2023

Position at 0700 on Jun 07

Latitude: 65°36.7 N

Longitude: 24°0.57'W

Course: 132°

Speed: 5.6

Wind Speed: 3 knots, SSW

Barometer: 1024

Air Temp: 9°C

Land was created to provide a place for boats to visit.

—Brook Atkinson

This morning we entered the Icelandic fjord of Patreksfjörður, conditions were calm with light winds and an overcast sky. Due to a forecast for strong winds in the afternoon the Captain decided to anchor outside the entrance to the small harbour. We all boarded the Zodiacs for the short ride into the harbour to board the three buses waiting to take us on our tour.

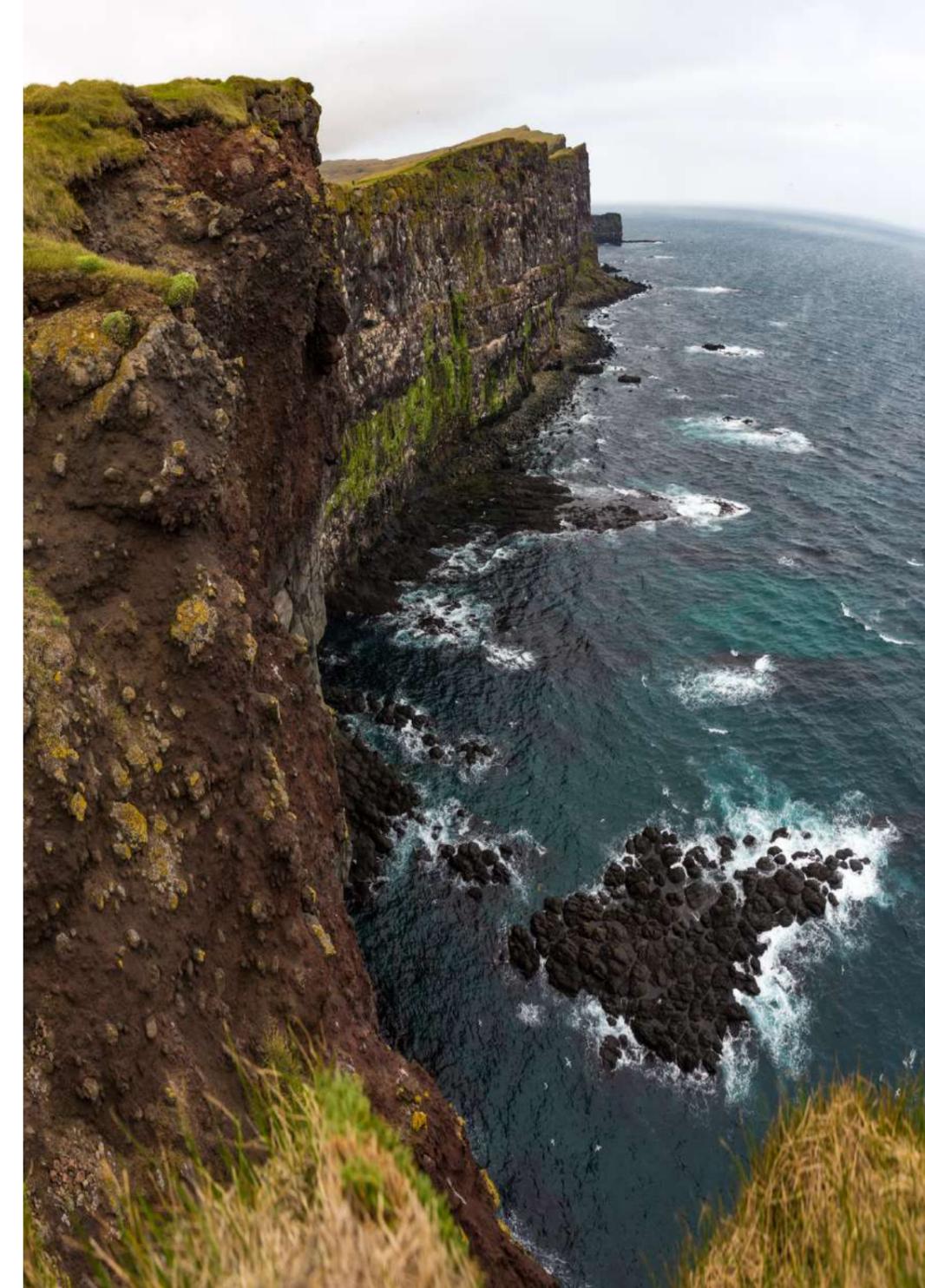
At the Látrabjarg Cliffs, which are the largest bird cliffs in Iceland and considered one of the most magnificent cliffside nesting areas in the world, there was a very cold wind blowing but we were rewarded with close up views of the very cute and colourful Atlantic Puffins that nest in burrows along the top of the cliffs. Other birds seen at Látrabjarg were common guillemots, black legged kittiwakes and northern fulmars and from the bus we saw a European golden plover (the national bird of Iceland) which arrives with the spring and many common eiders (where we get eider down from).

Many ships have been wrecked at the base of the Látrabjarg cliffs, the most famous one being the wreck of the British trawler Dhoo on 12 December 1947. Local farmers from Látrabjarg quickly mounted a daring rescue operation to save the 12 crew members on board which involved rappelling 70 metres down the cliff, as this was in the middle of winter the cliffs were covered with ice. Once at the bottom of the cliff the rescuers had to shoot a rope over to the ship 100 metres away and take the crew off in a rescue chair, the entire rescue took over a day to complete.

Our secondary site to visit was Rauðasandur (red sand) beach, this is unique as most beaches in Iceland are black. The tidal flats here provide a great habitat for many birds which include Arctic terns and whimbrels.

We travelled back to Patreksfjörður, where some opted to take a short tour of the town while others returned to the ship.

Back on the ship we had a recap, where Dani informed us about citizen science, Snowy told us about Atlantic puffins, Pia told us about the end of voyage slide show and John informed us on the activities we have planned for tomorrow in Ísafjörður.



# Ísafjörður

DAY 4 | Thursday 08 June 2023

Position at 0700 on Jun 08

Latitude: 66°01'7 N

Longitude: 23°05.5'W

Course: Various

Speed: 6 knots

Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

We woke up in a rainy and misty morning with the beautiful sound of our Expedition Leader John singing the song “TLC – Waterfalls” as the ship was going alongside on a pier of Ísafjörður, the largest settlement in the peninsula of Vestfirðir (Westfjords) and the administration centre of the Ísafjarðarbær municipality. Yeah, I hope our dear readers already became quite good with Icelandic words!

According to the Landnámabók (the book of settlement), the town was first settled by Helgi Magri Hrólfsson in the 9th century. In the 16th century, this town grew as it became a trading post for foreign merchants. Fishing always has been the main industry in Ísafjörður, and the town has one of the largest fisheries in Iceland. Despite its size, small population, and isolation from the rest of the country, the town seems to be a well developed city with school, hospital, university, and lots of other establishments but still has this cozy atmosphere of a tiny fishing village. Interestingly, this small town has become known in the country as a centre for alternative music providing festivals and a platform for local musicians and bands from around Iceland and other countries.

Our day began with a bus trip to Dynjandi (Thunderous) waterfall. On the way we were absolutely fascinated by the beauty of surrounding vast mountains and fjords and little farms and houses built in the middle of nowhere – Iceland seems to be a real heaven for introverts. The weather was changing from valley to valley, we even saw a beautiful rainbow! The waterfall appeared to be a cascade with many waterfalls with different names and Dynjandi is the biggest of them and the largest in all Westfjords. It was a wet but spectacular hike to the top of the waterfall and the views were amazing all the way.

Our next stop was Flateyri, a tiny village that used to be a trading post since 1792 and temporary whaling centre in the 19th century. Now the main income of Flateyri people is fishing, even though the financial crisis in 2008 affected the local fishing companies. The point of interest for us (apart from good coffee) in this village was the famous Old Bookstore which is the oldest original store in Iceland selling great variety of books and other goods.

After delicious lunch we split into several teams and explored surroundings of Ísafjörður – some of us explored the town, others went hiking to the Bunafoss waterfall and the mountains surrounding the fjord. And of course, as a kayaker, I should mention our little team of keen kayakers who explored the coast of the fjord to the west from the town.

Wind Speed: 3 knots, S

Barometer: 1009

Air Temp: 10°C

It was one of those bright busy days when so many things happen that you want to take some time to reflect on it! It will definitely stay in our memories. Looking forward to the next day in Iceland!



# Djúpavík & Hólmavík

DAY 5 | Friday 09 June 2023

Position at 0700 on Jun 09

Latitude: 65°58.4'N

Longitude: 21°21.3'W

Course: 279°

Speed: 9,7 knots

Wind Speed: x 6 knots, SSE

Barometer: 1005

Air Temp: 9°C

To travel is to live.

—Hans Christian Anderson

We visited the idyllic town of Djúpavík, nestled deep within Reykjarfjörður in Iceland's West Fjords. Djúpavík welcomed the arrival of the *Sylvia Earle* with a beautiful rainbow, and some reports of a brief sighting of a whale from the starboard side of the ship.

The captain used Dynamic Positioning (an automatic system to hold the ship steady in location without an anchor) while we all piled into waiting Zodiacs for some activities in the fjords. Some brave souls were the first to head along the fjord's eastern shoreline in open Zodiacs to see if we could seek out some whale sightings. Of course, the Hidden People heard our excitement about Zodiac cruising and took this opportunity to call up some impressive gusty winds accompanied by driving rain. Perfect weather for a Zodiac cruise indeed! But, as we agreed, a rainbow is impossible unless there's some rain, so we enjoyed the invigorating action of the boats and dashed straight into the ancient Hotel Djúpavík to warm up with a coffee upon reaching dry land again.

Exploring the old herring factory gave us a wonderful look at the history of this improbable little settlement, and we tried hard to wrap our heads around the idea of a town of 500 people existing here in this outpost of civilisation.

The owner of the factory ruins gave a tour laden with insight into Icelandic character and humour too – the hard work and perseverance of his family explained with a healthy dose of self-deprecating humour and many a twinkle of the eyes.

We had a taste of authentic Iceland sampling the homemade Happy Marriage cake, and therefore embarked on our exploration of the coastline of Djúpavík in a state of enhanced marital contentment...

After lunch on board many of us enjoyed a quiet afternoon nap before we moved into the mythical realm. Stopping at Hólmavík we visited the Icelandic Museum of Sorcery and Witchcraft. Learning of the many hardships and accompanying diversity of 'survival strategies' employed by Icelanders in the 17th Century gave us insight into what on earth "Necropants" are, and how to both make and use them. Our lives are that much richer for the information!

Clear skies and sunshine made our departure from Hólmavík an unprecedented pleasure, and so our voyage towards the Arctic Circle continues.



# Grímsey Island

DAY 6 | Saturday 10 June 2023

Position at 0700 on Jun 10

Latitude: 66°30.6'N

Longitude: 18°11.5'W

Course: 071°

Speed: 9,2 knots

Wind Speed: 20 knots, WSW

Barometer: 1008

Air Temp: 12°C

You will reach your destination even though you travel slowly.

—Islandic Proverb

We were greeted this morning with blue skies as we sailed toward our location of the day: Grímsey Island. About 40km off the coast of mainland Iceland, Grímsey Island has a rich fishing culture and is known for being a nesting area for migrating seabirds.

It is also the only part of Iceland that is partially above the Arctic circle.

The Zodiac ride from the ship was wavy and adventurous, but we were soon in the calm harbour of Grímsey. Hundreds of puffins were wheeling around the cliff sides, and it felt great to finally have some sun.

Once everyone was on shore, we divided into walking groups and went off to explore different parts of the island. No matter which trails we followed, we were offered stunning views: colonies of puffins, guillemots, and Arctic terns; sheep grazing in the grass; and, of course, the ever so photogenic Icelandic horses.

Many of us walked up to the spherical sculpture that marks the Arctic circle, and we were able to walk into the Arctic. We also had the chance to see the gallery and walk around the small town on Grímsey Island.

We went back to the ship for lunch, and then it was time for an incredible Zodiac cruise in sunny, calm weather beneath the bird cliffs. As we drifted along the cliffs, we listened to the sound of thousands of seabirds (including a very impressive razorbill colony, according to our bird expert Snowy). The seabirds provide a lot of fertilisation to the area, which was reflected by the bright green colour of the landscape. We passed waterfalls and even a few caves.

After the cruise, it was time for another highlight: polar plunge! Those of us who wanted to have a cold dip in the North Atlantic were able to jump from the Zodiac into the 9°C water. To say it was refreshing is probably an understatement.

At our evening recap session, we learned about the definition of the Arctic, and the different types of seals in Iceland. There was a rainbow over the fjord; did you know: the Vikings believed that rainbows were a road to Valhalla (the name for heaven). Then it was time for dinner, which soon turned into a whale-watching session... humpbacks!



# Polar Plunge

DAY 6 | Saturday 10 June 2023



# Hjalteyri & At Sea

DAY 7 | Sunday 11 June 2023

Position at 0700 on Jun 11

Latitude: 65°53.8'N

Longitude: 18°12.5'W

Course: 158°

Speed: 7.4 knots

Wind Speed: 38 knots, SSE

Barometer: 1009

Air Temp: 12°C

Passion is the fire that burns within your soul when everything else seems cold.

—Anonymous

We awoke to a blustery morning as our ship was arriving at anchor off the small village of Hjalteyri on the western shore of Eyjafjörður. A delicious breakfast then it was time to layer up against the elements in preparation for our Zodiac transfer. Last night at the briefing we were advised today was a dry landing. Well, maybe our feet were dry (except for a few of us on the Zodiac with Snowy, which had a very leaky floor) but the wind and swell during our transfer from ship to shore certainly gave us a good soaking. Our Expedition Team drivers were great and got us all to the floating jetty safely.

Until the early 20th century, this village was one of the main hubs of the herring fishing industry. The stark grey oil tanks and buildings stand as a reminder of the heyday of this village. From 1880, Norwegians, Swedes, Scots and Germans were fishing and salting herring in the area, but all foreigners had left by 1914. The Icelandic fishing company Kveldulfur was active from 1914 and in 1937 and built the largest herring factory in Europe at Hjalteyri, which ran until 1966. The herring disappeared from the fishing grounds in the 1960s and Kveldulfur left as well.

Today the old herring factory functions as a culture centre from the community. Within the main building we were able to view an art installation by Icelandic artist, Sigurdur Gudmundsson. The large empty rooms certainly had an eerie feel about them.

Next it was onto the Dive Centre where owner Erlzndur Bogason has a small museum on the underwater world outside Hjalteyri. The museum encompasses only one room but Erlzndur gave a comprehensive talk about the photos and items he has collected over many years of diving.

Possibly the most interesting visit was to the 'Fur & Skin Shop'. The proprietor of this business makes items out of hair from several animals including dogs, bears and horses. A curious collection of interesting items.

By the time we were ready to return to the ship the sea condition had improved, and we made it back onboard in a relatively dry state.

Our afternoon began with Snowy presenting a lecture on Seabirds of Iceland followed by a citizen science bird survey. Not only did we spot birds but to our delight Humpback whales and possibly one Blue whale surfaced within sight of the ship. Captain Arsen stopped the ship so we could all enjoy their presence. Several thousand photos were taken within the time they stayed near us. It was a very 'HAPPY WHALE' afternoon.



# Seyðisfjörður

DAY 8 | Monday 12 June 2023

Position at 0700 on Jun 12

Latitude: 65° 16.3'N

Longitude: 13° 59.5'W

Course: Various

Speed: 4 knots

Wind Speed: 5 knots WNW

Barometer: 1010

Air Temp: 14°C

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

—T. S. Eliot, 'Little Gidding'

This morning we cruised into beautiful Seyðisfjörður on the East Coast of Iceland. The weather was calm as we entered this long, steep-sided inlet for a day of exploration of the town of Seyðisfjörður, and some of the nearby valleys and waterfalls.

First to leave the ship was a group of intrepid hikers, who zipped away in the Zodiacs for a wet landing a few miles from the town. They then headed inland past a series of waterfalls along the Mountain Lady Trail. At the head of this trail is a small mountain cave around which some ancient human bones were discovered. Those bones were dated to about 1100 years ago, so came from one of the first humans to reach Iceland during the Settlement Era. They are the remains a young lady who was about 30 years old when she died. The trail followed a stream of waterfalls along a hidden valley and up into the mountains.

Other groups joined tours of the small town, led by our Icelandic experts, Diddi and Throstur, or just enjoyed some free time to soak up the vibe of this isolated village. Seyðisfjörður is a beautiful place with its many colourful buildings standing out against the dramatic backdrop of the steep-sided fjord. After the tour, many people visited the waterfall to the east of the town, before heading back to the *Sylvia Earle* for a hearty lunch. Others hiked up the sides of the fjord, where some encountered the sound sculpture of Tvisongur.

Exploring the shops and galleries of Seyðisfjörður was a treat. In addition to some lovely local handicrafts, the people of Seyðisfjörður seem to specialise in some bizarre art displays.

It was a glorious, sunny day, so a perfect opportunity for a lunchtime barbecue. The hotel staff put on a delicious barbecue, with some very special grilled meat, salads and cheeses. They had also concocted a spicy and very tasty sangria to get the party started. It was a very pleasant way to enjoy lunch in the sunshine on the upper decks watching the spectacular mountains of Seyðisfjörður as we passed by.

As lunch was ending, we rounded the entrance of the fjord and started travelling along the south-east coasts



# Heimaey

DAY 9 | Tuesday 13 June 2023

Position at 0700 on Jun 13

Latitude: 63° 16.7'N

Longitude: 18° 49.4'W

Course: 291°

Speed: 10.8 knots

Wind Speed: 5 knots WSW

Barometer: 1020

Air Temp: 10°C

The three great elemental sounds in nature are the sound of rain, the sound of wind in a primeval wood, and the sound of outer ocean on a beach. I have heard them all, and of the three elemental voices, that of the ocean is the most awesome, beautiful and varied.

—Henry Beston

Today we travelled to the largest and only populated island in the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago, Heimaey. Sitting on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the Westman Islands are home to an incomparable landscape of volcanoes, lava, and windswept cliffs. Aside from its incredible natural beauty, in summer the islands have the world's largest population of nesting puffins.

After breakfast we stepped out on deck to appreciate our arrival into this wonder of nature. Steep moss-covered cliffs welcomed us under a blue sky, making it the perfect back drop for our group photo.

Once the ship was alongside, we split into two buses for our tour of the island.

Heimaey is famous for being the only place in Iceland known to have first been settled by non-vikings but also renowned for the Eldfell volcano, which erupted in 1973 and caused significant damage to the town. The eruption began unexpectedly, with a fissure opening up on the eastern side of the island, spewing lava and ash. The lava flow threatened the town of Vestmannaeyjar, forcing the evacuation of its residents. However, through a massive effort involving the use of seawater and firefighting techniques, the town was saved from destruction.

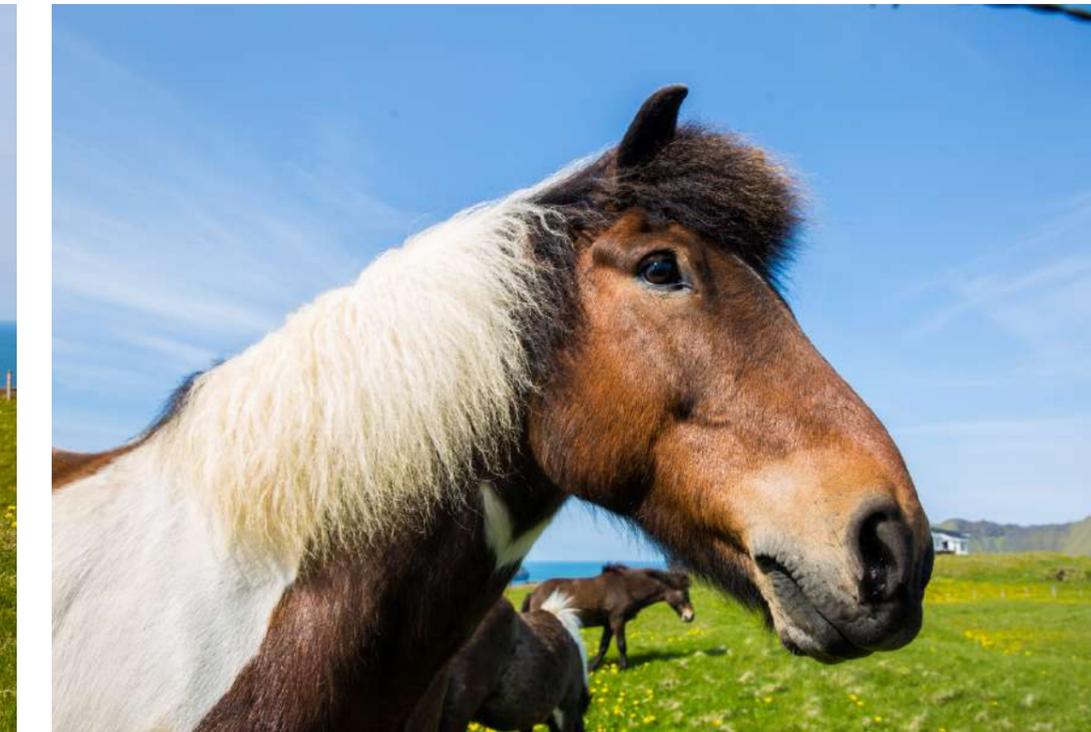
Our island tour took us to see intriguing sites like Elephant Rock, a natural rock formation made of basalt rock formed during one of Mt. Eldfell's many eruptions. The resemblance of the head and trunk was uncanny. We met local wildlife such as Icelandic sheep and Icelandic ponies (horses). Icelandic horses are as local to this volcanic land as its people. They arrived here on the very first ships of the settlers and has, ever since, remained a loyal friend and vital servant.

Off the bus, many of us walked to the top of Eldfell ("Hill of Fire" in Icelandic). A volcanic cone just over 200 metres (660 ft) high for breathtaking views across the island. The walk along the top revealed a considerable drop in temperature, but I'm sure we'd all agree it was well worth it! A visit to Eldheimar museum was a must for it exhibited a glimpse of Heimaey before, during, and after the eruption through engaging audio-visual exhibits.

As the afternoon started to wind up, a few of us enjoyed a wander through the streets and a nice cold local beer at Brothers Brewery.



Back onboard it was time to farewell our circumnavigation of Iceland with a toast from the captain, expedition team and crew. After a delicious farewell dinner, we gathered in the lecture theatre for Pia's unforgettable slideshow. Each photo captured the unforgettable beauty that Iceland shared with us and those special moments we experienced on this adventure together.



# Reykjavik

DAY 10 | Wednesday 14 June 2023

Aurora Expeditions sends out a big thank you to you all for your great humour, infectious enthusiasm and smiling faces. It was a pleasure having you all on board and being able to share some of the pleasures that Iceland had to offer. May your memories live long and bright.



# Kayaking Log

Kayak Guides: Ivan Klochkov, Anula Jochym

Number of Paddlers: 4

Total Paddle Outings: 4

Total Distance Paddled: 20 km

Paddlers:

Franny Friesz

Freida Beck

Nancy Cushing

Jasmine North

## June 6, 2023: Stykkisholmur. Distance: 8 km

Our first paddle in Iceland! While the rest of the expedition went on a bus tour around the peninsula, we stayed on the ship to get ready for our first paddle. And it was fantastic! We started with a bit of paddling coaching in a little protected harbour and then went out to explore tiny islands around the area. This location is well known for thousands of islands washed by strong tidal currents – it was so much fun to play around and explore! In the middle of the day, we had a lovely lunch near shipwreck, it was great to enjoy the meal with such a great view. Later, we admired the intertidal zones of different small islets and spotted a huge Grey Seal! We also had a funny incident when everyone except Anula got stuck in a little kelp field – a bit of struggling and we successfully got out! Anula also took us to a beautiful little cave where we finished our first paddle. Towing kayaks back was fun, we saw cute fluffy sheep on a tiny island, so-called “Sheep Alcatraz”.

## June 8, 2023: Isafjordur. Distance: 4.5 km

It was a rainy day! We towed our kayaks to the West from the harbour along the wall of the fjord and got into kayaks from a little protected beach. It was great to paddle along amazing coastline with steep cliffs hiding their tops in the low clouds. There used to be a road going right along this coast, but it was destroyed by landslides and avalanches, so now the road turns away from the coast going in the tunnel. It is interesting to observe how nature takes over everything. We also saw some beautiful waterfalls on the way!

## June 10, 2023: Grímsey Island. Distance: 3 km

This was one of the greatest paddles that we could ever imagine! Once we have finished exploring the remote Grímsey Island by feet, we repositioned the vessel to the sheltered eastern rocky coast of island where the water was flat, and the wind was calm. We paddled along the towering, massive cliffs that give shelter to thousands and thousands of seabirds of various species. It is hard to pick words to describe how fascinating it was to paddle surrounded by vast numbers of flying birds – a true celebration of wildlife and nature! This moment will surely stay in our memories!



## June 12, 2023: Seyðisfjörður. Distance: 4 km

It was a great day! Early in the morning we towed our kayaks to the northern wall of the fjord, a little bit further to the east from Vestdalsfossar waterfalls. We had a little bit of sea breeze on the way, but it was calm next to the coast. We also saw a humpback whale on the way – a great start of the day! We started paddling downwind, the sun was shining bright, and the weather was just awesome. Soon we landed near the waterfalls and went on a little hike to check them out. The waterfalls were fascinating – bright coloured grass, perfectly clean water, and lots of rainbows! It was such a great little hike! We returned to the ship via Zodiac and even had enough time to explore Seyðisfjörður – one of the most beautiful towns in Iceland.



# Bird and Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	June													
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
Red-throated Diver		•	•	•										
Great Northern Diver											•			
Northern Fulmar	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Northern Gannet	•											•	•	
Barnacle Goose		•	•											
Greylag Goose				•			•				•	•		
Brent Goose		•												
Whooper Swan		•	•	•										
Mallard		•	•	•	•						•	•		
Tufted Duck		•		•							•			
Common Eider		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Harlequin Duck		•		•									•	
Red-breasted Merganser				•							•	•		
Rock Ptarmigan			•											
Common Ringed Plover		•									•	•	•	•
European Golden Plover			•	•			•							•
Sanderling														
Dunlin		•	•								•			
Purple Sandpiper		•	•											
Ruddy Turnstone		•										•	•	
Common Snipe		•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•		
Red-necked Phalarope							•	•	•	•	•	•		
Grey Phalarope		•												
Common Redshank		•	•	•							•	•	•	•
Eurasian Oystercatcher		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Whimbrel		•	•										•	
Black-tailed Godwit											•		•	
Arctic Skua		•	•											

Bird Species	June													
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
Great Skua												•		
Herring Gull	•	•												
Sabine's Gull								•					•	•
Glaucous Gull		•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•	
Great Black-backed Gull	•	•	•	•	•							•		
Lesser Black-backed Gull	•	•	•	•			•	•				•	•	
Black-headed Gull		•	•	•	•			•	•				•	
Common Gull							•							
Iceland Gull											•		•	•
Black-legged Kittiwake	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Arctic Tern	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Common Guillemot	•			•	•				•					
Brunich's Guillemot				•						•				
Black Guillemot		•	•				•	•						
Razorbill				•					•					
Atlantic Puffin		•	•						•				•	
European Shag		•	•	•	•	•								
White-tailed Eagle		•												
Rock Pigeon		•												•
Northern Wheatear				•						•				
Meadow Pipit		•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	
European Starling		•	•	•	•	•							•	
Common Redpoll												•		
Eurasian Blackbird		•			•	•								•
Common Raven		•	•	•										
White Wagtail					•									•
Snow Bunting											•			
Redwing		•	•	•							•	•	•	

Mammal Species	June													
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
Common/Harbour Seal		•	•		•									
Grey Seal		•	•										•	
Minke Whale	•													
Humpback Whale	•									•	•	•		
White-beaked Dolphin	•													





- Reykjavík
1. Stykkisholmur
  2. Patreksfjörður
  3. Djúpavík
  4. Holmavík
  5. Grímsey Island
  6. Hjalteyri
  7. Seydisfjörður
  8. Heimaey Island

Total Distance Travelled:  
1,184 nautical miles





## Expeditioners:

Sidqi Ahmad

Howard Alport

Jim Bailard

Jean Bailard

Freida Beck

Stephanie Benardis

Astaman Bin Abdul Aziz

Fadilah Binti Edross

Janelle Bradley

Carol Brazeau

Sandra Bryant

Lori Busby

Todd Busby

Lesley Cartwright

Mei Lin Rosabelle Chua

Glenn Cole

Cassandra Cook

Jayden Cook

Nancy Cushing

Michael Dakin

Jane Elmore

Cathy Engelkes

Myra Engelkes

Toby Friesz

Franny Friesz

Glen Gould

Julian Gregory

Jennifer Gregory

Yusuf Hashim

Lyn Hill

Ranald Hill

David Itzkowic

Melinda Itzkowic

George Klopfer

Bunny Laden

Sanford Lee

Shannon LeGrand

Jane Maarseveen

Heinz Maarseveen

Marie Macdonald

Malcolm Macdonald

Azlina Mahmad

Holly Marr

Austin McLaughlin

Lynda McLaughlin

Kelli Ann Mills

Leona Nock

Jasmine North

Nicole Papantoniou

Susan Paul

Sherry Peller

Charles Ryan

Evelyn Ryan

Deborah Ryan

Malcolm Ryan

Kay Sanderson

Bob Seiler

Susan Seiler

Radost Simeonova

Korena Sinnett

Catherine Slusser

Mo Smith

Frances Soloe

Koren Spas

Doris Stoner

Randy Sullivan

Leigh Sullivan

Kuang Chuan Tan

Wan Hamimie Wan Ariff

Cathy Wash

David Young

## Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: John Kirkwood

Assistant Expedition Leader: Dot Robertson

Onboard Expedition Manager: Justine Bornholdt

Onboard Expedition Manager Trainee: Barbara Ostwalt

Naturalist: Graeme (Snowy) Snow

Marine Biologist: Dani Abras

Historian: Kelsey Camacho

Ecologist/Geologist: Heather Chrystie

Photography Guide: Pia Harboure

Expedition Medic: David (from Dunedin) Palmer

Kayak Guide: Ivan Klochkov

Kayak Guide: Anula Jochym

Zodiac Master: Ignacio (Nacho) Marino

Onboard Expedition Assistant: Ari Benz Ciria

Local Guide: Hodei Orueta Ruibal

Local Guide: Throestur Sverrisson

Local Guide: Sigurdur (Diddi) Magnusson

## Photography thanks to:

Pia Harboure

Franny Friesz (Kayak)

Ivan Klochkov (Kayak)

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

Master: Arsen Prostov

Chief Officer: Gabriel Eduardo Centella Molina

Second Officer: Fernandes Raymer Rosario

Safety Officer: Clyde James Houston

Ship Doctor: Gino Tiraboschi

Chief Engineer: Praveen Kumar Kaushal

First Engineer: Adrian Trasca

IT Officer: Yury Kovyshin

Hotel Director: Balvant Singh

Head Bartender: Restlie Dimasaka Baldemor

Head Waiter: Naif Khan

Chief Purser: Liza Merillo

Executive Chef: Suresh Pai Karkala

Sous Chef: I Gusti Ketut Purnawirawan

Hotel Controller: Rey Satuito Nolasco

Receptionist: Jonalyn Rivera Ecija

Receptionist: Jaypee Alota Abonitalla

Head Steward: Anil Kumar Kashyap

Bosun: Leo Francis Magnaye Marzan

Able Seaman: Anthony John Narvaez Brosas

Able Seaman: Eduardo Caranoo Aloyan

Able Seaman: Nestor Fernandez Arangorin

Able Seaman: Nurul Huda

Able Seaman: Luis Fernando Alvarez Santos

Able Seaman: Ferdy Noel Diaz Roque





