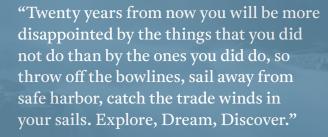


Iceland: Circumnavigating the Land of Fire and Ice

Aboard Sylvia Earle | 21 May – 31 May 2024



21 May – 31 May 2024



—Mark Twain



Reykjavík

DAY 1 | Wednesday 22 May 2024

Latitude:	Wind Speed:
64°09.9'N	4 knots S
Longitude:	Barometer:
021°55.7'W	1010 hPa
Course: 339° Speed: 3.5 knots	Air Temp: 12℃

Today, we set out from Reykjavík aboard buses on the classic lcelandic Golden Circle tour. Our initial stop was the famous 'great geyser', the first geyser to be described in a printed source and the first known to modern Europeans. At the geyser, there was a brief blast of boiling water that spurted about three or four metres into the air. In days gone by, this blast of water was known to reach 70 metres.

The next stop, just a short distance up the road, was the Gullfoss waterfall, where we looked over the magnificent thundering falls. Others hiked down to the lower viewing spot for a more intimate

perspective of this natural wonder. The final stop was Pingvellir National Park, the site of the 7-kilometre long rift where the North American Plate and the European Plate are moving apart at a rate of 2 centimetres per year. It is also the site of the world's first parliament or assembly at Pingvellir.

We then proceeded to the magnificent *Sylvia Earle*, where we were introduced to our Expedition Leader and Expedition Team, participated in a lifeboat drill, and set sail before enjoying a lovely dinner together in the Gentoo Restaurant.

Snæfellsnes Peninsula

DAY 2 Thursday 23 May 2024

Latitude: 64°43′0″ N Longitude: 024°06.3′W Course: 000° Speed:

10 knots

Wind Speed: 3 knots W Barometer: 1016 hPa

Air Temp: 7℃

We boarded Zodiacs for a short but scenic transfer to the small harbour in town. Fulmars and kittiwakes were flying overhead from their nests. These first encounters with arctic seabirds and were an indication of some of the wildlife experiences to come. After disembarking our Zodiacs, we set off in three groups to explore this unique, volcanic peninsula.

One group visited the uniquely volcanic black pebble beach of Djúpalónssandur, before taking a ride to Búðir where lunch was served. After lunch, we were taken to Mount Kirkjufell, a site well known as a filming location for *Game of Thrones*.

Another group began by taking a short walk along a coastal trail from Arnarstapi and stopping at a volcanic cave, where volunteers had built a spiral staircase down into the 35-metre deep cave. The group returned and also visited Mount Kirkjufell before returning for the day.

Finally, the last group was offered a walk along the bird cliffs named Pufubjarg, where puffins and fulmars nest. After lunch, we visited a volcanic crater called Eldborg. Eldborg formed what many think of as the classic volcanic landscape. Before returning to the ship, the group concluded the tour with a stop at the basalt columns at Gerðuberg Cliffs.













Patreksfjörður & Arnarfjörður

DAY 3 | Friday 24 May 2024

Latitude: 65°37.1'N Longitude: 024°07.1'W Wind Speed: 7 knots SE Barometer: 1009 hPa

Air Temp:

7°C

Course: 136° Speed:

6 knots

After a delicious breakfast, our photographer Jamie gave us a lecture on expedition photography. This was followed by a geology lecture from Marcos, who gave us an amazing introduction to Iceland's unique geology.

In the afternoon we decided to lower a couple of Zodiacs and visit Látrabjarg – the biggest bird cliffs in Iceland. We had many brave people who decided to give it a go despite the nasty weather conditions – the wind and the rain were not settling down.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team listened to a wonderful lecture from our naturalist, Snowy – a big fan of birds. He gave us a talk about

various Icelandic seabirds, including everyone's favourites, puffins and guillemots. In the citizen science lab, our naturalists Marcos and Elle, along with other keen Expeditioners, were observing various species of plankton through the microscopes.

At around 18:00, our brave birdwatchers returned to the ship. It appeared that the road to the cliff was too muddy for the buses due to the heavy rain. The shuttle back to the ship became one of the highlights of the day – Zodiacs had to fight against the wind and choppy waves to get out of the sheltered marina and get Expeditioners back on board.











DAY 4 | Saturday 25 May 2024

Latitude: 65°55.9' N Longitude: 023°58.7' W

Course:

Speed:

7.6 knots

110°

1 e: W

Wind Speed:

5 knots ESE

Barometer:

1007 hPa

Air Temp:

10°C

Today we continued our exploration of the beautiful Westfjords region of Iceland, with a busy day in Þingeyri.

Firstly, a bus ride took us to the magnificent waterfall of Dynjandi, which means 'the drum-beating one', for the noise that it makes. The rocks below are usually visible beneath the curtain, but today it was a solid wall of water.

Secondly, a hike was offered, which began at the pier and climbed steadily. The magnificent sunny weather that we enjoyed today rewarded us with wonderful far-reaching views over the fjord below.

Thirdly, a visit to the Viking Centre offered us the opportunity to dress up as vikings! Unleavened viking bread was cooked in iron skillets over an open fire, washed down with some locally brewed beer. Handicrafts were on display, including weaving and the ancient art of nalbinding. We rounded off the excursion with a walk through the ruins of the site of the ancient viking parliament.

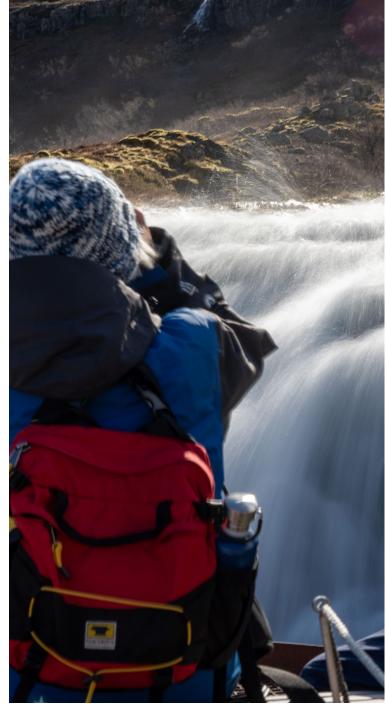
Before returning to our ship for the evening, we were offered a cocktail with a Westfjords twist: a gimlet made with locally gathered arctic thyme. Sipping our cocktail in the sunshine was a wonderful way to refresh ourselves before our final Zodiac ride for the day.













Hólmavík & Djúpavík

DAY 5 | Sunday 26 May 2024

Latitude: 65°39.7' N Longitude: 021°24.1'W Wind Speed: 1 knot SE Barometer: 1013 hPa

Course: 261° Speed:

Barometer: 1013 hPa Air Temp:

9°C

10.5 knots

We awoke to another beautiful day in the Westfjords, and our first excursion today was to the picturesque village of Hólmavík.

A visit to the Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft allowed us to delve into the region's dark and mystical past. The most shocking piece was the so-called necropants – trousers made from the dried skin from the waist down of a dead man and believed to bring wealth to the wearer.

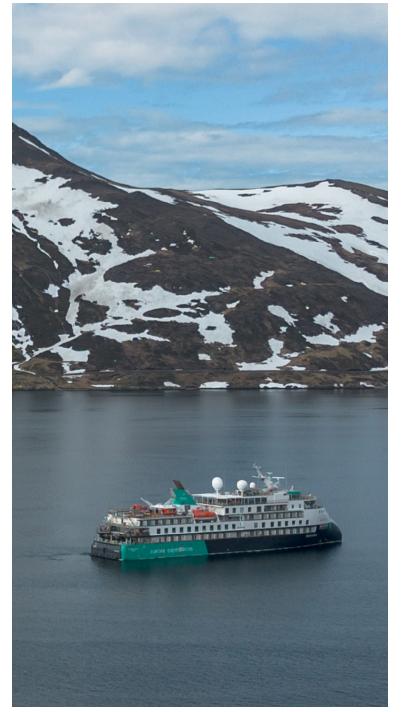
Along with a visit to the museum, there was also the opportunity for a short wander around the village or exploring one of the longer hiking trails. Those of us on the hike were treated to stunning views of the fjords and the surrounding landscape, along with some great wildlife

sightings, including a rock ptarmigan and a fin whale.

After lunch, we arrived in the town of Djúpavík, our second stop of the day, and were greeted by an incredible waterfall cascading down the mountain cliffs that towered over the very small village. Some of us chose to go on a hike into the mountains where we were treated to stunning views of the fjord, while others visited an old herring factory.

After our tour of the factory, we were treated to some scrumptious cake accompanied by tea and coffee in the Hótel, Djúpavík before heading back to *Sylvia Earle* for the evening recap and then dinner.













Grímsey Island & At Sea

DAY 6 | Monday 27 May 2024

Latitude:Wind Speed:66°31.6'N5 knots SLongitude:Barometer:018°35.1'E1014 hPaCourse:Air Temp:086°7°CSpeed:8.7 knots

Grímsey Island, Iceland's northernmost gem, is nestled about 40 kilometres off the north coast of Iceland. Home to less than one hundred residents, it boasts a staggering population of nearly a million seabirds.

Our morning started with a refreshing stroll along the numerous paths. With every step, we were greeted by the sight and sound (and smell!) of thousands of seabirds, including the charming puffins that seemed to be everywhere. Not only this, but Grímsey Island has the unique quality of being split by the famous Arctic Circle, so the highlight for many was standing right on this invisible line. We all got back on board for yet another delicious lunch, while the *Sylvia Earle* re-positioned to a new location, just off the northern tip of the island. As the day progressed, we traded our walking shoes for our reliable Muck Boots, for a closer encounter with the island's stunning cliffs, this time approaching from the ocean. The sight of the towering rock faces, coupled with the cacophony of seabirds swirling above, was nothing short of breathtaking. For the kayakers among us, the day offered an extraordinary challenge and reward. Paddling along the dramatic coastline of Grímsey, an impressive 10 kilometres was covered, offering a strenuous but exhilarating adventure.

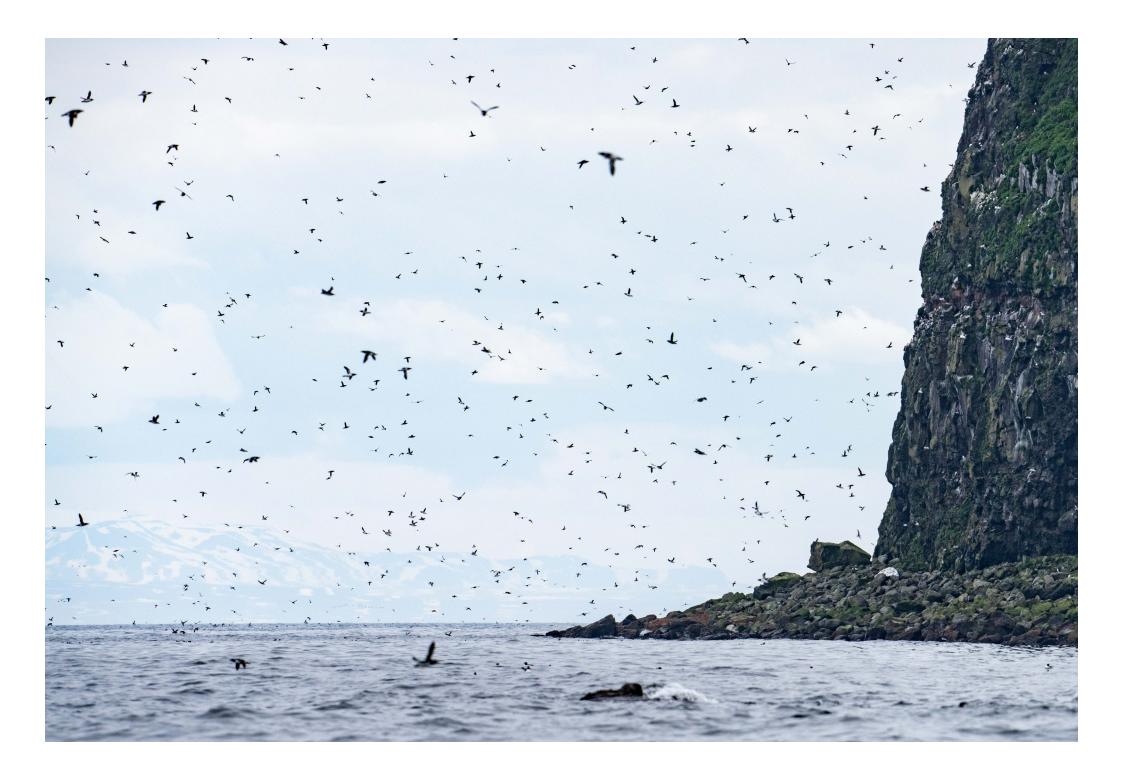












Akureyri & Húsavík

DAY 7 | Tuesday 28 May 2024

Latitude: 65°41.8'N Longitude: 018°04.5'W Wind Speed: 1 knot S Barometer: 1007 hPa

Air Temp:

9°C

Course: 156° Speed: 4.5 knots

Two of the groups headed out to Goðafoss waterfall, or the waterfall of the gods. Back in 1000 CE, a chieftain named Þorgeir made the decision that Iceland would adopt Christianity. When he made this choice, he threw his figurines of the Norse gods into this waterfall, casting them away in a symbolic gesture.

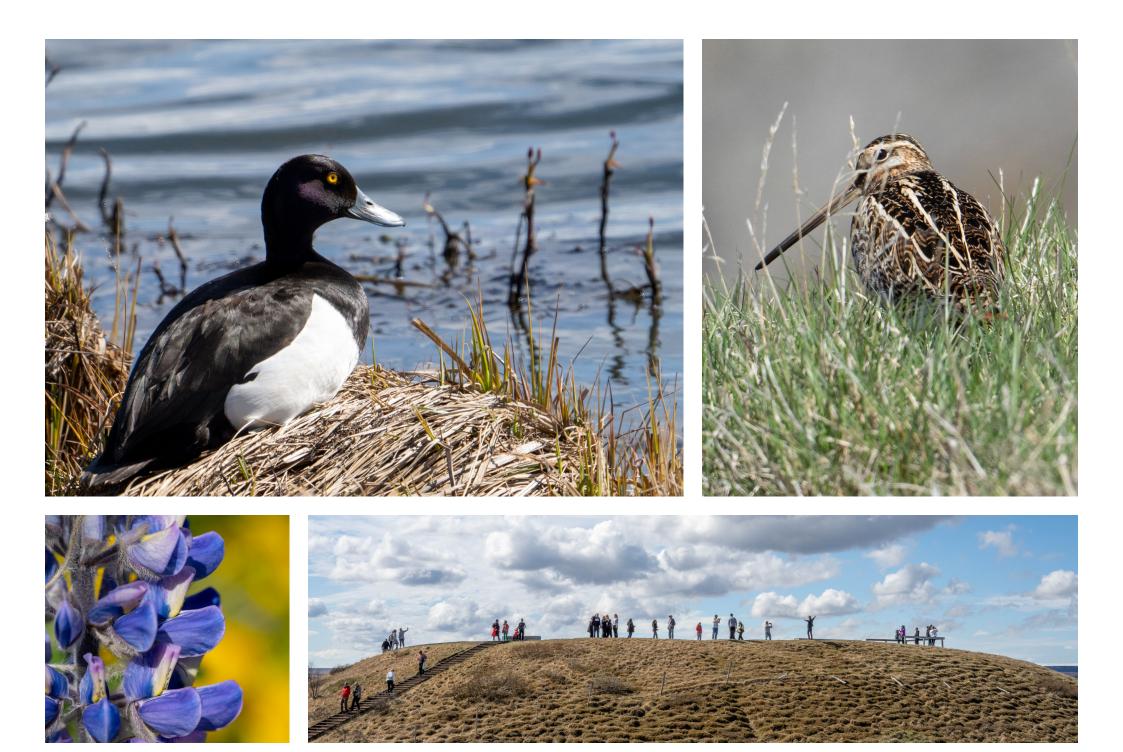
After marvelling at the waterfall, the first group headed to Lake Mývatn, a volcanic lake with wonderful birdwatching opportunities. Some of the spotted species included Barrow's goldeneye, common snipe, great northern diver, and wigeon.

Meanwhile, another group explored the unique basaltic sculptures

of Dimmuborgir, which translates to 'dark city'. It was a fortress of lava, with all sorts of unique shapes. In Icelandic folklore, this place connects earth with hell. The next stop was Hverfjall crater, which was created only 2500 years ago. At the top, we could see into its central vent. The last stop on the trip was Dettifoss waterfall, where we spent two full hours of hiking. The waterfalls were fed directly by Vatnajökull glacier: the largest ice cap in Iceland.

The Skútustaðagígar pseudo-craters were a highlight for many. They dotted the landscape like micro-volcanoes, and hosted birdlife such as long-tailed ducks and Slavonian grebes.















Seyðisfjörður

DAY 8 | Wednesday 29 May 2024

Speed:

Latitude:	Wind Speed
65°39.1′N	4 knots NW
Longitude:	Barometer:
013°40.6′ E	1008 hPa
Causaa	A :
Course:	Air Temp:
Lourse: 157°	Air lemp: 7℃
0001001	
157°	
157° Speed:	

We were treated to a lie-in this morning, a welcome break for us all after a jam-packed week! After breakfast it was time to make our choices for the day: indulge the inner scientist in us to some citizen science data collection with Marcos and Elle, get our blood pumping and the salty sea air into our lungs on a kayak trip with Ivan and Alex, or join the hiking team Scotty, Snowy and Laura, to take in the local scenery.

In town, the colourful houses lining the streets looked like they had been plucked straight from a storybook, each one a different vibrant shade, creating a cheerful contrast against the rugged backdrop of snow-capped mountains. We made our way towards the iconic Blue

Church, its striking azure hue standing out against the surrounding greenery.

Shortly after our tours, we were treated to some amazing Icelandic pancakes at our afternoon tea, courtesy of Didi and the galley team.

We were energised and inspired, and our buzz continued into the late evening. As we sailed into the sunset, we came together with the E Team for the Captain's Farewell, which instilled in us a sense of community and respect for one another, and to reminisce on our journey thus far and appreciate all that we have experienced in this inspiring land of ice and fire.









Heimaey Island & Surtsey Island

DAY 9 Thursday 30 May 2024

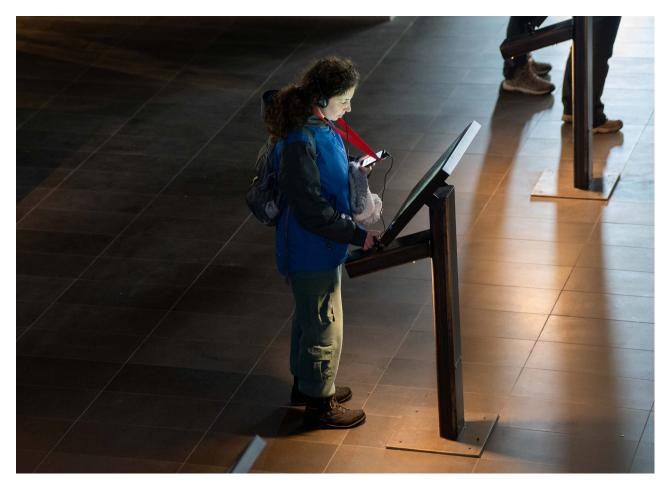
Latitude: Wind Speed: 63°30.2'N 6 knots SW Longitude: Barometer: 017°32.4'E 1011 hPa Course: Air Temp: 243° 10°C Speed: 13.9 knots At 11:00am we arrived at the port, with everyone on deck having a good view of the large seabird cliffs to our starboard side, as the ship passed through the narrow entrance. Upon arrival, free time was given to explore the town and indeed enjoy a local lunch outside. Various tours were on offer starting at 1:00pm after a delicious lunch on board. Visits to the seabird cliffs were on offer with a chance to explore and check out the birds nesting in the area, followed by a visit to the museum. Alternatively, a 45-minute hike to the volcano was leaving, with a visit to the museum after. But everyone was also free to enjoy the afternoon at leisure if they so wished.

At the bird cliffs there was an abundance of birds, including Atlantic

puffins, northern fulmars, kittiwakes and greater black backed gulls, to name a few. The volcano walk offered great views of the town and surrounding countryside, looking out to the open sea. The walks were rounded off by a visit to the museum, where we learnt about the volcanic activity, which destroyed a good part of the town in the past, and about Surtsey, the newest volcanic island formed 32 kilometres off of the south coast of Iceland between 1963 and 1967.

At about 8.00pm, the voyage slideshow was excellently presented by Jamie, along with prizes for the photo competition. Icelandic chocolates were also given out to try, which was a great success.









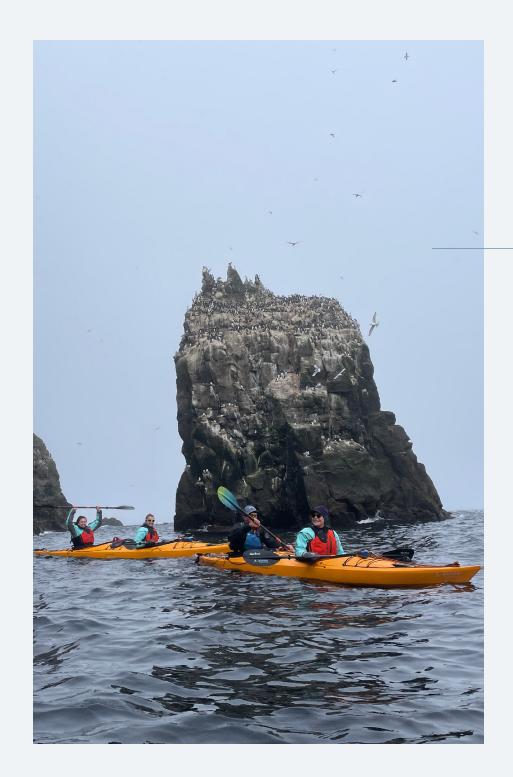




DAY 10 | Friday 31 May 2024

Here we are at the end of our adventure! Thank you for joining us on our circumnavigation around the beautiful island that is Iceland, and we hope to see you again on the high seas some day.





Kayaking Log

with Kayak Guides: Ivan Klochkov, Alex Chavanne

Saturday May 25 2024 – Þingeyri 7 km

Today's weather with sun and a light breeze provided badly needed relief after yesterday's storm. The kayakers were out for a hike in the morning above town, which provided a beautiful panoramic view over the 'Icelandic Alps' In the afternoon, we all met for a quick paddle talk and gear fitting session before heading out on the first of our paddles. We opted to use a Zodiac to shuttle us across the wide fjord to the opposite coast, where we jumped in the boats and took off along a scenic coastline. We soon found ourselves paddling along a low cliff with hundreds of nesting fulmars and kittiwakes above us. Many plovers and eider ducks accompanied us as we paddled along the coastline with its beautiful, white sandy bottom. We continued along, enioving the sunshine until we ran out of time, and boarded the Zodiac for a ride back to the ship.

Sunday 26 May 2024, AM – Hólmavík 6 km

The weather that morning was just perfect for kayaking! It was not too hot and not too cold either, almost flat, calm water. We towed our kayaks a little bit to the west, away from the town of Hólmavík, and started paddling. It was wonderful to explore that beautiful coastline with its inhabitants - we met many seals and seabirds roaming around shallow tidal rocks and wonderful cliffs. At one point we heard humpback whale blows in the distance, and even saw a tail fluke! We decided not to try to chase it and kept paddling along the coast. At the end of the session, Alex picked us up and we drove a Zodiac to the middle of the fjord, looking out for whales on our way back. After a while we spotted a few puffins flying next to our boat, and then sighted a humpback whale and a minke whale! That was a wonderful finish to our outing.



Number of Kayakers: 4 Total Paddle Outings: 5 Total Distance Paddled: 38 km

Kayakers: Belinda Isaac Michael Isaac Catherine Isaac Susan Carey

Sunday 26 May 2024 AM – Djúpavík 8 km

After departing Hólmavík, the ship, perhaps somewhat unexpectedly, slowed to a stop 10 kilometres away from Djúpavík, on its way into the fjord. The kayakers though were ready, and as the marina doors opened, kayaks were flung onto to the water, and we made a guick and sneaky exit from the ship. We watched as the ship sailed away, and as the quiet sounds of nature overcame us, we got into our kayaks under towering cliffs amid pairs of eider ducks. Paddling along the cliffs and into the fjord, we enjoyed the calm waters and blue skies of an Icelandic summer. We passed small summer homes and encountered a gang of half a dozen curious harbor seals, as well as sighting an arctic fox that had moulted into its summer coat. We stopped for a guick refreshment on a beach by a waterfall, before continuing into Djúpavík where we went ashore at the old herring factory, which is situated under a spectacular waterfall. A fine day of paddling, and a happy birthday for Michael.

Monday 27 May 2024 PM – Grímsey Island 10 km

This paddle was definitely a highlight of our trip! As soon as the ship re-positioned to the northern tip of the Grímsey Island, we hit the water to explore its eastern coast. The conditions were a bit more challenging than usual – there was a bit of a choppy swell – but our team coped with it successfully. The coastline was just fantastic - tall, steep cliffs inhabited by thousands and thousands of guillemots, puffins and other seabirds. Thousands of birds were flying around us as we paddled along the amazing rock formations and grottoes. We managed to go ahead of the Zodiacs, so we were all alone almost for the whole paddle! As we reached the southern tip of the island with its nice little lighthouse, we paddled through the narrow channel and turned the corner to where the water was completely calm. We decided to explore a little more and then paddled back to where the ship was waiting for us. As Michael said, it was true sea kayaking!

Tuesday 29 May 2024 AM – Seyðisfjörður 7km

Having sailed to the east of Iceland overnight, we woke as the ship sailed deep into Seyðisfjörður. Soon after breakfast we geared up and launched from the ship, quickly leaving the town behind us, and the fjord opening up ahead of us. We jumped into the kayaks outside of town and let the wind and a current push us along at a speedy 7 kilometres per hour clip. We cruised the coastline, enjoying the mountainous scenery and conversation with the other paddlers. We found several waterfalls cascading over the cliffs into the sea, before calling in a shuttle to ride back to the ship and wrap up our kayaking program.











Bird Sightings

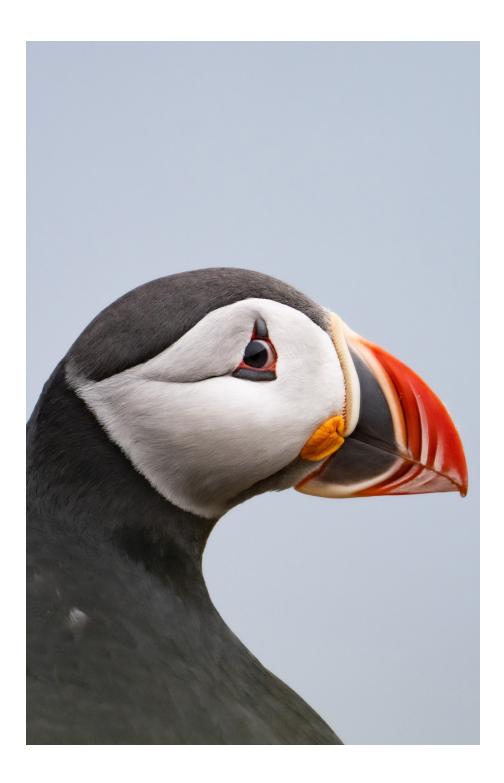
Bird Species	Мау									
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Red-throated Diver								٠		
Great Northern Diver				٠	٠		٠			
Northern Fulmar	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Northern Gannet	٠		•			•		•	•	
Pink Footed Goose				٠			٠			
Barnacle Goose										
Greylag Goose							•	•		
Whooper Swan				٠	٠		•			
Mallard		•	•	٠			•			
Tufted Duck		•		٠		•	•			
Common Eider		•		٠	•	٠	٠	٠	٠	
Harlequin Duck		•		٠			٠	•		
Long-tailed Duck							•			
Eurasian Wigeon						٠	٠			
Common Goldeneye		•								
Barrow's Goldeneye							•			
Slavonian Grebe							•			
Rock Ptarmigan					•					
Common Ringed Plover						٠				

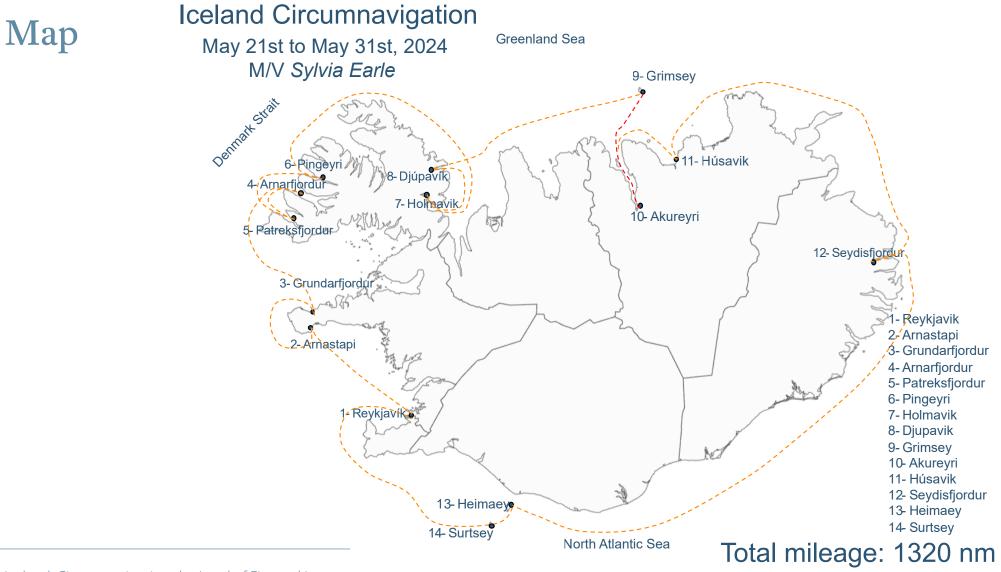
Bird Species	Мау									
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
European Golden Plover		•			•	•				
Dunlin		•				٠				
Purple Sandpiper		•				•		•		
Ruddy Turnstone		•		•						
Common Snipe		•		•	•	•	•		•	
Red-necked Phalarope		•				•				
Common Redshank		•		•	•	•		•		
Eurasian Oystercatcher		•		•				•	•	
Whimbrel		•						•		
Black-tailed Godwit								•		
Arctic Skua		•						•	•	
Great Skua						•			•	
Glaucous Gull				•		•			•	•
Great Black-backed Gull		•		•						
Lesser Black-backed Gull										•
Black-headed Gull		•		•	•		•	•		•
Iceland Gull	•	•		•			•	•		•
Black-legged Kittiwake	•	•	•			•		•	•	
Arctic Tern		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Common Guillemot		•	•	•	•	•	•			
Brünnich's Guillemot						•				
Black Guillemot		•		•	•	•	•		•	
Razorbill		•				•				
Atlantic Puffin	•					•			•	
European Shag		•			•					
Great Cormorant		•								
Rock Pigeon								•	•	•

Bird Species	Мау									
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Meadow Pipit		•		•	٠		•			
European Starling				٠					•	•
Eurasian Blackbird					•					
Common Raven		•		•			•	•		
White Wagtail		•		•	•	•	•	•		
Snow Bunting						•		•	•	

Mammal Sightings

Mammal Species	May										
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Common/Harbour Seal				٠			-				-
Fin Whale					•						
Minke Whale					•						
Humpback Whale							•				
Arctic Fox		•									
Reindeer								•			





Iceland: Circumnavigating the Land of Fire and Ice 21 May – 31 May 2024



Our Expeditioners

John Ater Margaret Ater Xiao Ping Zhang Bao Gaioz Bestaev Raymond Binderman Mary Binderman Theo Boel Jack Bohnenblust Judith Bohnenblust Anne-Marie Borghijs Jordan Brun Janet Brunsting John Butler Cherie Campbell Susan Carey Scorpad Chiril Richard Dawson Dirk Devriendt Thomas Dobson

Nora Dobson Aleksandr Dumanskii Bodhi Fwin Justin Ewin Duane Fehr Jonathan Friedman Alice Gao Karine Geens Nancy Gelber Daniel Gelber David Goldschmidt Srinivasan Aarmugam Govindaswamy Mary Del Greco Charles Greenwood John Halvorson Hope Hartman Michael Heath Jan Heyrman

Georgette Hodge Michael Isaac Pamela Isaac Catherine Isaac Belinda Isaac Mathew Iuliano Leanne Jackson David Jackson Janet King Robert King Tanya Kurukulasuriya Constance Langston Charles Larson Grant Latham Rebecca Lepanto Philip Lepanto Christopher Lewis Elizabeth Lewis Ginger Liebmann

Sigurdur Magnusson Gavin McCormack Terence Walter McIntosh Dana Miller Teri-Ann Miller Sue Mitchell Stephen Morgan Ruth Morgan Kevin Moriarty Valerie Moriarty Ford Murray Janine Murray Graeme Myburgh Kristin De Paep John Palo Larry Parton Miriam Parton Wallace Partridge Dorothy Partridge

Georgios Pavlou Jeffery Postek Heidi Rackley Penelope Ray Michael Ray Carol Robbins Fred Robbins Sigurdur Sigurdarson Susan Smith Lawrence Soong Nicolao Spatari Throestur Sverrisson Larry Smith Margaret Smith Alan Smith Elizabeth Yepez Tito Marian Valenti Carol Vines

Chiara Visioni Richard Wang Robert Wechsler Julia Wright Peter Wright Vicky Yuan Frank Yuan Jane Zeman **Expedition** Team

Expedition Leader: Ashley Perrin Assistant Expedition Leader: Elena Wimberger Onboard Expedition Manager: Samantha Deer Naturalist: Graeme Snow Geologist / Glaciologist/Csc Trainer: Marcos Goldin Historian: Kelsey Camacho Marine Biologist / CSC: Eleanor Boone Naturalist: Laura Somerville E Team Photography Guide-Driver: Jamie Lafferty E Team Photography Guide-Trainee: Fiona Wardle Expedition First Responder: Scott Thompson Zodiac Manager: Sergei Andronov Lead Kayak Guide: Ivan Klochkov Senior Kayak Guide: Alex Chavanne

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Jorge Ferdinez Chief Officer: Sergio Saldanha Hernandez Third Officer: Bryan Salem Deck Cadet: Vladislav Klaptenko Safety Officer: Andrus Pruul Bosun: Leo Francis Magnaye Marzan Ship Doctor: Gloria Gonzalez Chief Engineer: Srdan Verzosa 1st Engineer: Warlito Verzosa It Officer: Rene Reyes Hotel Director: Balvant Singh F&B Service Manager: Narendra Seeram Head Bartender: Juan Carlos Gonzalez

Chief Purser: Jonalyn Galve
Executive Chef: Rosauro Soriano
Sous Chef: Alexander Mungcal
Hotel Controller: Alfredo Jr. Laquian
Receptionist: Kutsi Vazquez
Receptionist: Angeli Perona
Head Stateroom Attendant: Balvant Singh
Able Seaman: Rosendo Cruz
Able Seaman: Rajiv Mahadan
Able Seaman: Ferdy Reugia
Able Seaman: Rossell Fernandez Araujo
Able Seaman: Eduardo Aloyan

Photography thanks to:

Jamie Lafferty Fi

Fiona Wardle





