

Arctic 2027

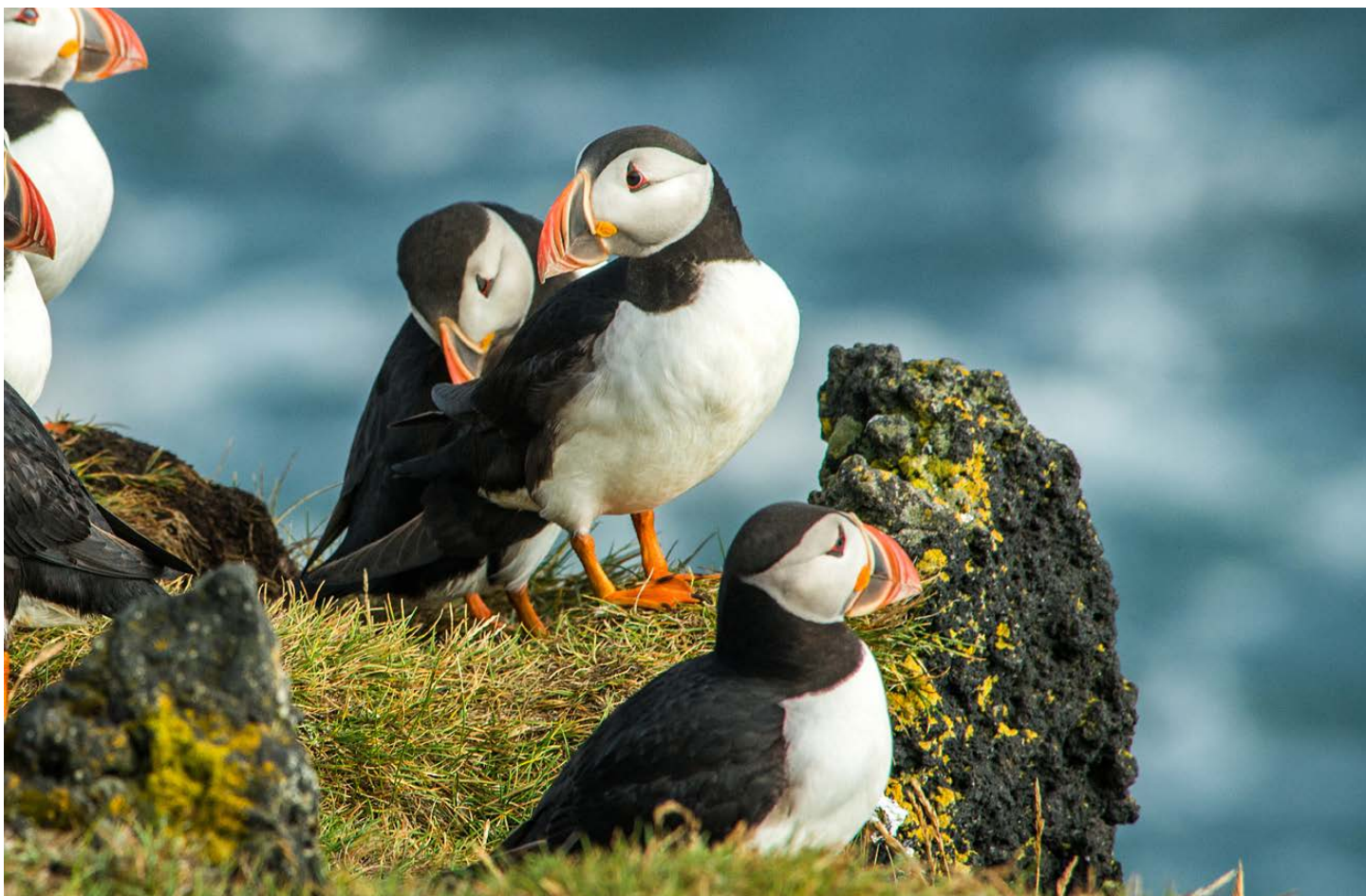
Iceland Circumnavigation: Mountains, Volcanoes and Waterfalls

Onboard *Ultramarine*



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Expedition Overview

Iceland Circumnavigation: Mountains, Volcanoes and Waterfalls

Experience the thrill of a lifetime—a complete circumnavigation of Iceland, the legendary Land of Fire and Ice. Our 12-day *Iceland Circumnavigation: Mountains, Volcanoes and Waterfalls* takes you around the entire island nation, starting and ending in Reykjavík. Explore by small polar ship, Zodiac, kayak, on foot, and occasionally by coach, as you witness thundering waterfalls, vast glaciers, erupting geysers, volcanic cliffs, and remote wild coasts. Cross the Arctic Circle, spot iconic puffins, marvel at Vatnajökull Glacier, and photograph Dettifoss—Europe's most powerful waterfall.

Highlights

-  Circumnavigate the entire island nation
-  Observe iconic puffins
-  Spend three days in the remote Westfjords of Iceland
-  Cross the Arctic Circle by foot
-  Photograph Dettifoss, one of Europe's most powerful waterfalls
-  Visit Vatnajökull glacier



Itinerary

DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN ICELAND

Arrive in the Icelandic capital and make your way to your included hotel. You will have the rest of the day to explore this fascinating city, known for its Norse history and stunning architecture.

DAY 2 | EMBARK ON ULTRAMARINE

Enjoy your complimentary breakfast at the hotel. Your transfer to the ship is scheduled for the afternoon, leaving you time to explore Reykjavik in the morning and have lunch on your own before you rendez-vous back at the hotel for the bus transfer to the port.

DAYS 3 - 5 | THE WESTFJORDS: ICELAND'S HIDDEN GEM

The seldom-visited Westfjords—where land meets sea in the most dramatic fashion—are often referred to as “Iceland’s best-kept secret.” This rugged peninsula at the country’s remote northwestern tip is rife with fjords,

mountains, tumbling cliffs, gushing waterfalls, colorful beaches, rolling green hills, high moorlands dotted with rocky outcrops, small lakes, and the occasional shaggy Icelandic sheep or grazing pony. A few modest outposts of civilization, in the form of small fishing communities nestled along the fjords and shores of the Denmark Strait, face out into the mighty Atlantic, keeping alive a maritime heritage that stretches back to the Viking days. The Westfjords are the least developed of Iceland’s coastal areas and, consequently, the wildest. Guests will venture into this territory on Zodiac cruises and guided shore landings at unspoiled wilderness sites where they can hike and explore on foot.

One of the many waterfall highlights is Dynjandi, meaning “thunderous.” Without a doubt, it’s one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Iceland.



ICELAND CIRCUMNAVIGATION: MOUNTAINS, Volcanoes and Waterfalls

— Onboard *Ultramarine*

The water plunges from a height of 100 meters (328 feet), tumbling over numerous ledges to create an ethereal, otherworldly ambience.

You'll also get to visit Vigur, a private island where guests can delve into Icelandic culture and heritage as far back as the 11th century. Vigur is widely regarded as a capsule of Icelandic heritage. One of the island's co-owners is polar explorer Felicity Aston, the first woman to ski solo across Antarctica. You'll learn about the Icelandic tradition of eiderdown harvesting, as well as the wide array of Arctic birdlife and seals that inhabit the island.

It's estimated that Vigur is home to more than 7,000 breeding ducks, 100,000 puffins, Europe's largest colony of Black Guillemots, and vast flocks of Arctic terns. You'll also have opportunities to ramble about the island, taste local food, and visit the island café.

Today's adventure options include Zodiac cruising, sea kayaking, our paddle

excursion program, and, potentially, a guided shore hike. Right across the bay lies Mongufoss, one of Iceland's most remote and beautiful waterfalls, which we'll visit by ship.

On our final day in the Westfjords, our Expedition Team will seek out more of the region's rarely visited, remote corners.

DAYS 6 - 8 | NORTHERN ICELAND: BIRDS, WATERFALLS & CROSSING THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

We'll spend the next three days exploring Northern Iceland by Zodiac, on foot, and occasionally by coach. The north of Iceland, with its long valleys and peninsulas, is interspersed with mountains, lava fields, and smooth hills carved over time by the unceasing flow of rivers. Many first-time visitors are surprised to see that the deep indentations along the northern coasts are alternately lush with vegetation—or completely barren. Your sense of awe will grow as we approach the Arctic Circle and experience the captivating brilliance of the midnight sun.

Prepare to be overwhelmed by some of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe, including thunderous Dettifoss and historic Goðafoss, the “Waterfall of the Gods.” Equally striking are the geological wonders of Mývatn and the lava fields of Dimmuborgir—featured in numerous scenes in *Game of Thrones*. At Hverir, bubbling mud pots and steaming vents create a surreal landscape, while at Skútustaðir you'll encounter pseudocraters—volcanic features formed not by eruptions but by underground steam.

You can also fulfill a polar milestone on this voyage by crossing the Arctic Circle. We'll visit Grímsey (population: 70), the only part of Iceland that lies within the Arctic Circle. Expect to see large colonies of puffins.

Other highlights in Northern Iceland include Skagafjörður, a fjord known for its impressive birdlife. Guillemots, kittiwakes, puffins, and other seabirds nest on the near-vertical cliffs of Drangey.



We'll also visit Siglufjörður, a quiet fishing village rich in history. Later, after one of our waterfall excursions, we plan an evening stop in the beautiful seaside town of Húsavík.

As we journey along the northern coasts, watch for potential whale sightings. Minke, humpback, and occasionally fin and orca are seen in these waters.

The scenery will tempt you to reach for your camera again and again. But we invite you to pause, put it aside, and simply embrace the wonder of this enchanting landscape.

DAY 9 | EAST ICELAND: FJORDS, MOUNTAINS, AND ICELANDIC HERITAGE

East Iceland is defined by fantastic scenery, featuring deep narrow fjords, towering mountains, the country's largest forest (Hallormsstaðaskógur), lush farmlands, abundant fjords, and picturesque fishing villages.

This morning we find ourselves on Seyðisfjörður a fjord marked by stunning scenery, steep mountains carpeted in

verdant green, with streams cascading down picture perfect alpine valleys. It's also home to the Skálanes Nature and Heritage Center, a place rich in biodiversity, science, cultural heritage, and education. Here, we hope to meet with local scientists, who host students and fellow researchers throughout the year. There is a network of trails available to us with options suited to all abilities, and local science and cultural educators will be happy to share their knowledge with us along the way.

While reindeer sightings are not everyday occurrences, they do happen, so we'll scan the hillsides carefully. Arctic foxes are also occasionally seen in the mountains above Skálanes. Beyond science and research, Skálanes is devoted to preserving cultural heritage through practice and story. Iceland's traditions are felt here, not only in the epic sagas but also in the enduring ways of people who for centuries have lived in harmony with this harsh yet beautiful land—where nature, science, and culture intersect.

DAY 10 | SOUTHERN ICELAND: DJÚPIVOGUR AND VATNAJÖKULL GLACIER

Djúpivogur sits where east and south Iceland meet. Here, the rugged, verdant topography of the east gives way to the gentler forelands of the south, which ultimately rise to Vatnajökull, Iceland's famous ice cap, crowned by its tallest peaks, the 2,100-meter (6,890 feet) Hvannadalshnúkur. Though Djúpivogur has the infrastructure to welcome ships like *Ultramarine*, it remains a small community, situated amid ranges of triangular mountain peaks. These mountains are lush with vegetation, accented by rocky outcrops, lingering snowfields, and cascading waterfalls—landscapes we won't want to leave.

From here, we'll travel westward by coach, as the south coast's waters are shallow and wave-battered, making them inhospitable for landing. Instead, we'll journey inland to Vatnajökull National Park, celebrated for its glaciers, volcanoes, waterfalls, and geothermal springs. We'll explore Jökulsárlón Glacier



Lagoon, marvel at its drifting icebergs, walk along Diamond Beach with its striking black sands, and hike this otherworldly coastline.

DAY 11 | THE WESTMAN ISLANDS (VESTMANNAEYJAR): NATURE-RICH ARCHIPELAGO

Today we explore The Westman Islands by ship and Zodiac. The archipelago of 15 islands, and surrounding sea cliffs, are teeming with birdlife. In fact, The Westman Islands group is home to one of the largest puffin colonies in the world, and is also renowned for its rich fishing grounds and whale population. Formed by below-sea-level eruptions, the soil is shallow and not suitable for agriculture—which is obvious when you see the large stretches of rocky terrain and lava. However, some rare plants grow in Herjólfssdalur Valley.

The Westman Islands are rich in stories, none more dramatic than the volcanic eruption of 1973 that destroyed many buildings on Heimaey, the largest—and only inhabited—of the islands. Evidence of the event can still be seen today. Heimaey is also home to one of the most remarkable harbors in Iceland, with an entrance so narrow it is unforgettable on approach. As we near its tightest passage, look to the starboard side to glimpse Klettsvík, a sheltered cove once home to the killer whale Keiko—better known to the world as “Willy,” star of the film *Free Willy*. Following the movie’s release, a campaign was launched to grant Keiko real freedom. His gradual reintroduction to the wild included time here in Klettsvík, where he first encountered the open waters of Iceland before eventually swimming free.

Beyond its human and cinematic history, Heimaey is also a haven for large seabird colonies. Puffins nest in great numbers here, and we will have the chance to visit one of the colonies by foot at the island’s southernmost point. The walk itself is rewarding: meadows of tall grass swaying in the wind, sheep grazing contentedly, and cobalt-blue seas stretching southward.

DAY 12 | DISEMBARK REYKYAVIK

You’ll disembark in Reykjavik, Iceland’s bustling capital, at the end of your journey. If you have booked post-expedition accommodation, we provide a transfer to a central downtown location.



EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice, wildlife, and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you’ll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife sightings as described are expected but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not a guarantee.



Science & Discovery

A new initiative designed to foster community, curiosity and education.

Beginning in our Arctic 2027 season on select *Ultramarine* itineraries, Quark Expeditions is collaborating with leading scientists and researchers to enrich guest learning on- and off-ship.

Guest Engagement: Through researcher-led sessions, and interactive learning and field experiences with our expedition team, guests will gain a better understanding and appreciation of the polar wilderness.

This Science & Discovery program will enable guests to:

- **Interact and connect with scientists and researchers** who are actively collecting data during expeditions.
- **Participate in citizen science programming** to broaden their understanding and knowledge of the incredible polar ecosystem.
- **Work with our expedition team** to help collect and record data, ranging from experiences such as conducting seabird surveys on deck to documenting whale sightings on Zodiac excursions or joining interactive sampling activities to measure water conditions.

SCIENCE IN THE FIELD

Quark Expeditions supports academic research through partnerships with institutions such as Seabird Watch to deepen our understanding through access to projects that are contributing to published research and projects of high importance.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

In collaboration with the Polar Citizen Science Collective and Fjord Phyto, guests can engage in meaningful scientific data collection that supports targeted field research for projects like Happywhale.

QUARK SCIENCE HUB

This designated space on *Ultramarine* enables guests to share knowledge, information and insights with scientists, researchers, and our Expedition Guides.



Gather with scientists, researchers and expedition guides to share findings and insights from the voyage.



Engage with interactive digital displays featuring multimedia content for self-guided discovery even when staff aren't present.



Learn how data collection methods, such as drones, wildlife tags, and biopsy and guano sampling, enable us to study the health, population, and migratory pathways of unique birds, whales, and seals.



Review and discuss observations and explore samples collected during science Zodiac cruises with other participants.

Note: The Science Hub is open to guests for self-guided exploration when staff are otherwise occupied.

THE POLAR COLLECTIVE
protect the poles together.





Arrival and Departure Details, and International Flight Planning



Arrival Day and Embarkation

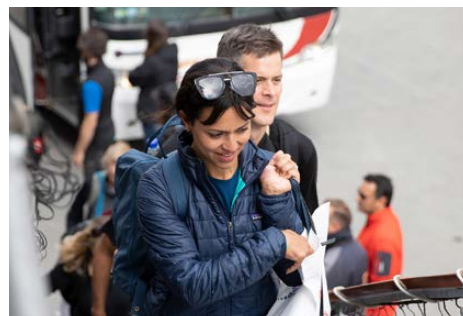
ARRIVING IN REYKJAVIK

You may arrive in Reykjavik at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary and make your way to the included hotel.

EMBARKATION IN REYKJAVIK

On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel, transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin.

Ship embarkation will occur on Day 2 of your itinerary, usually around 4 pm. You and your shipmates will meet in the lobby of your hotel and board the waiting buses for transfer to the ship. Information about transfer timing will be posted in your Reykjavik hotel.



Final Day and Departure

DISEMBARKATION IN REYKJAVIK AND ONWARD

Your ship is scheduled to arrive in Reykjavik between 7 am and 8 am local time. After breakfast, and once the ship has docked, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour. After disembarkation, you will transfer to a central downtown location.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

REYKJAVIK AIRPORT TRANSFERS

ARRIVAL

An arrival transfer from the Keflavik International airport to Reykjavik is not included. If you require a transfer to the city, you will need to arrange your own transportation. Most airports used on our voyages have good taxi ranks in the arrivals area, or you can often pre-book a transfer online.

DEPARTURE

A transfer is provided from the Reykjavik port to a central downtown location at the end of the expedition. A transfer to the airport is not included.

PLEASE NOTE

Included Hotel Accommodations:

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated in your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day, you can book directly with the hotel or through a third party.





ULTRAMARINE

The technologically advanced *Ultramarine* is built to go beyond the familiar in polar travel and to immerse guests in the best the region has to offer.

With 20 Zodiacs strategically positioned at water level for quick deployment, *Ultramarine* offers the industry's largest portfolio of off-ship adventures. The vessel features the most spacious suites in its category, breathtaking public spaces, exceptional wildlife-viewing areas, and sustainability systems that exceed industry standards. *Ultramarine* also features an onboard Science Hub, a centerpiece of our Science & Discovery program.

Ultramarine's wellness amenities include Tundra Spa with VOYA treatments, morning stretch classes, a sauna, a fully equipped fitness center, and health-conscious dining designed to restore balance and vitality at sea.

Ultramarine is designed to deliver unforgettable polar memories.

SHIP SPECIFICATIONS:

Staff and Crew: 140

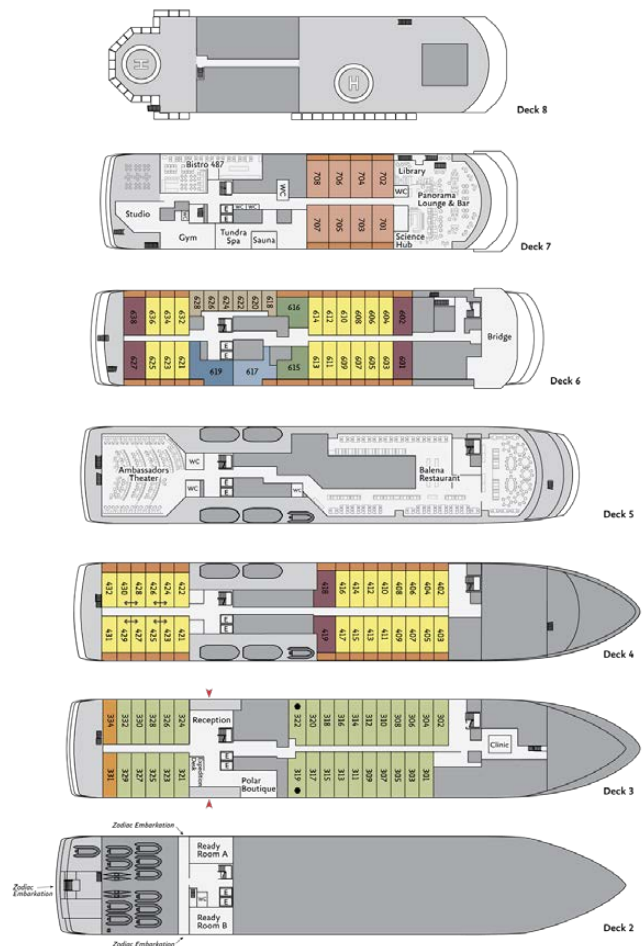
Guests: 199

Lifeboats: 4, fully enclosed

Ice Class: PC6

Visit [QuarkExpeditions.com](https://www.QuarkExpeditions.com) to view deck plan details.

**Ultramarine's* two twin-engine helicopters do not operate on our Arctic 2027 voyages.



- Ultra Suite
- Owner's Suite
- Penthouse Suite
- Terrace Suite
- Deluxe Balcony Suite
- Balcony Suite
- Explorer Suite
- Explorer Triple
- Solo Panorama
- Balcony
- ↔ Interconnecting Suites
- Accessibility modified cabin; please speak to your travel professional for details



Included Activities

These off-ship activities are included in your voyage.

Ready for a little adventure beyond your ship? Each Quark Expeditions® voyage offers a variety of recreational activities to enhance your polar experience.

HIKING

Led by experienced staff, exploring on foot is one of the best ways to appreciate the polar landscapes. Our guides are able to accommodate a range of skill levels.

ZODIAC CRUISING

Zodiacs are the workhorses of polar expeditions, taking you to places the ships can't access, allowing you to reach remote shorelines, explore shallow inlets and search for wildlife. Expedition staff make stepping in and out of them safe and comfortable, and your Zodiac drivers will provide active interpretation, making the landscape come even more alive.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Documenting your voyage so you can take the memories home is a rewarding experience. Our photography guide will help you hone your skills to capture the beauty of the polar regions.

PRESENTATIONS

Enjoy daily chats with and presentations by our world-class onboard polar experts—expedition guides, specialists, photography guides and other special guests who will introduce you to the fascinating history, biology, ornithology, glaciology and geology of the region, and much, much more.

SCIENCE & DISCOVERY

Our Science & Discovery program offers guests the unique opportunity to engage directly with scientists and researchers and participate in citizen science activities with the expedition team to collect and record data. Activities include conducting seabird surveys on deck, documenting whale sightings, and participating in interactive water sampling activities to measure environmental conditions. This program provides travelers with rare, first-hand experiences that contribute to global scientific research and deepens their understanding of and appreciation for the polar environment.

COMMUNITY VISITS

Thanks to Quark Expeditions' partnerships throughout the Arctic, our expedition team will plan community visits—dependent, of course, on weather and ice conditions. These opportunities—always coordinated in advance with local partners—enable guests to learn more about the culture, traditions, food, history, and lifestyles of the places they visit.

POLAR PLUNGE

This rite of passage, scheduled only once per expedition, gives you the chance to jump safely into the bracing Arctic waters under the watchful eye of our staff—and just about every single camera on board.

Contact your Polar Travel Adviser or your Travel Professional for more information about your Included Activities and Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost.



Adventure Options

These off-ship activities cost extra and should be booked in advance.



TUNDRA TO TABLE: ICELAND

Tundra to Table: Iceland takes guests on a culinary journey through Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Created in partnership with Pure Arctic, an Icelandic brand dedicated to sustainable, zero-carbon food production, *Tundra to Table: Iceland* showcases authentic tasting menus prepared by two rising Icelandic chefs. Guests convene in *Ultramarine's* Bistro 487 to sample free-roaming lamb, greenhouse vegetables harvested from volcanic soil, smoked Westfjords lamb or kleinur (Icelandic donuts), among other dishes, while learning about regional foods, traditions and Icelandic cooking techniques.

Note: Maximum of 24 guests per seating.



SEA KAYAKING

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay or paddling alongside coastal shorelines in some of the most remote areas of the world. Our Sea Kayaking program is a great way to intimately explore your surroundings. A small group of kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage as an alternative to shore landings or Zodiac cruises.

The number of opportunities to kayak is weather dependent, and will be conducted only during calm conditions. Prior kayaking experience is required, and you must be able to do a wet exit to participate. Beginners interested in kayaking should consider participating in the Paddling Excursion.



PADDLING EXCURSION

If you're interested in kayaking but would like to try something a bit less demanding than Sea Kayaking, you're the perfect candidate to sign up for a one-time paddle on our stable sit-on-top kayaks—perfect for anyone with minimal or no kayaking experience. Small groups of passengers will be taken out on calm days, with our expert guides always present to provide instruction and help you connect with the polar sea. Two groups of 10 will be pre-booked, and once successfully completed, any subsequent outings will be offered via lottery on board.

PLEASE NOTE

Pre-booking is required for all paid activities. We recommend booking early, as spaces fill quickly.



Our Commitment to Conservation & Community

We're proud to partner with local communities to create immersive guest experiences that build respect for wildlife, culture and the land, and to work with leading scientists to support the conservation of the Arctic regions.

Empowering Local Development

We champion Arctic communities' goals for economic development and sustainable tourism through local hiring, infrastructure support, and advance visit planning.

Investing Directly in Communities

With guest support, we help fund community-led projects—from food banks to cultural and language-based programs.

Co-creating with Community Partners

By partnering with local groups, we create authentic experiences—such as Tundra to Table, developed with [Igapall](#), which enables Inuit chefs to share Greenlandic cuisine and culture. This program is available on most *Ultramarine* itineraries that operate in Greenland and the Canadian High Arctic.

To also learn about our conservation efforts, and how we connect guests to the natural world through hands-on experiences and education, visit us online at [Community & Conservation](#).



Community

We deliver authentic experiences for our guests that benefit local partners and the communities we visit.



Departure Date

Iceland Circumnavigation: Mountains, Volcanoes and Waterfalls

ULTRAMARINE

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Days</i>	<i>Start / End</i>	 Sea Kayaking	 Paddling Excursion	 Tundra to Table: Iceland
ARCTIC 2027					
JUL 25, 2027 - AUG 5, 2027	12	Reykjavik	\$	\$	\$

\$ Paid Activities



Inclusions and Exclusions

Inclusions

RATES INCLUDE:

- An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Leadership throughout your voyage by our experienced Expedition Leaders, including shore landings and other activities
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising as per the daily program
- All shore landings as per the daily program
- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage (Please inform us of any dietary requirements as far in advance as possible.)
- Complimentary select beer, wines and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner
- Complimentary coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled
- A photographic journal documenting the expedition

- A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions
- Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- Complimentary Wi-Fi service on one device permitting basic Internet browsing, email, posting on social media and voice applications. (Premium packages are available for more data-intensive applications.) Note: Internet access in the polar regions is subject to geography, climate, and other factors beyond our control
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Reykjavik, with breakfast
- Group transfer from the Reykjavik hotel to the ship on Day 2
- Group transfer from the ship to downtown Reykjavik on disembarkation day

Exclusions

RATES SPECIFICALLY DO NOT INCLUDE:

- International airfare
- Arrival and departure transfers in Reykjavik
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned
- Laundry, bar, spa and other personal charges unless specified
- Phone charges may vary by location
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew
- Additional overnight accommodation
- Adventure Options not listed in Included Activities



Your Expedition Team

Our Expedition Leaders and their teams bring diverse expertise in subjects as varied as polar history, marine biology, glaciology, ornithology and photography. Their knowledge and enthusiasm will greatly enhance your immersion into the polar environment and further deepen your connection to the Arctic.

With over 30 years of experience bringing passengers to remote polar regions and an industry-leading staff-to-guest ratio, we know how to safely handle the unexpected. Ensuring this hard earned experience is passed on, our expedition staff receive comprehensive training in Quark Academy, which provides hands-on polar expedition training prior as part of our onboarding process as well as ongoing training for experienced staff.



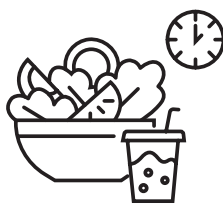


On-Ship Dining

Every on-board meal is included in the cost of your trip.



10 BREAKFASTS



10 LUNCHES



10 DINNERS

If there's one constant on board, it's incredible food. You enjoy three delicious meals daily—all included. Let us know before your expedition about any dietary restrictions.

Breakfasts and lunches are typically buffet-style, while dinners are plated. À la carte meals are made at the time of your order, ensuring top quality every time.

Coffee, tea, cocoa, and water stations are available—at no charge—24/7.

Complimentary soft drinks and juices are served during meals and when the bar is open. Bonus: enjoy complimentary alcohol throughout your voyage (see "Raise A Glass" sidebar for details).

Premium wines and champagne are available for purchase. Our well-stocked bars are open late morning, afternoon, and evening—hours may shift slightly to accommodate the expedition schedule.

Raise A Glass

Enjoy complimentary select beer, wines and select cocktails during bar service hours and dinner—throughout your voyage—as part of our "Raise A Glass and Stay Connected" Program.



Possible Excursions

When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. The following sites are a sample of what you may experience on your expedition, whether by ship, Zodiac cruise or shore landing.

The Westfjords

DYNJANDI WATERFALL

Dynjandi, meaning “thunderous,” is without doubt one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Iceland—if not the world. The water plunges from a height of 100 meters (328 feet), tumbling down over numerous ledges, creating an ethereal, otherworldly ambience.

MÖNGUFOSS WATERFALLS

Möngufoss is one of Iceland’s most remote and beautiful waterfalls, where torrents of glacial meltwater cascade down a 60-meter (197 feet) drop. We’ll approach this coastal waterfall by Zodiac, and get a much closer look at the falls during a guided hike.

VIGUR

The island farm at Vigur, where we may see nesting seabirds including Atlantic puffins and experience a continuation of authentic Icelandic heritage. This private island enables guests to delve into Icelandic culture and heritage as far back as the 11th century. Vigur is widely regarded as a capsule of Icelandic heritage. It’s also a bird-watching oasis, where we may see nesting seabirds including Atlantic puffins.

The North

DETTIFOSS WATERFALLS

Prepare to be overwhelmed by one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe: Standing 44 meters (144 feet) tall and 100 meters (330 feet) wide, Dettifoss, in northeast Iceland’s Vatnajökull National Park, is unrivalled in its thunderous roar.

GRIMSEY

The green island of Grímsey is the only part of Iceland that lies within the Arctic Circle. In 2017, an eight-ton giant ball, called “Orbis et Globus” (meaning Circle

and Sphere), was installed on the northern tip of Grímsey Island to mark the Arctic Circle.

The “sculpture” was designed to be moved incrementally each year to align with the ever-shifting—and invisible—Arctic Circle. From Grímsey, home to about 70 people, visitors can look beyond the horizon to the Atlantic Ocean in the north, or turn south to view the glistening mountain tops of North Iceland. Wildlife outnumber humans, especially in April when puffins descend upon the cliffs during their seasonal nesting before heading back to the sea in August. Chances are high that you’ll spot grazing sheep.

HÚSAVÍK

Húsavík, the Whale Capital of Iceland, is one of the oldest settlements in the country. Wildlife enthusiasts come here for the whale-watching tours in Skjálfandi. Up to 23 species of whales, including Blue whales, as well as large colonies of puffins, frequent the bay.

SIGLUFJORDUR

Siglufjörður is a quiet, aesthetic Icelandic fishing town surrounded by stunning scenery. In the early 1900s it was considered the herring capital of the world. It's ringed by steep mountains and deep fjords, and has good hiking trails. There's even a Herring Era Museum.

The East

HÓLMANES NATURE RESERVE

Part nature reserve, part public park, this hiker-friendly nature hotspot allows ramblers to bird-watch or look for wildlife (reindeer, in this case) while hiking the somewhat hilly terrain. Hólmanes is also known for its interesting geological features.

SKÁLANES NATURE RESERVE

Situated around a long-abandoned farm east of Seyðisfjörður, Skálanes Nature Reserve is known for its lush flora. Fields of lupines stretch as far as the eye can see. The towering cliffs dominating the horizon provide nesting habitat for 40 bird species. Reindeer and foxes inhabit the surrounding meadows. The farm also functions as a hub for education, environmental research, and historical exploration of Iceland's past.

The South

DJUPIVOGUR AND VATNAJOKULL GLACIER

Djupivogur is situated where east and south Iceland meet. The rugged yet verdant topography of the east

gives way to the gentler forelands of the south, which ultimately rise to the glacier-covered summit of Vatnajökull, the famous ice cap of Iceland situated amongst its tallest peaks, including 2,100 meter (6,890 feet) Hvannadalshnukur. Although Djupivogur has the infrastructure to welcome ships like the *Ultramarine*, it is a small community surrounded by mountain peaks. Similar to Skálanes and Seyðisfjörður, these mountains are rich with green vegetation, and the rocky outcroppings, dustings of snowfields near the summits, and ubiquitous waterfalls make for landscapes that we won't want to leave. We will explore the regions west of here, accessing them via coach. The waters along the south coast are quite unlike those in the rest of the country, in



that they are inaccessibly shallow with inhospitable and persistent rough surf conditions. Not to be deterred, we will transfer from the harbor at Djupivogur via coach to Vatnajökull National Park, with its abundance of glaciers, volcanoes, waterfalls and geothermal springs. Plentiful activities await us in the park: we'll travel to Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon, a stunning glacial lake; explore the spectacular icebergs at Jökulsárlón; spend time at black sand Diamond Beach; and provide opportunities for hikes along this otherworldly coastline.

(The Westman Islands)

ELDFELL VOLCANO, HEIMAÆY ISLAND

Eldfell Volcano has become the main attraction of Heimaey Island, which is

the largest in the Westman archipelago, also known as Vestmannaeyjar. Follow a scenic hiking trail for 45 to 60 minutes to the summit for a fantastic panoramic view. With gravity on your side, you can hike down in about 30 minutes. The trail is steep in places but not difficult. The views from the top are worth the effort. Bring your water bottle.

HERJOLFSDALUR

Herjolfsdalur is a lush valley in The Westman Islands and is celebrated for its rich Viking history that dates back over a millennium. Archeologists in the 20th century undertook excavation expeditions which provided evidence of Viking activity at Herjolfsdalur and Heimaey. Important artifacts include ruins and traces of traditional houses and sheds.

EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, the ice and the weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you'll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife sightings as described are expected, but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not a guarantee.



What to pack on your expedition

BY SEA AND AIR

All transfers ship to shore, and Zodiac/ship cruising.

- ☐ Waterproof pants (mandatory for every Zodiac)
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic top* ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece bottom*
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic bottom* ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece top*
- ☐ Warm hat that covers ears (bring an extra)
- ☐ Scarf, buff, or other face protection
- ☐ Warm wool or synthetic socks (keep a dry pair in your bag, and bring extras for layering)
- ☐ Waterproof gloves or mitts (bring an extra, lighter pair for hiking)
- ☐ Glove liners* ☐ Hand and feet warmers* ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Polarized sunglasses with UV protection (consider bringing an eyewear retainer: string/clip etc.)
- ☐ Sunscreen ☐ Ski goggles (for Zodiac cruising on snowy or windy days)
- ☐ Waterproof, lightweight backpack or dry sack and/or rain sleeve for camera or a waterproof phone case (to keep camera & gear dry)

*recommended layering depending on the conditions of the day and reflecting your personal thermo-regulation comfort levels.

BY LAND (Shore Excursions and Hiking)

In addition to the gear requirements (as above) mandatory for the transit from ship to shore, it is recommended to bring:

- ☐ Worn-in Hiking footwear: While Muck-boots are provided and encouraged for most shore excursions, additional hiking footwear (Goretex-lined boots or similar water-proof hiking boots) can add to your hiking comfort, especially if you are a keen hiker
- ☐ (Smart) Wool or synthetic hiking socks for above footwear (bring an extra pair)
- ☐ Lightweight and quick-dry, trekking pants that may or may not convert to zip-off shorts* (*depending on your thermo-regulation)
- ☐ Breathable waterproof pants* and rain jacket** for outdoor activities in inclement weather (*can be the same pair you use for Zodiac operations / ** can be outer shell of complimentary Quark 3in1 Parka)
- ☐ Comfortable long or short-sleeve shirt for hiking either synthetic/quick-dry or merino (smart) wool
- ☐ (Hiking) gloves (medium thickness, waterproof preferred)
- ☐ Hat, buff or scarf (for wind and weather protection)
- ☐ UV protection (hat, polarized sun glasses, sun block, lip balm)
- ☐ Collapsible walking sticks for hikes (if required)
Quantities are available to borrow on every vessel
- ☐ Additional reusable thermos or water bottle
(in addition to the reusable collapsible water bottle provided)

WHAT TO BRING Packing for the Polar Regions doesn't have to be daunting, and to make it easier for you, all Quark Expeditions voyages include a Quark parka to keep, and a loan of insulated waterproof boots. Additional suggested items include:

TO WEAR ON BOARD

- ☐ Comfortable casual clothing like lighter shirts, pants or jeans, etc. (in case the ship gets warm)
- ☐ Comfortable non-slip closed-toed, heelless shoes (flip flops, sandals or slip-on shoes should not be worn on board due to safety concerns)
- ☐ Workout attire (for the fitness center and other indoor activities)
- ☐ Swimsuit for the Polar Plunge. Some vessels may also have a pool, hot tub, sauna and/or steam room. See your ship book for details.

Just a reminder: No formal evening wear required on our voyages but if you would like to bring something a little more dressy for the Captain's welcome and farewell cocktails you may certainly do so.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Passport, visas, immunization records, travel documents, etc. as required
- ☐ Camera gear—complete with charger, storage medium, transport & cleaning kit (lens cloth etc.) and extra batteries
- ☐ Waterproof cell phone case or rain sleeve for camera
- ☐ Earplugs and eye masks for sleeping
- ☐ Voltage converters and plug adapters (see ship book for details)
- ☐ Moisturizer for face and hands (skin dryness due to wind and temperature changes)
- ☐ Seasickness, indigestion, headache, or other medications
- ☐ Small amount of local currency (see pre-departure book for more details)
- ☐ Insect repellent ☐ Mosquito netting



Scan this QR code or [click here](#) to watch our video on what to pack before you go.

- To view our packing checklist online, visit: [QuarkExpeditions.com/What-to-Pack/Greenland](https://www.quarkexpeditions.com/What-to-Pack/Greenland)
- Related topics are covered on our Frequently Asked Questions page: [QuarkExpeditions.com/Frequently-Asked-Questions](https://www.quarkexpeditions.com/Frequently-Asked-Questions)

WEATHER CONDITIONS & TEMPERATURES

Polar weather is extremely variable; temperatures may hover around the freezing mark and winds can be strong. The extended daylight warms sheltered areas so that you may sometimes find it warm enough for t-shirts. However, you may encounter rain, snow squalls, fog and white-outs during an expedition and should be ready for any conditions.



To book your next adventure
Contact your Travel Professional
or a Quark Expeditions®
Polar Travel Adviser

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Photos captured with a telephoto lens from a responsible distance, following regulatory/AECO guidelines.

PHOTO CREDITS: (over all Expedition Brochures for the Arctic 2027 season):

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EXPEDITION BROCHURE
October 16, 2025

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