

Iceland Voyage: Land of Fire and Ice – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **01/06/2026**
to **08/06/2026**

Ship: **Le Bellot**

From **Reykjavík**
to **Reykjavík**



Shore excursion or activity in each port of call + transfers included

In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys.

This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture.

Discover the most beautiful and rugged landscapes on the **Icelandic west coast** during this spectacular **8-day voyage**.

On **the edge of the Arctic**, between vast glaciers, vertiginous fjords, volcanoes, and boiling geysers, **Iceland** offers a kaleidoscope of wild landscapes.

You will board *Le Bellot* just outside **Reykjavík**, the world's northernmost capital city. With its houses with colorful roofs and its lake that is home to countless ducks, the city offers a picture-perfect setting.

The first port of call on your cruise is **Heimaey**. This is the only inhabited island in the Westman archipelago. Choose to explore the volcanic island, which is summer home to millions of seabirds.

You will then discover the bay of **Grundarfjörður**, from where you may choose to explore the villages along the **Snæfellsjökull glacier**-capped volcano or embark on a **whale watching** excursion in search of orcas and humpback, minke, sperm, and pilot whales.

Your ship will then reach **Grimsey**, a small, hard-to-reach island where, in certain places, the volcanic rock forms **magnificent basalt columns**. Sea birds such as guillemots and puffins reign here.

Le Bellot then sails for **Akureyri**, where an excursion to the otherworldly **Lake Myvatn** area offers the opportunity to explore the geothermal field of Namaskard: to see mudpots, steam vents, sulfur deposits, boiling springs,

and fumaroles. Also see the spectacular **Godafoss**, the “Waterfall of the Gods.” Alternatively, choose to relax in the **thermal baths** at **Húsavík**.

At **Isafjörður**, explore Iceland’s seafaring history at the **Maritime Museum** and enjoy a performance of **traditional Icelandic folk songs** performed by a group of local singers. Or visit the abandoned village of **Hesteyri**, a 19th-century whaling community located along some of the most rugged landscape in the country.

End on the outskirts of **Reykjavík**, where you’ll have the opportunity to travel the **Golden Circle**, consisting of three spectacular sights: **Thingvellir National Park**, **Gullfoss Waterfall**, and the **Geysir Geothermal Area**. Another option offers a second opportunity to go **whale watching** in search of humpback, minke, and sei whales.

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

REYKJAVÍK

Embarkation 01/06/2026 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 01/06/2026 at 19:30

Iceland's capital stretches along the edge of a vast bay in the west of the country. **Perlan**, the “Pearl of Reykjavík”, a museum located on 'Oskjuhlíð hill, offers a panoramic view of the lush, green landscapes. A little further, one can easily spot the signpost showing the way to the evangelical **Hallgrímskirkja** church, and to the historical centre where one can stroll along the Skólavörðustígur and the Laugavegur, two lively streets with charming small shops. For some relaxation just outside of the city, visitors have the opportunity to visit the Reykjanes peninsula and its famous thermal lagoons of the **Blue Lagoon**.

SAILING AROUND SURTSEY ISLAND

Arrival 02/06/2026

Departure 02/06/2026

A small drop of basalt in the North Atlantic Ocean, **Surtsey** is a volcanic island formed by a submarine eruption that lasted from 1963 to 1967, off the **Westman Islands** to the south of Iceland. The island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To protect its **virgin ecosystem against human presence**, it is forbidden to land there. Only a few scientists have access to Surtsey to study the plant and animal colonisation of the island. Mosses, fungi and lichens were followed by vascular plants. Around 300 invertebrate species and 90 bird species have gradually colonised it. While sailing around Surtsey, you will enjoy a unique panorama of this extraordinary island's contours.

HEIMAÆY, VESTMANNAEYJAR

Arrival 02/06/2026 late morning

Departure 02/06/2026 late afternoon

This land seated off the southern coast of Iceland is the largest of the **Vestmann islands**, and is the only inhabited island in the archipelago. The steep Edfell volcanoes and the green prairies of Herjólfsdalur offer rich contrast of nature. On the Stórhöfði road, look out over grey sand beaches and cliffs carved out by the Arctic ocean. From here, you can also see the bronze landscapes of the mountaintops. You could visit **Eldheimar**, an ultra-modern and interactive museum which traces the volcanic eruption has experienced Heimaey in 1973.

GRUNDARFJÖRDUR

Arrival 03/06/2026 midday

Departure 03/06/2026 early evening

This secret boreal hideaway is located at the foot of the **Kirkjufell**, on Snaefellsnes peninsula. Arriving by boat means you will get a closer view of the lava-stone rock standing like a sentinel at the entrance to the bay; **Grundarfjörður** lies sheltered behind this cone-shaped rock. A stone's throw from the jetty, crystal clear waters, tundra and beaches give onto the cerulean waters of **Breiðafjörður**. Scattered with its emerald-coloured lawns, this town, with its buildings that merge into the surrounding countryside, will most certainly win your favour.

GRÍMSEY

Arrival 04/06/2026 mid afternoon

Departure 04/06/2026 evening

Grímsey is the northernmost island of Iceland surging from the Arctic ocean, with the Arctic circle running through the island. Its contrasted contours are surprising. From **Grímseyjarhreppur**, the island's only town located on the west coast, then heading due south, you can take in the beauty of the hillsides, lushly carpeted with moss and grass. On the rest of the coastline, imposing **basalt cliffs** inhabited by sea birds stand proud.

AKUREYRI

Arrival 05/06/2026 early morning

Departure 05/06/2026 mid afternoon

The elegant city of Akureyri is located very close to the Arctic circle, tucked away in the **Eyjafjörður** fjord. It displays a stunning palette of colours: blue waters in the harbour, bronze mountain ash on the squares and brightly-coloured houses in the historical centre. As you walk along the **cobbled streets**, you will come across rows of terraces with wooden furniture. A vast stairway cut into the hillside leads up to the emblematic feature of the town, namely the **Akureyrarkirkja** church. The very beautiful botanical garden made possible by a microclimate offers the opportunity to discover the Icelandic flora as well as plants from all over the world.

ISAFJÖRDUR

Arrival 06/06/2026 early morning

Departure 06/06/2026 early afternoon

Your ship will take you to the heart of the fjords of North-West Iceland, a wild land of **lost valleys** and steep cliffs, where man struggles to survive. In this very isolated region we find the **Isafjörður** fjord, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful in the country, mainly for its relief, forged by many very ancient basaltic flows. The town of Isafjörður, which nestles at the back of its fjord, between imposing mountains, is a delightful little town that lives exclusively from fishing. The capital of the Western fjords, its **old wooden houses** bear witness to its past as a major fishing port.

REYKJAVÍK

Arrival 07/06/2026 early morning

Disembarkation 08/06/2026 at 08:00

Iceland's capital stretches along the edge of a vast bay in the west of the country. **Perlan**, the "Pearl of Reykjavík", a museum located on 'Oskjuhlíð hill, offers a panoramic view of the lush, green landscapes. A little further, one can easily spot the signpost showing the way to the evangelical **Hallgrímskirkja** church, and to the historical centre where one can stroll along the Skólavörðustígur and the Laugavegur, two lively streets with charming small shops. For some relaxation just outside of the city, visitors have the opportunity to visit the Reykjanes peninsula and its famous thermal lagoons of the **Blue Lagoon**.