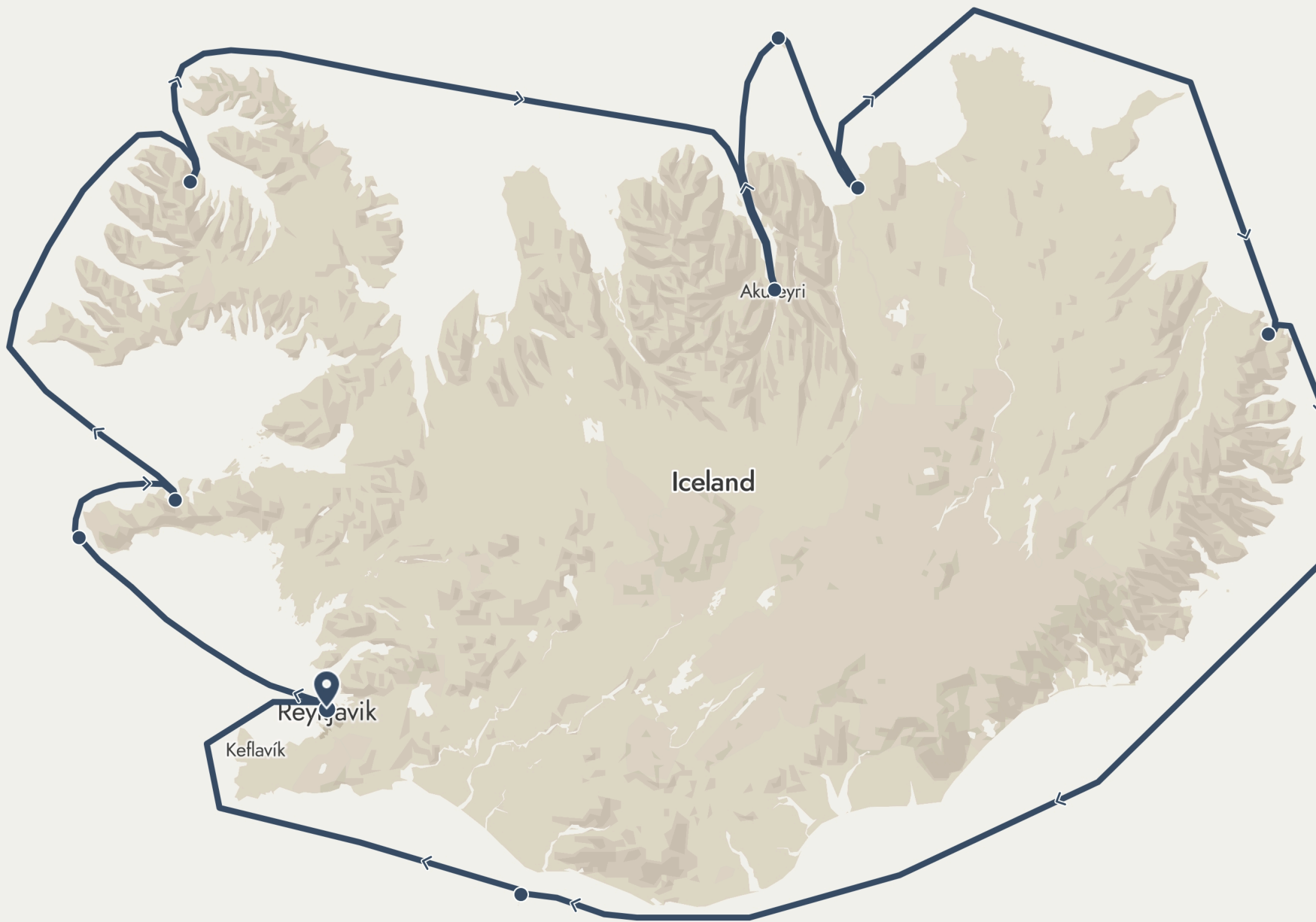


MS Fridtjof Nansen

2025.05.24 - 2025.05.31



Legend

— HX Expedition

Embarkation Day – Reykjavik: A New Adventure Begins

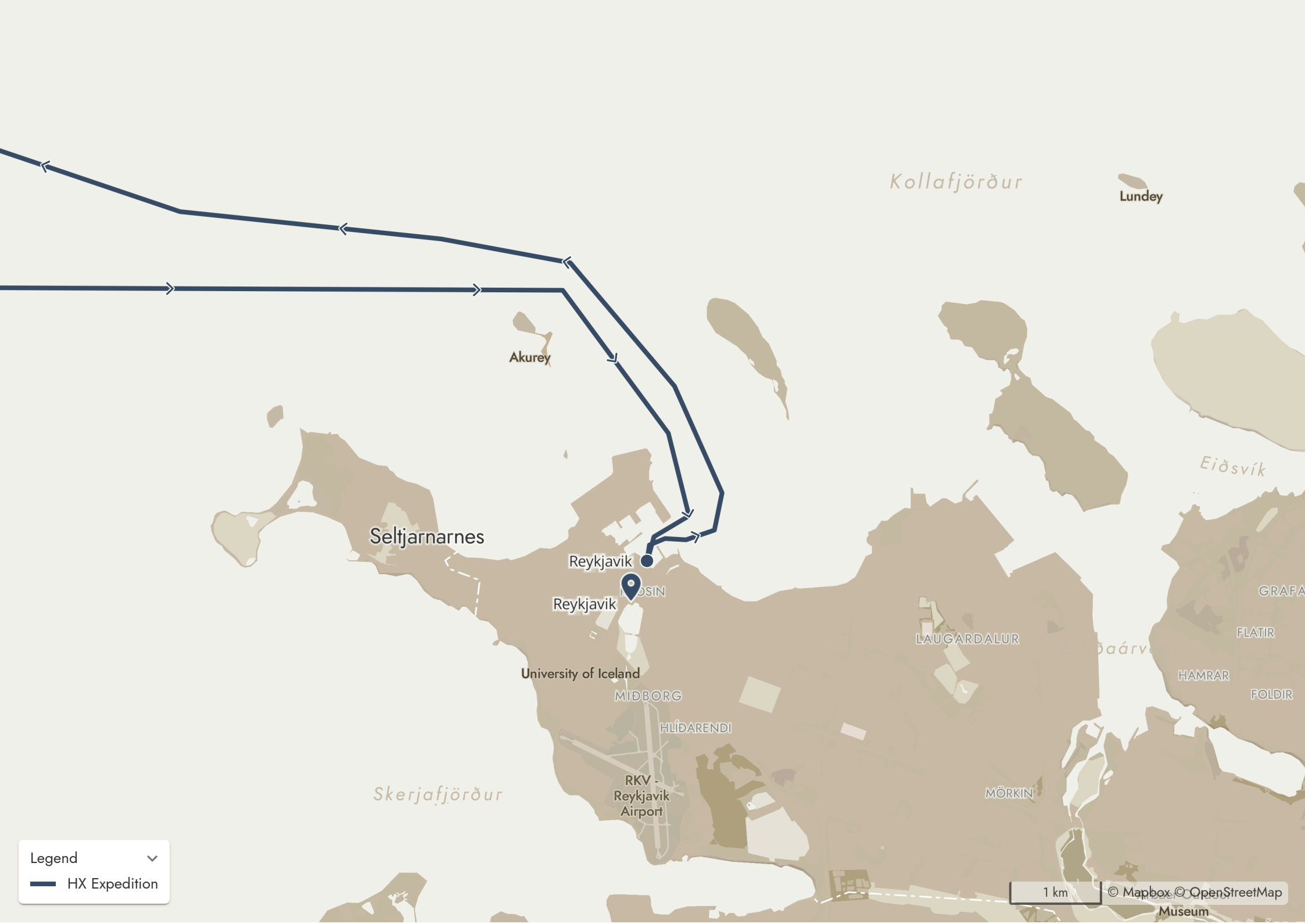
A new journey began when you boarded MS Fridtjof Nansen in Reykjavík, ready to explore the wonders of Iceland. Against the majestic backdrop of Faxaflói Bay, there was an air of anticipation as travellers settled into their cabins, familiarised themselves with the ship's modern facilities, and meet the welcoming Expedition Team.

Before setting off, everyone attended a mandatory safety briefing, ensuring all are aware of emergency procedures and ship protocols -

an essential part of any expedition.

As the ship departed Reykjavík harbour, guests gathered on deck for the sail away, waving farewell to the capital as its skyline fades into the distance. With the invigorating sea breeze and dramatic Icelandic coastline ahead, the voyage is officially underway. Cameras click, conversations spark, and the spirit of adventure takes hold once again.







Hellissandur

Ólafsvík

Snæfellsjökull
National Park

Breiðavík

Orcas and Sperm Whales

Legend



 HX Expedition

3 km

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Whale Encounters off the Snæfellsnes Peninsula

Early in the morning, just as the sun began to rise, nature delivered a spectacular welcome: orcas and sperm whales were spotted off the coast of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula. With the dramatic silhouette of

Snæfellsjökull Glacier in the background, the moment was nothing short of magical. It was an unforgettable highlight so early in the voyage.

Grundarfjörður and the Iconic Kirkjufell

After an exciting morning of whale sightings off the Snæfellsnes Peninsula, MS Fridtjof Nansen arrived in the charming fishing village of Grundarfjörður. Nestled between dramatic mountains and the sea, the town is best known for its proximity to one of Iceland's most photographed natural landmarks: Kirkjufell.

Rising like a perfect cone from the landscape, Kirkjufell, often called the "Church Mountain", is a favorite among photographers and nature lovers alike. Guests had the opportunity to explore the area on guided

walks or scenic excursions, taking in the mountain's striking shape alongside the nearby Kirkjufellsfoss waterfall, which completes the postcard-perfect view.

Surrounded by lava fields, fjords, and rugged coastlines, the Snæfellsnes Peninsula is often described as "Iceland in Miniature," offering a little of everything the island has to offer, right from the start of the journey.



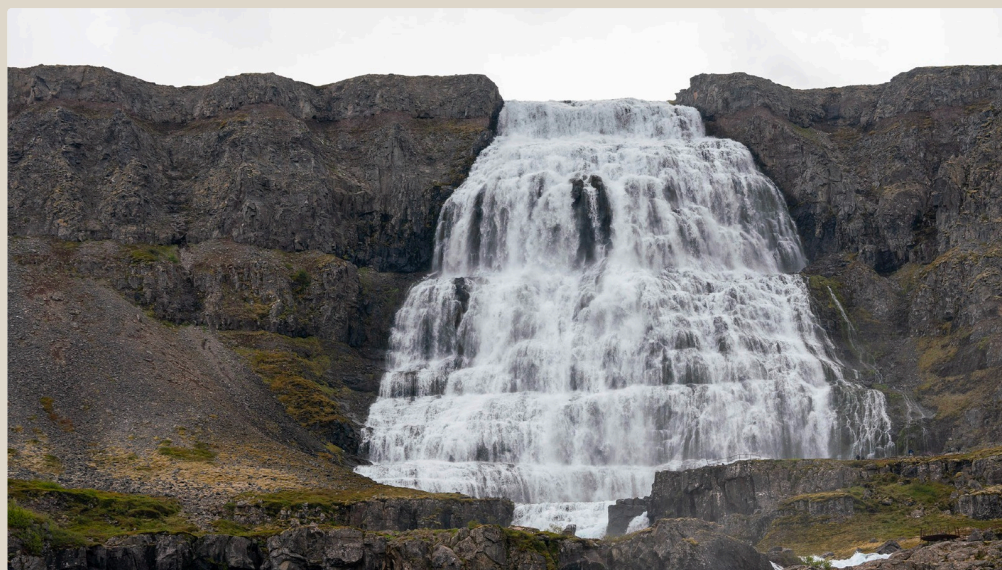
Ísafjörður – Dynjandi Waterfall, Science Boat, and Hiking!

MS Fridtjof Nansen arrived in Ísafjörður, the lively hub of Iceland's remote Westfjords region. Guests enjoyed a full day of exploration, starting with an unforgettable visit to Dynjandi Waterfall, one of the most spectacular cascades in Iceland. Known as the "Jewel of the Westfjords," Dynjandi's wide, tiered flow plunges over 100 metres, surrounded by dramatic cliffs and lush greenery, a true natural masterpiece.

Back in Ísafjörður, guests joined the Science Boat, an interactive experience aboard a specially equipped vessel designed for hands-on exploration of marine life and local ecosystems. This unique outing

offered a fascinating insight into the fjord's biodiversity, led by expert scientists.

For those who preferred to stay on land, there's a scenic hike around Ísafjörður, where the breathtaking landscapes of fjords, mountains, and quaint fishing villages unfold. The hike offers panoramic views and a chance to soak in the tranquil atmosphere of this northern Icelandic gem. With such a rich mix of nature, science, and adventure, the day provided a deep dive into the wild beauty and culture of the Westfjords.



Akureyri

We arrived in Akureyri, known in Iceland as "The Capital of the North." From here, our excursion "Jewel of the North" began. We headed inland toward the famous Goðafoss Waterfalls, a stunning natural site deeply embedded in Icelandic folklore and history. Our second stop brought us to the shores of Lake Mývatn, where we explored the unique Skútustaðir pseudo-craters, which were formed by ancient volcanic activity. After enjoying lunch in the area, we continued around the lake to reach the remarkable lava formations of Dimmuborgir, a labyrinth of twisted rock pillars and caves shaped by powerful eruptions.

This excursion truly highlighted the dramatic variety of Iceland's landscapes. Our final stop was at the geothermal fields of Námaskarð, where steaming fumaroles, bubbling mud pools, and vivid mineral deposits painted the earth in surreal colours.

As the excursion extended through diverse and ever-changing terrain, it provided a powerful impression of Iceland's raw geological forces and breathtaking beauty. It was a journey through fire, water, and time.







Grímsey & Húsavík

Today, we crossed the Arctic Circle as we circumnavigated Grímsey Island. Through the fog, we caught a glimpse of the monument that marks this invisible boundary. Puffins were seen everywhere, floating on the water, flying through the air, and nesting on the cliffs that shape the island's shoreline.

A deep growl announced the arrival of Njörðr, the Norse god of the sea, who welcomed us into his Arctic realm with a traditional baptism using ice, cod liver, and aquavit.

Around noon, we arrived in Húsavík, a town well known for its excellent whale watching opportunities and also familiar to fans of the

Eurovision film. Some guests set out on a boat tour in search of whales, while others chose to hike to a nearby lake and enjoy the peaceful northern landscape. Another group joined the Diamond Circle excursion, a scenic journey that began with a visit to Dettifoss, the most powerful waterfall in Europe. The tour continued to Hljóðaklettur, the so-called Whispering Cliffs, where unusual basalt formations create strange acoustic effects. Afterward, the group explored Ásbyrgi Canyon, a dramatic horseshoe-shaped gorge said to be the footprint of Odin's eight-legged horse. The return drive along the Tjörnes Peninsula offered sweeping coastal views to end a day filled with striking natural beauty.



Bakkagerði

Bakkagerði greeted us with a mystical mist draped over the mountain peaks surrounding the fjord. The weather, however, did not stop us from exploring this beautiful and charming little town.

Today also marked the first time on this voyage that we used the Expedition Boats to go ashore. Just beside the landing site, a lively puffin colony awaited us. These charismatic birds quickly stole the

show, and observing them up close became a highlight of the day for many.

The local brewery proved to be a popular stop, offering guests the chance to sample regional flavors. Warm hospitality from the community gave us an insightful glimpse into daily life in this remote corner of Iceland, making the visit all the more special.







Heimaey

Vestmannaeyjar

Westman Islands

VEY

Legend

— HX Expedition

Heimaey

Heimaey, the only inhabited island in the Westman Islands, greeted us with its striking volcanic landscape and vibrant coastal charm. As we stepped ashore, the dramatic cliffs and green slopes hinted at the island's powerful geological history.

Most guests joined a guided walk led by a local expert, offering personal insight into the town's past and present. The route took us through the streets of Heimaey, where daily life carries on in the shadow of dramatic natural forces, and then out into the lava fields formed by the 1973 eruption of Eldfell.

Walking through this still-young landscape, we could see how nature and community have worked together to rebuild and adapt.

Puffins soared overhead and perched in the cliffs, while views of the surrounding islands reminded us of the isolation and beauty of this unique place. Whether exploring the lava-scarred paths or simply enjoying the atmosphere in town, our time on Heimaey offered a powerful glimpse into life on the edge of land and sea.





Farewell

As our circumnavigation of Iceland comes to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey of the past seven days. From misty fjords and thundering waterfalls to steaming geothermal fields and puffin-covered cliffs, Iceland has revealed its wild and wondrous spirit at every turn.

We have walked across lava fields, crossed the Arctic Circle, tasted the sea air on remote islands, and stood in awe of nature's raw power and quiet beauty. Along the way, we've shared laughter, stories, and unforgettable moments, whether on windswept hikes, peaceful Zodiac rides, or over warm conversations at sea.

Thank you for being part of this voyage. Your curiosity, sense of adventure, and openness made this journey around Iceland truly special.

As we sail back toward Reykjavik, we carry with us not just memories, but a deeper connection to this remarkable land shaped by fire and ice.

Safe travels, and we hope to welcome you aboard again. Until next time





logbook.travelmap.net/20250524-fn250524