Northern Iceland - Hike, Sail and Aurora Borealis

Trip Code: PIH

Version:

POLAR	GUIDED GROUP	LEISURELY 3



HIGHLIGHTS

- Sail on a 3 mast schooner, the Rembrandt van Rijn - with a maximum of 33 passengers.
- Get the chance to see the northern lights 'dancing' overhead
- Look out for humpback, minke whales, white-beaked dolphins and harbour porpoise

- Walk across the arctic circle on the remote island of Grimsey
- Incredible walks in awe inspiring landscapes with expert expedition staff

AT A GLANCE

- 5 days walking and sightseeing
- Join at Akureyri. End in Seydisfjordur.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

From our sailing ship, the beautiful Rembrandt van Rijn, we can access small remote fjords, rugged peaks and isolated settlements of northern and eastern Iceland. Sailing to a new location on most evenings, including the magical island of Grimsey which straddles the Arctic Circle and Iceland's oldest settlement, Husavik with its famous landmark - the beautiful wooden church, Husavikurkirkja, built in 1907. We are also always on the lookout for wildlife such as humpback and minke whales, white-beaked dolphins, and harbour porpoises and of course the breathtaking northern lights.

Walks in each area are offered every day, if the weather isn't suitable for walking we can opt instead for an inland excursion by bus enabling us to fill our days with adventure and exploration. Whether it is a walk or an excursion, we are still in the heart of nature here and it truly feels like a honour to explore it.

Is this holiday for you?

The first snowfalls, cold winds and rough seas are possible at this time of year, however there is also an excellent chance of viewing the northern lights during clear skies. Backup plans are in place each day, if the weather is not on our side. The concept of this voyage is developed so as to offer excursions regardless of weather. If the weather isn't ideal, we can opt instead for an inland excursion by bus, enabling us to fill our days with adventure and exploration. Hikes will be offered whenever possible, led by guides who will adjust to the conditions and fitness level of the group. Actual hiking locations depend on the prevailing conditions of the areas we visit.

You must be in good general health and you should be able to walk for several hours per day. Although we spend as much time as possible ashore, you are welcome to remain aboard the ship if you like. You must be able to get up and down the gangway from the ship to the water level to board the Zodiacs - effectively a ladder with 4 rungs. Staff will assist you in and out of the boats. Ashore it can be slippery and rocky. Also consider that you are travelling in remote areas without quick access to sophisticated medical facilities.

The Rembrandt van Rijn is a sailing ship, with engines for when the weather is not suitable for sailing (based on open sea, water depth, wind, and time); the captain decides whether to use the sails or the engine. There is no claim to one or the other propulsion method. You will not be expected to 'help out' with the crew on sailing the boat, however you can participate if you wish and it is always appreciated.

The day to day itinerary is for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather

conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. No two voyages are alike and flexibility is paramount on expedition cruises.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

Expert expedition staff and sailing staff,

All accommodation as described,

All meals on board the SV Rembrandt Van Rijn,

Snowshoe hire if required

What's not Included

Travel insurance,

Visas (if applicable),

Tips for staff,

Meals other than those on board the ship,

Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Day 1

A bus transportation from Reykjavik to Akureyri (about six hours) will be available but has to be booked prior to the start of the voyage.

If you don't take this transfer you need to be at the ship in Akureyri by 4pm and meet the expedition team on the ship.

Day 7

Bus transport to Egilsstadir Airport (between 6.30 and 7.00am, approx. 45min.) is available at an extra charge, but must be booked prior to the start of the voyage.

Meal Plan

All meals on board the SV Rembrandt van Rijn are included, from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 7.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

On board the ship a diverse range of international dishes are available. Meals are prepared and catered by professional chefs and all meals are included in the holiday price. Special dietary requirements, including vegetarianism, can be accommodated with advance notice (please advise at the time of booking). Coffee, tea and water are all provided free of charge. All other beverages, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, are not included and can be prurchased in the dining room or the lounge areas.

Accommodation

During this trip the group will spend 6 nights on board the SV Rembrandt van Rijn. This is a 3 mast schooner sailing vessel. It was built as a herring lugger early last century. The vessel was rebuilt as a three-mast passenger sailing schooner in the Netherlands, with final refurbishments completed in 2011. The ship is well suited for expedition cruising among small islands (due to its size) and offers good open deck viewing areas also when under sail. Two zodiacs enable landing and wildlife viewing opportunities. The bow of the vessel is enforced and is therefore suitable to sail in arctic waters.

The Rembrandt van Rijn measures 49.5m in length, 7m in width and has a draft of 2,5 m. The maximum speed on engines is 9 knots. It has an experienced crew of 12 persons on board including 2 tour guides. The ship can accommodate a maximum of 33 passengers in 16 cabins consisting of 1 triple cabin with a porthole, 6 twin inside cabins (no porthole) and 9 twin cabins with a porthole. All cabins have en-suite facilities with a shower & toilet. On board there is also a restaurant and a bar/reading room for use to everyone whilst on board.

Our base price is a triple cabin with three single beds and a porthole. It is possible to upgrade to cabins with twin berths with no porthole or a twin with porthole. If you are travelling on your own and book a triple room you will be sharing with members of the same sex. If you are travelling on your own and book a twin cabin then we try to match you with someone of the same sex, although this is not always possible. Single cabins are also available. Please contact the KE office for further details on specific departure availability and prices. All cabins have private en-suite bathrooms.

Group Leader & Support Staff

A carefully chosen professional and qualified team will lead your voyage. Their goal is to provide an informed and balanced interpretation of the destination, accomplished through day-to-day briefings, and informal discussions. The expedition staff will work conscientiously with you, on deck and in the field, to allow you to experience all that the destination has to offer. Their strong sense of ethics and ecological knowledge make for stimulating and mindful conversation whether onshore or at the dinner table.

Spending Money

It is not practical to set a recommended amount for personal spending money on a holiday like this. All meals while on board and the daily Zodiac excursions, are included in the trip price. The main extra spend on board will be on drinks and this will vary greatly from person to person. On board ship, bar bills can be put on a tab and paid at the end of the cruise by credit or debit card or in cash Euros. You will also need some money for any meals taken when not on the ship and for tips.

Guidance on Tipping

The customary gratuity to the ship's service personnel is made as a blanket contribution in one envelope at the end of the voyage, which is divided among the crew and staff. You will receive detailed guidelines on board. Tipping is a very personal matter and the amount you wish to give is at your discretion. It is better for the crew and staff, if you can give them cash, either US Dollar or Euro. As a guide, we recommend you allow about $20 per day for tips to your crew and expedition staff.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Your baggage will be kept in your cabin with you and there is a finite amount of space. Please keep the weight of your main luggage to around 15kg. A soft bag, are the most suitable as they are easier to store in the cabin - in fact the ship crew discourage the use of hard cases as much as possible, as they simply take up too much space in the cabin.

Group Members

The holiday will be conducted in English. Generally on these trips there will be a mix of nationalities but it is not possible to guarantee this.

Meal plan

All meals on board the SV Rembrandt van Rijn are included, from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 7.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

PHS Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum. Please restrict your baggage to one main bag and a small daypack.

You SHOULD bring the following items:

- Casual shoes / Trainers or similar for onboard
- * Rubber boots (Wellington boots) for Zodiac landings and for use with snowshoes
- Waterproof jacket with hood
- Waterproof trousers or salopettes
- Trekking trousers
- Windproof soft shell
- Thermal Baselayer top and bottoms
- Casual shirt and/or T-shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Down Jacket
- Underwear
- Socks (Warm, high wool or similar socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet)
- Sunhat
- Warm hat (plus spare)
- Scarf and/or buff
- Sun glasses/glacier glasses with sides (plus spare)
- Waterproof gloves

- Water bottle 1 Litre (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Rucksack 25 litres
- Selection of dry bags (to keep rucksack contents dry)
- Small padlock (to lock trek bag)
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Seasickness remedy
- Plug adapter - On the ship (Rembrandt van Rijn) you will need a plug / adaptor with European 2 pin round holes.
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, and plasters (band-aids).

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OPTIONAL:

- Travel clothes
- Ski goggles
- Camera (in a dry bag)
- Binoculars
- Walking / Trekking poles (highly recommended)
- USB memory stick (in case you want to swap photos with other travellers)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

NOTE: Snowshoes are provided

* Wellington boots should be used instead of walking boots on this holiday to ensure you keep your feet dry, this will be both when hiking with and without the snowshoes. There are several reasons for this: most zodiac landings will be 'wet landings' where it is likely that water depth will be atleast ankle deep / when hiking the snow can be atleast ankle deep / when hiking there are often streams to walk through.

Land Only Information

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Akureyri (a transfer from Reykjavik Airport (approx. 6 hours) is available but must be booked in advance) and the trip ends in Seyaisfjoraur (a transfer to Egilsstadir Airport is available but must be booked and payed for in advance).

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Experience Iceland's remote and breath taking fjords, harbours, and inlands at an exceptional time of year.No surprise costs.All zodiac excursions, landings and all meals on board are included in the price.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change