



SPARTAN  
**PATHWAYS TRAVEL**  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

June 7 to 15, 2024

# Circumnavigation of Iceland



**EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER**  
**FELICITY ASTON MBE**

# CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF ICELAND

Adventure awaits in this stunning Nordic wonderland where nature reigns supreme. With its mystical landscapes, friendly locals, a lively tourism scene, and millions of curious little puffins, Iceland wows visitors at every turn. Each day reveals more of Iceland's natural phenomenon and myriad gems, from black beaches to cerulean icebergs and impressive waterfalls.

Begin in cosmopolitan Reykjavik, the world's northernmost capital and a vibrant example of Iceland's egalitarian society. Cruise to seldom-toured islands and coastal hamlets where the mythic lore and epic sagas of Iceland's national identity are passed down through generations. Glide into Siglufjörður, walk across the Arctic Circle on Grímsey Island, touch ice fragments calved from Breiðamerkurjökull glacier, and stand in the mist of thundering Goðafoss waterfall. Uncover remarkable history on Heimaey Island, where houses hemmed by hardened lava flow from Eldfell volcano are clustered beneath towering cliffs populated by multitudes of birds. During your cruising adventure, keep watch for orcas, gregarious humpback whales, and playful harbor porpoises. This epic destination will tantalize all your senses!

Front cover: *House on Ellidaey Island*

This Page: *Village of Seyðisfjörður*



Dear Spartans:

Resting on the edge of the Arctic Circle, Iceland is a realm of astonishing beauty where nature reigns supreme. Come along on this unforgettable exploration through Iceland's vast wealth of magnificent scenery and fascinating cultural heritage.

During our specially designed, seven-night circumnavigation of this Nordic island nation, experience close encounters with Iceland's primal landscapes and unique wildlife at the best time of year, when the midnight sun of the summer solstice melds into lingering twilight.

Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, five-star LE BELLOT, able to glide into small ports inaccessible to larger vessels and to alter course as ethereal waterways, rugged fjords, and magisterial glaciers unfold before you. From cosmopolitan Reykjavik to traditional villages and ancient landscapes, encounter endless splendors and connect with Iceland's history and Viking heritage. Plus, enjoy a special visit to Vigur Island, a wildlife sanctuary to see rare Arctic birdlife. The Land of Fire and Ice will take your breath away!

Enhance your Icelandic voyage with the Reykjavik and the Golden Circle Pre-Program Option. Reserve now while early booking savings and space are available.

Go Green!

*Regina Cross*

Regina Cross  
Director, Spartan Pathways Travel Program  
MSU Alumni Office  
888-697-2863

**We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be included in your email confirmation from the MSU Alumni Office.**

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088  
or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](https://gohagantravel.com/reserve)**



## GUEST SPEAKER

### FELICITY ASTON MBE

There is an anecdote on Felicity Aston MBE's website that talks about her first "expedition" at the age of nine, which involved "being bribed" up a modest peak in England by her parents. Aston, now one of the most accomplished polar explorers and climate scientists of modern times, says this childhood milestone changed her life. Today, she is both the only woman in the world to have skied across Antarctica alone and the first person in the world to have traversed the continent purely by muscle power, which gave her a place in the *Guinness World Records*. Her polar career began two decades ago when she traveled to Antarctica as a meteorologist with the British Antarctic Survey. By age 23, she was monitoring climate change at the Rothera Research Station on the Antarctic Peninsula. Her Kaspersky Lab Commonwealth Antarctic Expedition was the first to "Tweet to the Pole" and material from her Pole of Cold expedition has been developed into a traveling art exhibition. Aston has since written five books and produces articles for publications in the U.K. and abroad. She is also owner of Iceland's beautiful Vigur Island, where she lives with her family.



*Vigur Island, Iceland*

# LAND OF FIRE AND ICE



*Lava formations at Dimmuborgir*

A land of unparalleled geological riches, Iceland is home to 4,500 square miles of glaciers, 30 active volcanic systems, 800 hot springs, and over 10,000 waterfalls. Born of the monumental forces unleashed during the movement of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates and carved out by formidable glaciers and incredible waterfalls, the land is a combination of intense natural energy and veritable calm. The topography of Iceland continues to evolve, yet many of its landscapes remain nearly unchanged since the first Viking settlers laid eyes on them more than 1,100 years ago. During your circumnavigation, see volcanic craters and fissures, watch as bubbling hot springs erupt steam into the air against a backdrop of Mars-like terrain, encounter pristine waterfalls and black lava deserts, and witness the stoic majesty of mountains capped with snow and volcanoes slumbering beneath sheets of ice. Along the coast, Iceland's characteristic fjords chronicle the powerful path of the glaciers. Enjoy these natural wonders, in constant flux as glaciers calve and shift and new mountains emerge from volcanic lava flow. A startlingly beautiful portrait of Earth's history and progress, Iceland is a primordial landscape hewn by the forces of fire and ice.



*Jökulsárlón*

## INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



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## CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF ICELAND

### 9-DAY/7-NIGHT ITINERARY

#### Depart Home City

##### Day 1

Depart home city for an overnight flight to Iceland.

#### Reykjavík, Iceland/ Embark

##### Day 2

Arrive in Reykjavík, Iceland's vibrant Nordic capital. Following lunch on your own, join your group for a panoramic tour of Laugardalur Park, home to colorful botanical gardens, recreational facilities, and Iceland's only zoo. Continue to the National Museum, where over 2,000 artifacts provide a window to Iceland's rich history, culture, and heritage. Step into the impressive Hallgrímskirkja Church and visit the Perlan to take in panoramic city views. Cap off your tour in Reykjavík's old town center before embarking the five-star LE BELLOT. (B,D)

#### Vigur Island/ Ísafjörður/ Bolungarvík

##### Day 3

Uncover fascinating Icelandic heritage on Vigur Island, a private wildlife sanctuary owned by Felicity Aston and her husband Gísli. Embrace the opportunity to get close to arctic terns, eider ducks,

puffins, and black guillemots. See Iceland's only windmill and a vintage working boat used for ferrying goods and sheep. Relax over coffee and traditional cake with the Aston family and mail a postcard from Europe's smallest post office. Return to the ship for a cruise to Ísafjörður; then set

#### Siglufjörður/ Grimsey Island/ Arctic Circle

##### Day 4

Welcome to Siglufjörður, one of Iceland's most dramatically sited towns. Visit the Herring Era Museum, Iceland's largest maritime museum. This praised museum recreates the history of



off to explore the astonishing Westfjords. Witness Ósvör, a replica of a 19th-century fishing station. Continue to friendly Bolungarvík and enjoy a music program inside a small church. Upon your return to Ísafjörður, take a guided walk to view the colorful architecture and 18th-century, timber-framed houses. A visit to the lauded Westfjords Heritage Museum provides insight into the rich maritime heritage of the Westfjords. This evening, attend the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

fish salting and oil processing during the early 20th century and offers visitors insight into the lives of fishermen that once lived in the area. Return to the ship for lunch and cruise to Grimsey Island, which straddles the top of the world at 66 degrees north. Enjoy a special opportunity to walk across the Arctic Circle. (B,L,D)

#### Húsavík/ Lake Mývatn

##### Day 5

Explore northern Iceland's extraordinary natural landscapes, stopping

Húsavík, Iceland



at Námaskarð and the pseudocraters at Skútustaðir, formed when hot lava flowed across the wetlands over 2,000 years ago. Walk among the surreal “dark castle” lava formations of Dimmuborgir and drive along the shores of Lake Mývatn. Continue to Goðafoss, or the “Waterfall of the Gods,” and gaze at this scenic wonder. (B,L,D)

## Seyðisfjörður

### Day 6

Visit the picturesque Blue Church on the 11-mile-long fjords of Seyðisfjörður and enjoy a specially arranged cultural and musical performance. (B,L,D)

## Djúpivogur/ Jökulsárlón

### Day 7

Depart on a full-day scenic excursion along Iceland's eastern coast. During your

drive, take in stunning mountain views and landscapes peppered with unique land formations and charming villages. Board a specially designed small boat for a private cruise amid the luminous icebergs of Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon in the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Vatnajökull National Park and touch the ice that has calved off the outlet tidewater glacier. (B,L,D)

## Heimaey, Westman Islands/ Cruise by Surtsey Island

### Day 8

Arrive at Heimaey Island, part of the Vestmannaeyjar (Westman Islands) archipelago, and drive past Sprangan, where locals train for the island sport of rope swinging. See the ruins of

ancient Viking farmhouses dating from A.D. 650 in Herjólfsdalur Valley, observe Heimaey's largest puffin colony from the headland of Stórhöfði, and view a timbered stave church in scenic Skansinn. See the imposing Eldfell volcano and tour the Eldheimar Museum, which chronicles its fateful activity of 1973. This evening, cruise along the coast of Surtsey Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the youngest and most fragile islands on Earth. Tonight, toast to your fellow travelers during the Captain's Farewell Reception. (B,L,R,D)

## Reykjavík/Disembark/ Return to Home City

### Day 9

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

Ísafjörður, Iceland



Laugardalur Park, Reykjavík





## LE BELLOT

Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, 5-star LE BELLOT, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design for a new standard of cruising. Each of the 92 5-star staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features a private balcony. Grand deluxe suites have a panoramic window and private terrace. Accommodations offer two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, a private bathroom with shower, and luxury hotel-style amenities.



**2024 DEPARTURE DATE: June 7 to 15** (Embarkation: June 8 at 4:00 pm)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Early Booking Savings through Dec. 20, 2023	Rate after Dec. 20, 2023
8	Deluxe stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3. (limited availability)	<b>\$6,385</b>	\$7,095
7	Prestige stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 4.	<b>\$7,105</b>	\$7,895
6	Prestige stateroom with expansive sliding glass door, <b>private balcony</b> . Deck 5.	<b>\$7,825</b>	\$8,695
5	Prestige stateroom with expansive sliding glass door, <b>private balcony</b> . Deck 6.	<b>\$8,275</b>	\$9,195
4	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, <b>private balcony</b> . Deck 3. (limited availability)	<b>\$8,995</b>	\$9,995
3	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, <b>private balcony</b> . Deck 4, midship. (limited availability)	<b>\$9,715</b>	\$10,795
2	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, <b>private balcony</b> . Deck 5.	<b>\$10,435</b>	\$11,595
1	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, <b>private balcony</b> . Deck 6.	<b>\$11,155</b>	\$12,395
Prestige Suite 11	Two-room suite, expansive sliding glass door, <b>larger private balcony</b> , two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 5. (limited availability)	<b>\$11,875</b>	\$13,195
Prestige Suite 1	Two-room suite, expansive sliding glass door, <b>larger private balcony</b> , two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 6. (limited availability)	<b>\$12,595</b>	\$13,995
Privilege Suite	Large suite with expansive sliding glass door, <b>larger private balcony</b> , sitting area with sofa. Decks 5 and 6. (limited availability)	<b>\$13,315</b>	\$14,795
Grand Deluxe Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, <b>spacious private terrace</b> , full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Deck 6. (limited availability)	<b>\$15,115</b>	\$16,795
Owner's Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, <b>spacious private terrace</b> with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Deck 5. (limited availability)	<b>\$16,015</b>	\$17,795

Single supplements apply to categories 6, 7, & 8 at 160% of the per person double price and subject to availability. All other categories are at 200%.

Port taxes are an additional \$450 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment.

This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](http://gohagantravel.com/reserve)

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Reykjavík, Iceland



## PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

### Reykjavík and the Golden Circle June 5 to 8, 2024 (Tour Begins: June 6)

The captivating city of Reykjavík and its surrounding natural wonders provide you with the perfect prelude to Iceland. Soak in the mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon. Tour the imposing Hallgrímskirkja Church, take in panoramic views from the observation deck of the distinctive Perlan, and tour the National Museum. Enjoy a full-day excursion of Iceland's crown jewel, the legendary Golden Circle. Visit the UNESCO-listed Þingvellir National Park, the meeting point of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Encounter the geothermally active Geysir area, gaze at the Strokkur geyser, and see the picture-perfect Gullfoss waterfall, an impressive 104-foot-high double waterfall that provides a spectacular setting like no other. Accommodations are for 2 nights in the deluxe PARLIAMENT HOTEL.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,755*

*Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$2,285*

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

*Strokkur geyser*



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