



ITINERARY

The following pages detail our day-to-day activities. In addition to this itinerary, you will receive a daily program that lists the planned activities for each day with specific timings.

Please remember that this is an expedition in the true sense of the word. You should expect that changes will occur along the way, timings will be adjusted, and unexpected events will affect the program. Your expedition leader will conduct briefings to keep you apprised of any scheduling changes.



Explorer Destinations

Explorer destinations will be marked with the above icon. These destinations have been chosen due to their remote beauty, historical and cultural significance, unique touring and wildlife access rather than their luxury lodging and dining. For these stops we will stay in more basic, authentic properties that are the best available for the location. Fine dining opportunities may be limited in these locales resulting in more buffet-style group meals due to service limitations. While these stops may require a more adventurous spirit, we believe you will be rewarded with deeply enriching and authentic experiences that can only be found off the beaten path.



March 11 – 12

Washington, D.C.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Individual Arrivals in Washington, D.C.

Upon arrival at the Four Seasons Hotel Washington, D.C., please visit the *Chasing the Northern Lights* hospitality room. Please bring your passport with you. The check-in staff will collect your passport and return it to you the next morning at breakfast. You will also receive your name tag and other important updates.

Further details about check-in will be provided in the welcome letter when you check in to the hotel.

Hospitality Room Hours:

Tuesday, March 11 | 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This evening, please gather for a welcome cocktail reception and dinner. This is your opportunity to meet your expert staff and fellow travelers. Your expedition leader will brief you on important details for tomorrow morning's departure.

OVERNIGHT: Four Seasons Hotel Washington, D.C.

Reminders

Please do not pack your passport or important documents in your checked luggage, but rather always put them in your hand-carry that you bring on board the jet.



ACCOMMODATION

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL WASHINGTON, D.C.

Located at the entrance of Georgetown, steps from world-leading institutions and historic monuments, the Four Seasons Hotel Washington, D.C. is located at the crossroads of D.C.'s social and political hubs. Keep up your gym routine at one of the top private fitness clubs and spas in D.C. and experience a culinary destination at Michelin-starred chef Michael Mina's Bourbon Steak. Guest rooms feature limestone bathrooms, ample desk space and views overlooking the historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.



March 12 – 14

📍 Lake Mývatn, Iceland

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Akureyri. Please remember to stop at the TCS hospitality desk to collect your passport.

Depart: Washington, D.C. | 10:00 A.M.

Arrive: Akureyri, Iceland | 8:40 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 6H 40M

Meal Service: Lunch

Clear immigration and customs and transfer to the Aviation Museum in Akureyri for a private buffet dinner. Then, we will transfer one hour to the hotel in Lake Mývatn with photo stops for the Northern Lights if they are visible.

OVERNIGHT: Fosshotel Mývatn

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for your full-day or morning sightseeing options.

Full-Day Touring

☐ Tour of Húsavík with Whale Watching

Transfer about 40 minutes to Húsavík, and begin with a guided visit to the Whale Museum, followed by a stroll around town to see the Swiss chalet-style Húsavík Wooden Church and explore the harbor. After enjoying local cuisine at Gamli Baukur for lunch, hop on a boat and go whale watching with the possibility of seeing other marine mammals.

☐ Tour of Húsavík with Geobaths

Transfer about 40 minutes to Húsavík, and begin with a guided visit to the Whale Museum, followed by a stroll around town to see the Swiss chalet-style Húsavík Wooden Church and explore the harbor. After enjoying local cuisine at Gamli Baukur for lunch, soak in the relaxing geothermal baths while taking in the Icelandic scenery.

❑ Lofthellir Cave Tour (Strenuous)

On this active adventure, led by an expert guide, crawl to enter the subterranean world of Lofthellir. Once inside, you will be able to stand fully to take in this mesmerizing labyrinth of ancient lava formations and ice sculptures formed from a volcanic eruption 3,500 years ago. Navigate through narrow passages and towering chambers, each revealing Iceland's rich geological history.

Morning Touring

❑ Highlights of Mývatn Lake

Take a journey around Lake Mývatn to visit its notable volcanic features. Begin by exploring Dimmuborgir, known as the Black Fortress, where lava hardened as rock to form many caves and caverns. Ascend the slopes of the Hverafjall tephra cone, offering panoramic views of the surrounding volcanic terrain. At Skútustaðir, witness the fascinating pseudo craters that dot the landscape, formed by steam explosions when lava flowed over wetlands. Continue onto Námaskarð, where you'll encounter a geothermal wonderland of hot springs, mud pots and steam vents.

❑ Snowmobiling by Mývatn Lake

Across from our hotel, hop on a snowmobile and tour around Lake Mývatn. Helmets and warm overalls are provided, outer gloves are available, and warm attire is recommended. If you plan on driving the snowmobile, you must provide a driver's license.

Afternoon Touring

After lunch, guests who have selected a morning sightseeing selection may depart on your afternoon options:

❑ Highlights of Mývatn Lake

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❑ Guided Horseback Ride

Drive 10 minutes from our hotel to the stables where we'll divide up into smaller groups based on experience to set out for a ride with a guide. Helmets will be provided, and it's recommended to wear warm layers.

After dinner, put on your layers for a chance to chase the Northern Lights.

OVERNIGHT: Fosshotel Mývatn



ACCOMMODATION

FOSSHOTEL MÝVATN

Designed by award-winning architects, Fosshotel Mývatn offers a tranquil retreat in North Iceland that blends seamlessly with its surroundings and boasts a low-rise structure adorned with larch wood and a grass roof. Indulge in Nordic cuisine at the restaurant, overlooking the lake, and unwind in the cozy sauna after a day of adventure. With its prime location near local attractions, this property provides an ideal base for discovering the beauty of the Diamond Circle. Guest rooms overlook Lake Mývatn and include a walk-in rain shower.



March 14 – 16

Ålesund, Norway

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Ålesund.

Depart: Akureyri, Iceland | 11:00 A.M.

Arrive: Ålesund, Norway | 2:15 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 2H 15M

Meal Service: Lunch

After clearing Norwegian immigration and customs, transfer to the scenic Mount Aksla. Then, we drive to the city center where we embark on a city walking tour.

City Walking Tour

Experience the charm of Ålesund as you stroll through its picturesque streets, seeing the art nouveau architecture and vibrant harbor before continuing to our hotel for check-in.

All Guests

Tonight, you will enjoy a sunset cocktail reception and dinner at the hotel restaurant. After dinner, choose to chase the Northern Lights.

OVERNIGHT: Storfjord Hotel

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Full-Day Touring

☐ Hjørundfjord Cruise

Transfer to the port for a cruise around the idyllic Hjørundfjord. The journey through its calm waters starts vast and narrows as we cruise further inward, surrounded by plunging mountains. To the west, we'll find small villages connected by a network of mountain roads. Once we cruise to Oye, you'll have your pick of activities—kayaking, snowshoeing, floating sauna and wine tasting.

Morning Touring

☐ Cod Fishing

Embark on an adventure aboard a traditional fishing boat, led by an experienced skipper. March is the season for the spectacular Borgundfjord cod fisheries. Take part in an Ålesund tradition that offers breathtaking views of the city and mountains while catching some fish yourself.

☐ Kayak the Fjords

Few experiences can compete with the serenity of paddling the fjords, surrounded only by the sounds of your paddles breaking the surface. With experienced guides, get up close and personal with nature. Paddling at the foot of jagged mountain peaks, getting close to wildlife, stopping for a break in one of the many bays and inlets.

Afternoon Touring

☐ Local Farm Tour

Meet a charming local couple who live in the fjord village of Glomset. They will show you how they preserve local food traditions through hunting, growing, baking and fishing everything they produce and serve at the farm. Learn about their cultural heritage and craftsmanship with a local food tasting for lunch.

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☐ Cooking Class in the Boat House

Join a renowned chef for a food class in a charming boat house. During the course, explore the hotel's food philosophy and be introduced to Norwegian cooking traditions. Experience tastings of local produce and discover the flavors that make Norway unique.

All Guests

Gather to enjoy cocktails before a guest lecture followed by dinner. Then, decide to embark on an opportunity to see the Northern Lights.

OVERNIGHT: Storfjord Hotel



ACCOMMODATION

STORFJORD HOTEL

Storfjord Hotel is a wooded retreat tucked away in a small village overlooking the Sunnmøre Alps and the fjord. Natural materials such as local timber and designer furnishings combine to create a serene, forested hideaway. Enjoy views of the mountains as you dine on local cuisine in the hotel dining room. The property's common areas feature cozy fireplaces and a library for added space to unwind. The selected guest rooms overlook the glaciated fjord or the evergreen Norwegian forest.



March 16 – 19

📍 Rovaniemi, Finland

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

After breakfast, transfer 45 minutes to the airport where you board the private jet and depart for Finland.

Depart: Ålesund, Norway | 11:00 A.M.

Arrive: Rovaniemi, Finland | 1:45 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 1H 45M

Meal Service: Lunch

Clear immigration and customs and transfer to the hotel or continue on your pre-chosen activity.

☐ Sleigh Ride & Reindeer Farm

A local reindeer herder and her best reindeer will greet us at the airport and take us on a sleigh ride. After getting kitted with winter gear, sit comfortably in sleds pulled by reindeer and travel through the snowy forest to a reindeer farm. At the reindeer farm, experience the legendary Arctic Circle Crossing Ceremony. Now your adventure in Lapland can begin!

All Guests

Enjoy cocktails and dinner at the hotel before a chance to chase the Northern Lights.

OVERNIGHT: Arctic Treehouse Hotel

MONDAY, MARCH 17

After breakfast, depart for your morning sightseeing option.

Morning Touring

☐ Snowmobiling & Husky Adventure

Zoom through snowy landscapes on a 90-minute snowmobiling safari, then experience the magic of huskies with a sled ride at a traditional Husky farm. Enjoy lunch at the farm before returning to the hotel. *You must have a driver's license to operate the snowmobiles.*

☐ Ranua Wildlife Park

Set amidst stunning natural landscapes and the most northern zoo in the world, this wildlife sanctuary offers a unique opportunity to observe a variety of wildlife in their native habitats. Encounter birds of prey, arctic foxes, wolverines, wolves, lynx cats, musk oxen and roe deer, among others while exploring the park.

Afternoon Touring

☐ Ice Fishing & Floating Excursion

A guide will lead you on a tranquil 45-minute forest walk using snowshoes and then give an exciting ice fishing demonstration along the way. Try your hand at cutting your own icefishing hole and spend about 30 minutes fishing in the serene surroundings. For the adventurous, try the experience of arctic ice floating, wearing a high-quality rescue suit to be protected from the icy waters. Let your body and mind float in the frozen experience. With your own clothing under the suit, you will stay warm even in the open zero-degree water.

☐ Santa Claus Village

Experience the magic of Christmas at the Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi, known to be the official home of Santa Claus. Browse through charming shops filled with Arctic and Christmas-themed souvenirs, perfect for finding unique gifts. Get lost in the enchanting atmosphere as you explore the village streets adorned with twinkling lights and holiday cheer. Before you go, write a postcard to be sent in December just in time for the holidays.

All Guests

This evening, enjoy dinner at Snowland Ice Restaurant for an unmatched magical experience of dining in an igloo. After dinner, choose to continue on for the opportunity to see the Northern Lights.

OVERNIGHT: Arctic Treehouse Hotel

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

After breakfast, depart for your morning sightseeing option.

Morning Touring

☐ Snowmobiling & Husky Adventure

Zoom through snowy landscapes on a 90-minute snowmobiling safari, then experience the magic of huskies with a sled ride at a traditional Husky farm. Enjoy lunch at the farm before returning to the hotel. *You must have driver's license to operate the snowmobiles.*

☐ Ice Fishing & Floating Excursion

A guide will lead you on a tranquil 45-minute forest walk using snowshoes and then give an exciting ice fishing demonstration along the way. Try your hand at cutting your own icefishing hole and spend about 30 minutes fishing in the serene surroundings. For the adventurous, try the experience of arctic ice floating, wearing a high-quality rescue suit you are totally protected from the icy waters. Let your body and mind float in the frozen experience. As you have your own clothing under the suit you will not get cold even in the open zero-degree water.

Afternoon Touring

☐ Santa Claus Village

Experience the magic of Christmas at the Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi, known to be the official home of Santa Claus. Browse through charming shops filled with Arctic and Christmas-themed souvenirs, perfect for finding unique gifts. Get lost in the enchanting atmosphere as you explore the village streets adorned with twinkling lights and holiday cheer. Before you go, write a postcard to be sent in December just in time for the holidays.

☐ Arktikum Museum

Immerse yourself in the Arctic culture, history and nature up close. Explore exhibitions on the Sami nomadic culture, 20th-century history (including WWII) and marvel at a captivating Northern Lights film. Choose your own adventure: follow a knowledgeable guide or wander at your own pace through the museum's immersive exhibitions.

All Guests

This evening, enjoy dinner at Royal Reindeer Ounasvaara Restaurant and then bundle up for participate in an optional evening activity in search of the Northern Lights.

OVERNIGHT: Arctic Treehouse Hotel



ACCOMMODATION

ARCTIC TREEHOUSE HOTEL

Every detail at Arctic TreeHouse Hotel is curated to reflect the harmony between nature and modern sophistication. Wake up in a beautifully appointed treehouse-style suite to breathtaking views of the forest and the Arctic sky where you could see the Northern Lights from the comfort of your bed. Luxury meets wilderness seamlessly with interiors that exude warmth and sophistication, with natural materials, such as wood and stone, complemented by minimalist Scandinavian furnishings. You can also enjoy creative and delicious meals made from local ingredients at the chic Rakas Restaurant & Bar. The selected guest rooms all have a panoramic window that offers views of the skies over the treetops.



March 19 – 20

Washington, D.C.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

After breakfast at our hotel, depart Finland on our homeward journey. In flight, our team of experts will recap all the places visited on this expedition.

Depart: Rovaniemi, Finland | 10:00 A.M.

Arrive: Keflavik, Iceland | 11:35 A.M.

Elapsed Time: 3H 35M

Meal Service: Lunch

Depart: Keflavik, Iceland | 12:20 P.M.

Arrive: Washington, D.C. | 2:50 P.M.

Elapsed Time: 6H 30M

Meal Service: Dinner

Upon arrival at Dulles International Airport, we clear U.S. Immigration and Customs. You may then connect with a commercial flight home, or transfer to the Hyatt Regency Dulles.

All Guests

A light buffet dinner will be available this evening.

OVERNIGHT: Hyatt Regency Dulles

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

This morning, breakfast is available in the hotel before departing for your commercial flights homeward.

Welcome Home!



ACCOMMODATION

HYATT REGENCY DULLES

Located just minutes from Washington Dulles International Airport and a convenient Metro ride to D.C., the Hyatt Regency is conveniently located for easy arrival and departure. Guest rooms offer an inviting atmosphere.