

North Atlantic Crossing Part 2: Iceland – Land Of Fire & Ice!



After a day and a half at sea, the coast of Iceland emerges through the haze with... volcanoes!



Arrival in Reykjavik is not very welcoming. It's around 50 degrees with overcast skies. Judy smiles anyway as she channels her inner Viking! A true warrior princess!



But once we get out into the “Golden Circle” countryside, it is glorious! So clear and crisp, the air so pure, it’s hard to believe this is the same day. Glad I put on sunblock!



The Icelanders love horseback riding, and there is certainly a lot of open range. Behind the mountains, you can see the low white profile of the massive Long Glacier.



Where worlds collide! In this valley, the North American and European tectonic plates meet (although here they are actually moving apart, at 2 cm/year).



The road travels right across the rift, and I catch the shot through the bus window.
Hey, we just drove from America to Europe!



Next stop—hot springs and geysers! The first geyser was described right here. The name comes from the Icelandic verb *geysa*, meaning “to gush”.



Wait for it.... wait for it....



BAM!! Every 3-4 minutes, but only for about 15 seconds.
Good reflexes by Judy to grab the shot!



Now we know why they call it "The Land of Fire and Ice"



To top off the day, we visit the Gullfoss—the “Golden Waterfall”. The photo just doesn’t do it justice. It is massive, thunderous, powerful, and totally awe-inspiring.



It’s true—there *is* gold at the end of the rainbow! 💖💖

Celebrity ECLIPSE Reykjavik, Iceland (Day 2)
Friday, June 1st, 2018

TODAY

SAIL BEYOND BORDERS
Caribbean | Alaska

Partly Cloudy | High: 48F / 9C · Low: 40F / 4C | **Sunrise: 3:23am · Sunset: 11:30pm** | Evening Attire: Smart Casual

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND Beyond Reykjavik you will find Gullfoss Waterfall, known as one of Iceland's most beautiful cascades. This beautiful waterfall remains in its natural state mainly through the actions a local farmer who protested development of the area and rallied support from the government to declaring it a national monument. Thingvellir National Park, located atop the American and European tectonic plates this area continues to grow as the plates pull apart. Every volcanic eruption or earthquake adds additional area to the park and the country.

PORT AGENT
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i INFORMATION

ALL ABOARD 2:30PM
Important Note: If you do not return before departure time, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to rejoin the ship.
Travel distance to Akureyri, Iceland, is approx. 335 nautical miles.

BACK ON BOARD

3 EASY STEPS TO HEALTH AND WEIGHT LOSS
3:30pm | Fitness Center, Deck 12
Learn how to speed up a sluggish metabolism, enjoy better sleep and lose weight from all the right areas.

It's been a long day—and as you can see, it's a *really long* day.
We are less than 200 miles from the Arctic Circle.



This whole Midnight Sun thing is really messing up my biological clock....
It's hard to go to sleep when it's still broad daylight!



It's a new morning and we are off to the volcanic lava fields an hour outside Reykjavík...



Destination: the famous Blue Lagoon hot springs, for a geothermal bathing experience!



Iceland derives all its electricity and hot water for free by tapping the vast subterranean volcanic hot springs—Geothermal energy.



The mineral-rich runoff is pumped next door to create the world's biggest hot tub!
Yes, it's totally touristy for sure, but we *had* to do it!



Air temp: 52 Water temp: 100 Mmmm.... toasty!



And of course we *had* to try the silica mud facial (the silica precipitates out of the water as it cools). Oooh, tingly! Leave it on for 10 minutes only!



After 90 minutes soaking in the therapeutic waters, we are totally relaxed!



And seriously, our skin looks and feels great! That goo really works!



Day 3 in Iceland, and as if we weren't already close enough to the North Pole, today we'll be cruising further north to the city of Akureyri, 60 miles from the Arctic Circle.



The scenery is breathtaking!



Cruising down the fjord



Despite the snow-peaked mountains, it is actually pretty mild for Iceland, temperatures in the low 60's (hey, it may be June 2, but it's still Iceland!)



Time for lunch! When in Iceland, you can't go wrong with fish!



The freshest Fish & Chips ever—and look at the size of that fish!



It was Judy's idea—we boldly decided to try *kæster hakarl*, Iceland's notorious stinky fermented shark! A traditional Viking dish, shark is buried in the ground for 3 months, hung up to dry for 3 more, cut into tiny cubes, and served with a shot of *akvavit*.



Well, it wasn't all THAT bad; on the other hand, it wasn't that good either! Funky smell, very chewy, and tasted "kind of rotten". The *akvavit* chaser made it more tolerable! Okay, we did it, but we didn't ask for seconds!



Then, into the highlands for yet another magnificent waterfall, this one called “Godafoss”: The Waterfall of the Gods!



Awesome! Worth the trek to the middle of nowhere!



The Warrior Princess celebrates her conquest of the Northlands!



Remember: Live it Up—Live it Large—but always Live for Vacay!