Sail beneath the midnight sun, over seas steeped in Norse mythology, and along the route of the boldest Vikings who ventured west. Meet the welcoming islanders who call the scenic Faroes home—Danes by nationality and Viking by blood. See the graves of their Viking ancestors and explore their tiny towns of turf-roofed homes. On Scotland’s outlying isles you’ll discover a 5,000-year-old village and see the mysterious standing stones of the Ring of Brodgar. And in the west, on a near circumnavigation of Iceland, see this geologically roiling land just as the Vikings must have, from thundering waterfalls and boiling springs, to islands so young the earth still steams.

**DAY 1-2: U.S./Bergen, Norway/Embark**
Bergen is one of the major cities of the powerful Hanseatic League. Hansa merchants operated in the historic Bryggen’s Wharf area, filled with wooden buildings from the Middle Ages. (Day 2: D)

**DAY 3: Orkney Islands, Scotland**
Enjoy a morning at sea, then see the standing stones at the Ring of Brodgar and the stoneslab village of Skara Brae. Step into the past at the red sandstone cathedral of St. Magnus, built in 1137. (B,L,D)

**DAY 4: Shetland Islands**
Our ship glides past the towering bird cliffs of Noss for views of murres and kittiwakes. Visit the Jarlshof archaeological site, a prehistoric and Norse settlement continuously inhabited for more than 4,000 years, and see the famous Shetland ponies. (B,L,D)
DAY 5-7: The Faroe Island Archipelago
The rugged Faroese are proud of their Viking ancestry, reflected in their ancient language and love of the sea. We will explore the archipelago with possible stops: in Tórshavn, wooden boats bob at anchor in the harbor and harken back to Viking times; visit the natural history museum and the Kirkjubøur archaeological site, a medieval farming and religious center; see the incredible bird cliffs and scenic landscapes of northern Streymoy, at the cliffs of Vestmanna. (B.L.D)

DAY 8: Djúpivogur, Iceland
Dock in Djúpivogur and drive down the coast to explore the vast Vatnajökull icecap and the deep blue icebergs of the large ice lagoon of Jökulsárlón. Alternatively, go by 4x4 vehicle to visit some of the secluded valleys and remote waterfalls in the countryside around Djúpivogur or visit a local farm to meet the families living in rural Iceland. (B.L.D)

DAY 9: At Sea/Grimsey
Enjoy a morning at sea as we sail northward to the land of the midnight sun, going ashore in the evening at the tiny island of Grimsey. Home to nesting sea birds, it lies exactly on the Arctic Circle. (B.L.D)

DAY 10: Lake Mývatn/Akureyri
Drive to Lake Myvatn, the most geologically active area in Iceland. See the mud pools at Hverarönd and the unforgettable sight of Goðafoss, the waterfall of the gods. Visit the explosion crater at Viti. Drive to Akureyri with its beautiful period houses, backed by snow-capped mountains. (B.L.D)

DAY 11: Ísafjördur
Located in the Westfjords, the tiny town of Ísafjördur is surrounded by water on three sides and is a great place to view the stunning fjord landscape and photograph tiny flowering plants. (B.L.D)

DAY 12: Western Iceland
Cruise past the immense Látrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Iceland and home to a huge population of razorbills. Continue to Flatey Island, a trading post for many centuries. Walk around the charming hamlet that grew here. (B.L.D)

DAY 13: Surtsey & Heimaey, Westman Islands
The Westman Islands were formed by undersea volcanoes and are remote from the world’s archipelagos. Surtsey, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was created in 1963 and 10 years later, Heimaey was threatened by lava flows that nearly closed off its harbor. Visit the crater where the earth is still hot and see areas that were engulfed by lava. (B.L.D)

DAY 14: Reykjavik, Iceland/Disembark/Home
Today we disembark in Reykjavik with options to visit either the famous Blue Lagoon thermal baths or the hot springs, geothermal power plant and a horse farm, prior to our flight home. (B.L)

2020 Departure Dates:
8 Jun

2021 Departure Dates:
26 Jun

Advance Payment:
$1,500

Sample Airfares:
Economy: from $1,300
Business: from $3,300
Airfares are subject to change

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