



# EXPEDITION TO ICELAND & GREENLAND'S EAST COAST

August 6 – 20, 2025



**Aboard the New Expedition Cruise Ship VEGA**

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This expedition to Iceland and Greenland provides an opportunity to discover some of the lesser-visited regions of the Arctic, and to travel in the company of naturalists who have devoted their careers to understanding and preserving the increasingly fragile ecosystems found here.

After two days in Iceland discovering the lava fields of Reykjavík and exploring the fishing village in Ísafjörður, we cross the Denmark Strait to spend five days sailing among the ice floes and Inuit communities of eastern Greenland. This entire region of massive fjords forms the largest National Park in the world, home to countless colonies of seabirds, reindeer grazing on the shore, walrus, and an occasional polar bear. Returning to Iceland, we explore Húsavík, Djúpvogur and Heimaey where we will experience the volcanic features of Lake Mývatn, breathtaking views of glacial fjords and the nesting grounds of millions of seabirds.

In a series of lectures and discussions, your Vanderbilt lecturer and our onboard expedition team of naturalists will bring their experience and expertise to bear in presentations on the flora and fauna, geology, history and culture of the places we visit.

Our vessel for this cruise will be the Swan Hellenic *Vega*, a state-of-the-art, new-generation expedition cruise ship built in Finland and launched in 2022. Accommodating only 152 guests in superb staterooms and balcony suites, *Vega* features elegant common areas and the most modern mechanical and environmentally conscious technology. And *Vega's* seasoned expedition staff driving its fleet of Zodiac landing craft will bring you into intimate contact with the incredible places we will explore.

Please look over the enclosed brochure and begin making plans to join us next summer on this extraordinary *Expedition to Iceland & Greenland's East Coast*.

Sincerely



Cary DeWitt Allyn  
Director, Vanderbilt Travel Program

Cover photo: Nature and landscapes of Greenland.

## VANDERBILT LECTURER

Aboard *Vega*, you will explore Iceland and Greenland with a Vanderbilt faculty member and a team of resident experts. Through talks and presentations, they will create a comprehensive understanding of the history and culture as well as other topics that relate to this region. The experience we will provide is not just one of cruising and sightseeing, but a complete learning adventure.



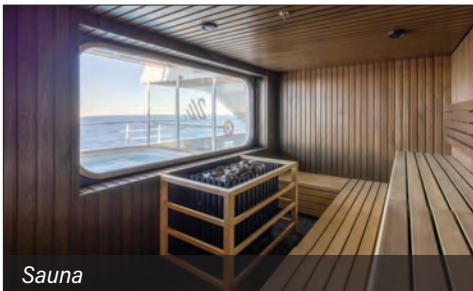
# THE **NEW** 152-GUEST EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP **VEGA**



*Oceanview Stateroom*



*Balcony Suite*



*Sauna*



*Observation Lounge*



*Outdoor Café/Bar with swimming pool*

Built in Finland and launched in July 2022, Swan Hellenic's *Vega* is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 10,250 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 250 passengers, *Vega* will accommodate a maximum of 152 guests in 76 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, *Vega* is among the world's first environmentally responsible ships. Equipped with hybrid engines and a unique water filtration system, *Vega* leaves a minimal footprint. For cruising in Polar regions, the ship meets the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code with its high PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull and other advanced features. A computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 120 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Vega* will

carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

*Vega's* interior spaces exude sophisticated elegance, with most rooms opening to panoramic views of the sea. All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections, and other amenities. Of the ship's 76 staterooms, 60 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna with an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis. The outstanding cuisine is complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner.

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT **VANDERBILT TRAVEL OFFICE** at 615-322-3673 or [alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu)

# ITINERARY



Wednesday, August 6, 2025  
**DEPART THE UNITED STATES**

Thursday, August 7  
**REYKJAVÍK, Iceland**

Arrive in Reykjavík and transfer to the *Courtyard by Marriott* (or similar), for overnight. Gather this evening with fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. (D)

Friday, August 8  
**REYKJAVÍK/EMBARK**

After breakfast at the hotel, begin the day with a drive to the tip of the Reykjanes Peninsula where 360° views of the striking landscape can be seen from the Reykjanes Lighthouse. Continue to bubbling hot springs at Gunnuhver geothermal, where powerful jets of steam escaping from deep below the Earth's crust share the landscape



Reykjavík, Iceland

with multicolored pools of boiling mud. Continue to Njarðvík, on the northern coast of the peninsula, to visit the superb Viking Museum, housing a fully seaworthy replica of a typical Viking ship. Return to Reykjavík for lunch and embarkation on *Vega*. (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 9

**ÍSAFJÖRÐUR**

This morning, call at the tiny fishing village of Ísafjörður, built at the foot of a high volcanic plateau, where even in the center of the town, nature predominates. Picturesque houses of contrasting colors, the oldest dating from the 17th century, fill the historic district. The Westfjords Heritage Museum, which we will visit, is housed in one of these, and tells the story of the discovery and settlement of the town. (B,L,D)

Sunday, August 10

**AT SEA**

Enjoy a day at sea, attend lectures by your special guest lecturer and briefings from the expert expedition staff. Also use the time simply to relax and enjoy cruising the open sea, perhaps treating yourself to some of *Vega's* many amenities. (B,L,D)

Monday, August 11- Friday, August 15

**EAST GREENLAND**

Spend five days exploring this vast system of fjords, where large basalt mountains create a striking backdrop to the brilliant white ice floating in mirror-like waters. The mountains offer protection from the Arctic winds, providing excellent shelter for Greenland's iconic wildlife. We will be on the lookout for muskoxen, Arctic foxes, and mountain hares along the frozen shores. And with the help of our expedition team, we'll spot the Little Auks, Atlantic Puffins, fulmars, Snowy Owls, and Great Black-backed Gulls that abound here. Seals and whales are also common sightings. We will also visit the Inuit community of Scoresbysund. (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 16

**AT SEA**

Enjoy a day at sea, attend lectures by your special guest lecturer and



Atlantic puffins, Greenland



Goðafoss waterfall, Iceland

briefings from the expert expedition staff. Also use the time simply to relax and enjoy cruising the open sea, perhaps treating yourself to some of *Vega's* many amenities. (B,L,D)

Sunday, August 17

### HÚSAVÍK, Iceland

Arrive in the small fishing village of Húsavík whose brightly colored houses, wooden church and snow-capped peaks have earned it the reputation as the prettiest town in Iceland. Begin an excursion that will take us to some of the island's most impressive sights, including Lake Mývatn, a volcanic area of incredible geological features that includes hot springs, and boiling mud pots and fumaroles; and magnificent Goðafoss waterfall ("Waterfall of the Gods"), formed by the falling waters of a river. Also notable is the flora of this unforgettable place, which we will have the opportunity to observe. Return to the ship for lunch then enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring Húsavík. (B,L,D)

Monday, August 18

### DJÚPIVOGUR/VATNAJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK

Djúpivogur, in southeastern Iceland, is a small town on a peninsula near the mouth of Berufjörður fjord, with an awe-inspiring



Ísafjörður Town, Iceland

pyramid-shaped mountain as its backdrop. It serves as your gateway to Vatnajökull National Park, Europe's largest, covering 14% of Iceland, including ice caps, waterfalls, glaciers, canyons, craters and volcanoes. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 19

### HEIMAÆY

Heimaey is the largest of the Westman Islands Archipelago off the southern coast of Iceland, and is the summer home to millions of seabirds—puffin, fulmar, guillemot, and others. Our panoramic tour of this rugged island includes a stop at the nesting grounds and takes us through a valley framed by two volcanoes—the 5000-year-old Helgafell ("Holy Mountain") and the considerably younger Eldfell ("Fire Mountain"), which erupted in 1973, forcing an evacuation of the entire population. The story of that heroic evacuation is documented in the recently opened Eldheimar Museum, where the excavated remains of a house buried for 40 years in ash are on display. (B,L,D)

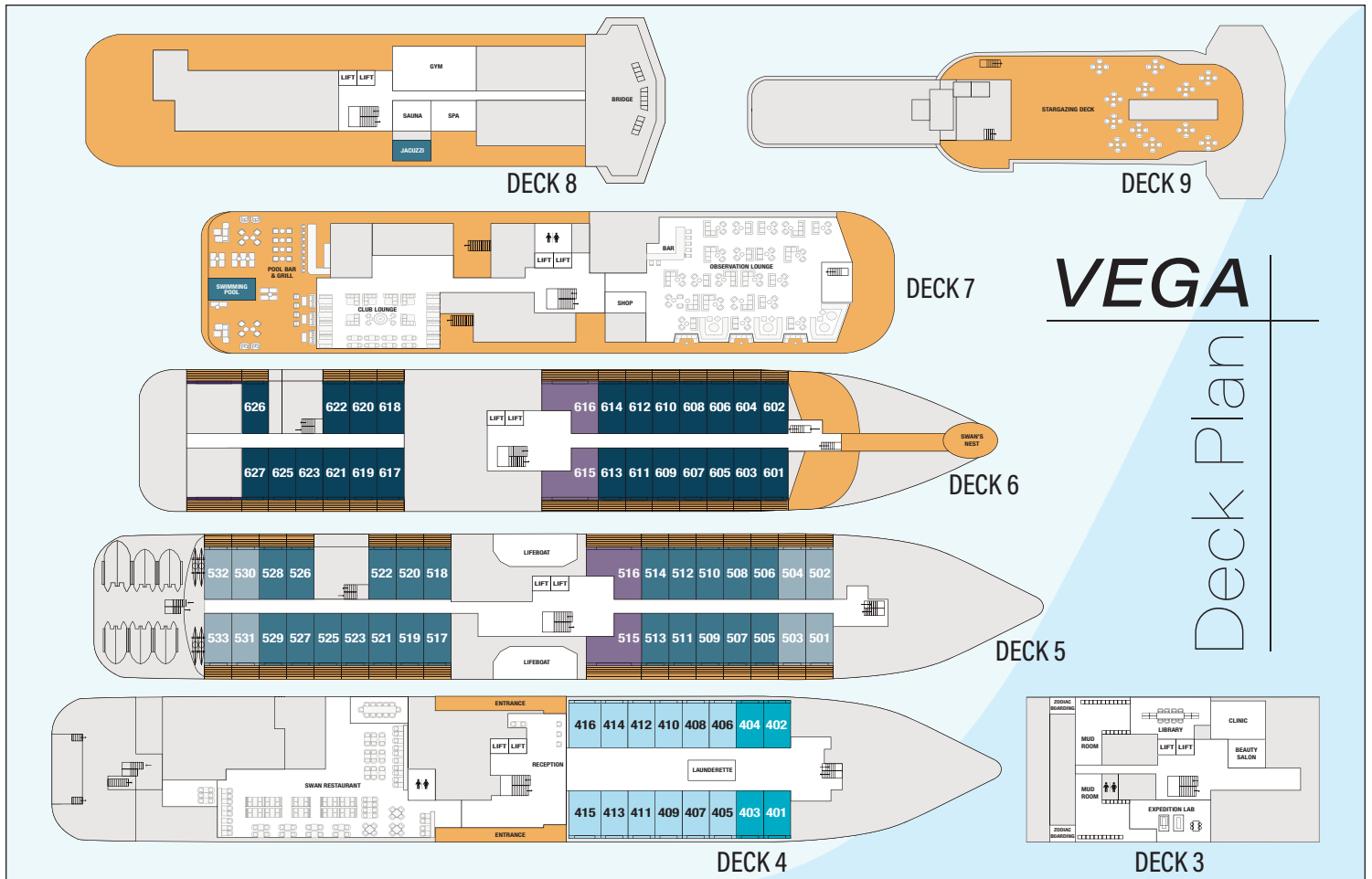
Wednesday, August 20

### REYKJAVÍK/DISEMBARK

After breakfast aboard, transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)



Vatnajökull National Park, Djúpivogur, Iceland



All accommodations aboard *Diana* are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATES PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
<b>E</b>	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 401–404.	\$13,990
<b>D</b>	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 405–416.	\$14,590
<b>C</b>	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501–504, 530–533.	\$17,290
<b>B</b>	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 505–514, 517–529.	\$18,190
<b>A</b>	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601–614, 617–627.	\$19,290
<b>AA</b>	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 440 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 515, 516, 615 & 616.	\$23,490

**FOR SOLO TRAVELERS** | Cabins for single occupancy are available at the following lower than normal supplements: For Categories E & D 20% of the per person double occupancy rate; for Categories C, B & A 50% of the per person double occupancy rate.

### LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM

Travel on this cruise program and enjoy savings of **\$400 to \$900** per person on your next voyage with **VANDERBILT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** and **THALASSA JOURNEYS** aboard a Swan Hellenic ship. Savings are determined by the stateroom category booked and is applicable when you reserve your trip within 30 days of the completion date of **EXPEDITION TO ICELAND & GREENLAND'S EAST COAST**

This saving cannot be combined with other offers and is subject to change.

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as shore excursions or embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include:

- One night at the *Courtyard by Marriott* (or similar) in Reykjavík.
- Welcome dinner in Reykjavík.
- Cruise aboard the *Vega*, as described in the itinerary.
- Group airport/hotel/pier transfers at designated times, and handling of luggage on arrival and departure dates.
- Lectures and discussions with a Vanderbilt Guest Lecturer.
- Additional lectures by members of the onboard team of experts.
- Complete program of tours and excursions as mentioned in the itinerary including lunch on full day tours with professional English-speaking guides.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, guides, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.



Húsavík, Iceland

## REGISTRATION

VAND 25V-0806

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **EXPEDITION TO ICELAND & GREENLAND'S EAST COAST**, August 6 – 20, 2025 with Vanderbilt Alumni Association. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

**For further information, and to reserve your space, please contact Vanderbilt Travel Office at 615.322.3673 or e-mail [alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu).**

If you would prefer to pay by check, please complete this form and return it to Thalassa Journeys to the address below. **Thalassa Journeys**, 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835  
Phone Toll-Free: (866) 633-3611

AmEx                       Discover                       Visa                       Master Card  
No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE SELECT STATEROOM CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

1st choice  \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice  \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd choice  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Double Occupancy                       Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates)

**PREFERRED BED CONFIGURATION** Double  \_\_\_\_\_ Twin  \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST                      MIDDLE                      LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)                      CLASS OF

FIRST                      MIDDLE                      LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)                      CLASS OF

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_

(CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 71-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 70 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

**INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

**ITINERARY:** The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

**RATES:** Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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Vanderbilt Place,  
Nashville, TN 37240

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**FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
VANDERBILT TRAVEL OFFICE AT 615.322.3673**

Ísafjörður, Iceland

