

See the Total Solar Eclipse, March 20, 2015!

ICELAND

Eclipse & Aurora Borealis

Explore the Land of Fire & Ice!

March 15-23, 2015



We invite you to join us in Iceland to see the Total Solar Eclipse over the North Atlantic and enjoy splendid nights observing the Aurora Borealis!

This trip includes both wonderful astronomical phenomena in one location and is a rare occurrence and real opportunity!

To see the Total Solar Eclipse, we will fly in chartered aircraft from Reykjavik about an hour to the east to the point of maximum Totality! This will be a wonderful adventure, with excellent shared viewing out the plane's windows.

We will also discover famous Icelandic sites, including the renowned Geysir (after which all of the world's geysers are named), plus geothermal wonders, such as the Blue Lagoon and Myvatn in Iceland's northeast.

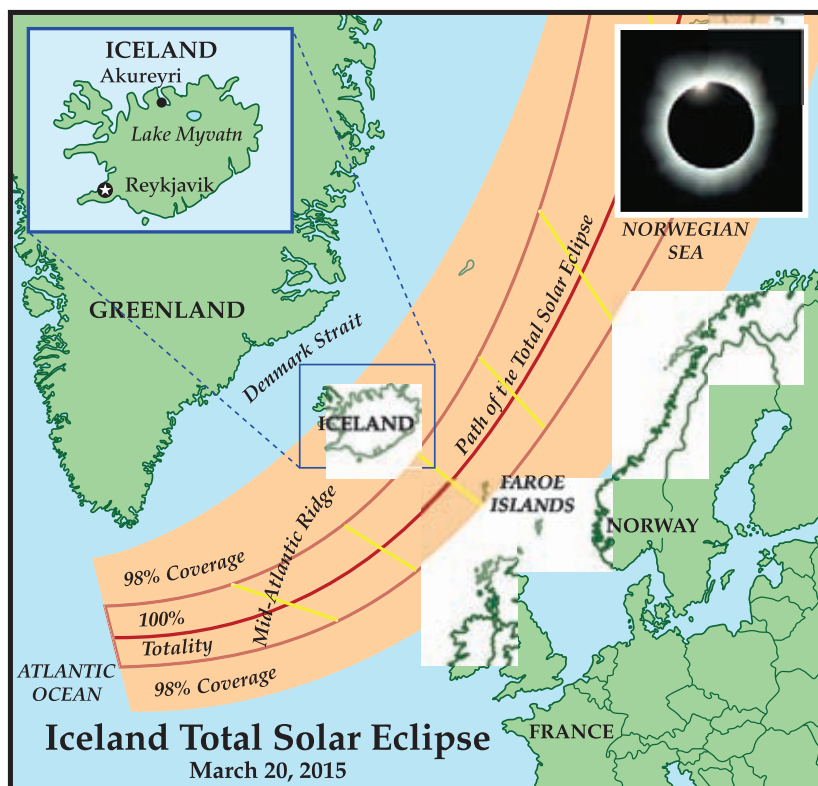
There will be special lectures on geology, volcanism, the Aurora Borealis, the Icelandic sagas from the 10th and 11th centuries, and the Total Solar Eclipse. We will also visit a new Japanese research site for study of the Aurora Borealis near Husavik.

You will travel with veteran Betchart and Planetary Society leader Bob Nansen, plus our excellent local naturalist, Siggi Tomasson.

We hope you will join us!

Best Regards,

Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
for AAAS, Sigma Xi, ACS
& The Planetary Society



LEADERSHIP

Leading this expedition will be **Bob Nansen**, popular leader of many Betchart Eclipse and Aurora expeditions, and Icelandic naturalist **Siggi G. Tomasson**.

Bob leads Aurora Borealis expeditions to Alaska each March and led the Atlantic Crossing Total Solar Eclipse Expedition in 2013, Australia in 2012, and Tahiti in 2010. He will be leading our Bali & Indonesia Eclipse Expedition in 2016.

Siggi became a guide to share his passion for natural history, plants, and birding. He has his own shows on Icelandic radio and TV and is very knowledgeable about Iceland society in general. Siggi has been a popular leader of Betchart's Wild Iceland trips the last several years.

Bob and Siggi look forward to sharing the delights of Iceland, the Aurora, and the Total Solar Eclipse with you!



ITINERARY

Days 1/2 **JFK, Boston or Seattle to Reykjavik**

Today, we will depart from JFK International Airport (or Boston or Seattle) on IcelandAir for Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland. Arrive on the morning of Day 2. Meet your leaders and transfer to the *Hotel Lind* (4 nights). This morning enjoy a Reykjavik city tour before stepping back in time at the Settlement Museum to learn about the heritage of Iceland.

Afternoon to explore the world's most northern capital and the cultural center of Iceland. We will have a special visit to the Northern Lights Center for an introduction to the Aurora Borealis, including photography suggestions. Welcome social, orientation & dinner. B,D

Day 3 **Gullfoss, Geysir & Pingvellir Plain**

Today, we will visit Pingvellir (the "plains of parliament") where Iceland's democracy began in 930 AD. Pingvellir National Park is not only the birthplace of a nation, but also a highly interesting area for its unique geology and lake biology. It marks the crest of the remarkable geologic feature, the Mid-Atlantic

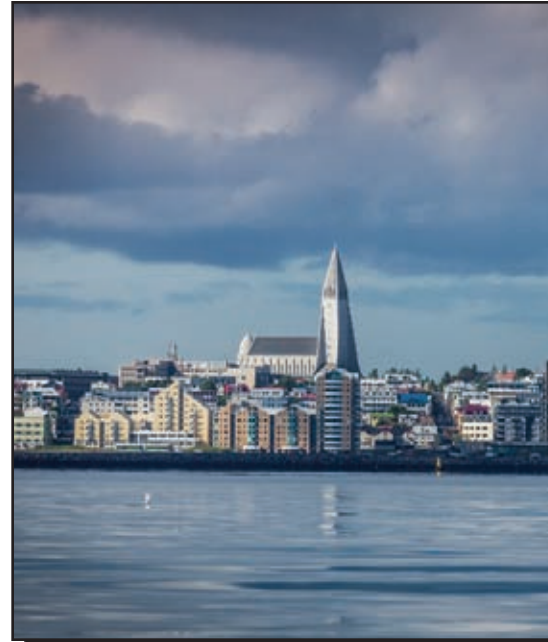
Ridge, which separates Europe and North America, and runs the length of the Atlantic Ocean, surfacing in Iceland. It is also home to Thingvallavatn, the largest natural lake in Iceland. We will continue to the hot springs area around the great Geysir (after which all of the world's geysers are named) and Gullfoss Falls, one of Iceland's star attractions. Enjoy an evening of Aurora viewing with local star gazers to view the night sky and Aurora Borealis. B

Day 4 **Blue Lagoon & Reykjanes Peninsula**

This morning, we will have a morning talk on the geology of Iceland, volcanism, and glaciers, and then drive south of Reykjavik to the Blue Lagoon, one of Iceland's most famous locales. The Blue Lagoon is a geothermal spa which is believed to have natural healing powers. It offers warm and luxurious soaking in a place that is both enchanting and mysterious, so bring your swimsuit, and you may enjoy a soak or swim (optional!) in the luxury of its warm waters, now an Icelandic tradition!



*Pingvellir Plain
Birthplace of Iceland's Democracy*



We will then head south along the Reykjanes Peninsula, which is well known for its raw lava and rocky landscape, which many compare to the Moon. We will see miles and miles of new lava formations, lakes, and the start of ecological succession with rocks covered by moss and lichen. Our expedition naturalist will talk about the evolution of the geologic landscape. This evening Aurora enthusiasts may enjoy another evening of Aurora viewing. B

Day 5 Icelandic Sagas & Eclipse Lectures

This morning, you will have time to explore Reykjavik on your own. After lunch, we will visit the National Museum for insight into the history and culture of Iceland. The Museum begins with a ship in which medieval settlers crossed the Atlantic to Iceland. We will also have a lecture on Icelandic history, as recorded in the famous sagas from the 10th and 11th centuries. A lecture on the Total Solar Eclipse will help prepare us for our Eclipse flightseeing adventure tomorrow. B,D

Day 6 Total Solar Eclipse Flight

We will depart this morning for the Reykjavik City Airport for our charter flight to see the Total Solar Eclipse over the Atlantic Ocean to the east of Iceland. We will fly directly to the center line of the Eclipse.

The Eclipse occurs at 9:42 Universal Time (which is based on the Greenwich Meridian). Our flight from Reykjavik will take about an hour and then we will be right on the line of Totality! We will fly through the Eclipse path, where passengers will see the Eclipse right out their windows. It will be a great adventure, unlike anything imaginable... from full sun as the Eclipse starts, to the shadow of the Moon starting to cover the face of the Sun, and then totally covering it (all while we are in flight)!

We will then continue our flight to Akureyri, on the north central coast of Iceland, situated just south of the Arctic Circle. The Eclipse is right at the time of the spring solstice or equinox, when there are 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness

We will have a luncheon celebration of the Eclipse in Akureyri, and explore the town. We will then continue to the north coastal community of Husavik. *Fosshotel Husavik (2 nights)*. B,L

Day 7 Husavik & Aurora Borealis

This morning, we will enjoy exploring the hamlet of Husavik on the Peninsula Tjornes which is known for fossilized seashells and spectacular seascapes. We will visit the fossil museum and learn more about these ancient sea creatures. Also visit the Husavik Whale Centre, Iceland's only center dedicated to the study and appreciation of these marine mammals. See skeletons and skulls of whales and other items while you learn about the species of whales found

in Icelandic waters and about the history of whaling around Iceland. We will continue further north up the Peninsula to visit the new Japanese research station for the Northern Lights at Manarbakki farm. Learn about their research and have a special evening looking at the night sky and Aurora Borealis. B,D





AURORA BOREALIS & TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

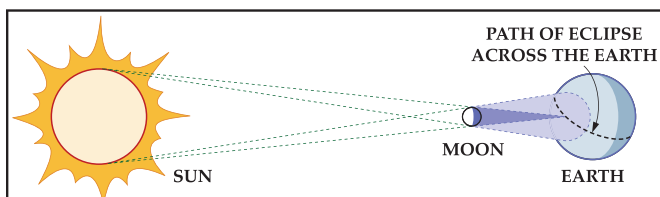
This trip includes two wonderful astronomical phenomena in one location—the Aurora Borealis and the Total Solar Eclipse. This is a rare occurrence and is a real opportunity!

The electric Aurora Borealis shines brilliantly on many Arctic dark nights. As the solar wind blows against the Earth's magnetic field lines, charged particles excite upper atmospheric gases and the mysterious light of the Aurora glows.

The intensity of Aurora activity is greatest around the Equinoxes, but can and does occur any time of the year. The colors of the Aurora vary with the gases that are excited, and can range from white to green, yellow, and red, with many shades in between.

The centerline of the Total Solar Eclipse is over the Atlantic Ocean east of Iceland. Our charter plane will fly about one hour east of Reykjavik to the zone of Totality and maximum eclipse (2 minutes 46 seconds at Latitude 64 degrees 26.3'N and Longitude 6 degrees 39' W).

We will first have a dramatic view of Iceland from the air and then see First Contact of the Eclipse and then Totality. We will watch with anticipation as the Sun is slowly covered by the Moon. Everyone will have protective solar glasses to watch the Eclipse safely. The aircraft windows are of a style which can be shared to allow everyone to see and photograph the Eclipse.



Day 8 Lake Myvatn

We will depart this morning for Lake Myvatn. For a nature enthusiast to describe the Lake Myvatn area is virtually impossible. The whole area is a natural wonder of its own in a world that has nothing else like it. The lake is approximately 37 sq km, making it Iceland's fourth largest lake. In summer, it hosts a profusion of birdlife. It has been described as a meeting place of two worlds, where you are able to find flora and fauna from both the temperate and the Arctic zones.

It is a highly active volcanic area situated on the west edge of the meeting point of the Eurasian and North American geologic plates. You will see a range of pseudo-craters, volcanoes of different sizes, hot springs, and new lava fields with lava pillars. We will also have a relaxing soak in the Myvatn Nature Baths.

Not far from Myvatn we will visit a geothermal power plant which transforms the earth's heat into electricity and learn more about its importance in Iceland. Have a farewell dinner in celebration of our adventure this evening, and another evening of Aurora viewing! Hotel Geysir or Sel Hotel Myvatn. B,D

Day 9 To Akureyri and Reykjavik & Flights Home

We'll head to Akureyri this morning for our return flights to Reykjavik and the USA. B





RESPONSIBILITY

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, the American Chemical Society (ACS), and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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 Photos courtesy of Taunya DeYoung, Steve Hample
 and the Iceland Tourist Board.
 Map by April Milne.

CST# 2036304-40

RESERVATIONS

#1385

Yes! I/we want to join the **Iceland Eclipse & Aurora Borealis Expedition, March 15-23, 2015**, offered by **AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi, ACS, and The Planetary Society**. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Membership: ☐ AAAS ☐ Sigma Xi ☐ ACS ☐ Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

☐ Twin ☐ Single ☐ Twin Share: ☐ with a friend or

☐ Nonsmoker ☐ Smoker ☐ assign a roommate

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please Mail To: Iceland Eclipse 2015
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5345



**AAAS Travels
ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions
The Planetary Society**

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

**Iceland
Total Solar Eclipse
& Aurora Borealis**

March 15-23, 2015

FIRST CLASS

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Trip Fee: \$5,495 per person twin share (plus air fare of \$950 from JFK or Boston or \$995 from Seattle to Iceland, RT, plus \$995 in-tour flights Reykjavik into the path of Totality, with return Akureyri to Reykjavik).

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations twin share; meals as indicated from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 9; entrance fees; tips to local guides and drivers; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare (quoted separately); independent transfers; some meals; optional Blue Lagoon swim; gratuity to expedition leaders; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, beverages at meals, alcoholic beverages, snacks; personal insurance, or foreign airport departure taxes.

What to Expect: This expedition is for travelers who would like to see the Total Solar Eclipse and Aurora Borealis, led by an Icelandic naturalist and Betchart naturalist and astronomer. The trip includes charter flights into the path of Totality of the Eclipse.

The whole adventure is a rich natural history and cultural experience with opportunity to see and photograph the Eclipse from our flight. Explore fascinating landscapes of volcanic Iceland and view the Aurora Borealis, have intriguing lectures and excursions to view the unique natural world from geysers to the mid-Atlantic Ridge. Walks will be at a leisurely pace suitable for discovery and photography.

The trip is at the Spring Equinox with 12 hours of daylight each day, just south of the Arctic Circle. Midday temperatures will be in the 30's to 40's. The expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure. The trip includes travel to the drier northeast of the country where there are excellent prospects for clear skies for Aurora viewing

(though clouds could obscure the sky). We will have a grand adventure of discovery! (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals please.)

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Please phone **Taunya at Betchart Expeditions, (800) 252-4910** for information about the group flights. The group flight departs from JFK, Boston, or Seattle on IcelandAir.

Accommodations: Are in comfortable first class hotels, twin share with a private bath. Limited single accommodations are available for a supplement of \$695.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to:

**Iceland Eclipse 2015
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

The balance is due 150 days before departure.

Questions: Please call **Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

Telephone: **(800) 252 4910** (USA)
or
(408) 252 4910 (International)
Fax: (408) 252 1444
Email: Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com



Cancellations & Refunds:

The initial deposit is refundable up to 150 days before departure less a handling fee of \$250 per person. There is no refund after that period unless your place is resold, then only the \$250 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features. Travel insurance is recommended.