



WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
PHILADELPHIA
& PARTNERS

With Guest Lecturer
Dr. Nigella Hillgarth

PASSAGE FROM ICELAND TO GREENLAND

August 18 - 31, 2025



Aboard the New Expedition Cruise Ship VEGA



WORLD AFFAIRS
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PHILADELPHIA
& PARTNERS

We are delighted to offer you an opportunity to join a voyage that explores several of Greenland's most magnificent places in summer of 2025 aboard one of the newest and best-equipped expedition ships afloat.

Beginning in Reykjavík, cross the Denmark Strait and begin your expedition to Greenland in the fjords of its eastern coast, the largest National Park in the world and home to countless colonies of seabirds, reindeer grazing on the shore, and walrus. Once the ship rounds Cape Farewell, continue north, eventually crossing the Arctic Circle to explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Disko Bay, with its magnificent calving glaciers and year-round population of beluga whales. Returning south toward Kangerlussuaq, pause along the way to visit Inuit communities that dot the shore. Aboard the ship's fleet of Zodiacs, explore a wilderness that remains largely unchanged since the time of Erik the Red and call at the site of his settlement in Nuuk, now Greenland's capital. Throughout this world of ice floes and glaciers, we will encounter countless colonies of seabirds, various species of whales and seals, reindeer, walrus, and if we are fortunate, a polar bear or two.

You will be led through this wonderland by **Dr. Nigella Hillgarth** who will share her expertise and experience in a series of lectures and discussions throughout the voyage. A team of resident expedition leaders and naturalists will also lead excursions ashore and operate Zodiac cruises that will bring you into intimate contact with the incredible places you visit.

Your vessel for this cruise is 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, far exceeding the standards set by international regulatory agencies.

Please take a moment to look over the enclosed brochure and then begin making plans to join fellow travelers next summer on this extraordinary *Passage from Iceland to Greenland*.

AKRON ♦ ALABAMA ♦ ALASKA ♦ ARIZONA ♦ ATLANTA ♦ AUSTIN ♦ BALTIMORE
♦ BOSTON ♦ BUFFALO ♦ CHARLESTON ♦ CHARLOTTE ♦ CHICAGO GREATER
♦ CLEVELAND ♦ COLORADO SPRINGS ♦ COLUMBUS ♦ DALLAS ♦ DAYTON ♦
DENVER ♦ FORT WORTH ♦ GREATER HAMPTON ROADS ♦ GREATER READING ♦
HARRISBURG ♦ HILTON HEAD ♦ HOUSTON ♦ INLAND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ♦
JACKSONVILLE ♦ KANSAS CITY ♦ KENTUCKY ♦ LAS VEGAS ♦ LOS ANGELES ♦
MAINE ♦ MID-HUDSON VALLEY ♦ MILWAUKEE ♦ MONTANA ♦ MONTEREY BAY
♦ NAPLES ♦ NEW HAMPSHIRE ♦ NEW ORLEANS ♦ NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ♦
ORANGE COUNTY ♦ OREGON ♦ PALM BEACH ♦ PEORIA ♦ PITTSBURGH ♦ RHODE
ISLAND ♦ RICHMOND ♦ ROCHESTER ♦ SAN ANTONIO ♦ SAN DIEGO ♦ SANTA
FE ♦ SAVANNAH ♦ SEATTLE ♦ SONOMA COUNTY ♦ SOUTHEAST CONNECTICUT
♦ SOUTH INDIANA ♦ SOUTH TEXAS ♦ ST. LOUIS ♦ STAMFORD ♦ TACOMA ♦
TENNESSEE ♦ TRAVERSE CITY ♦ UTAH ♦ VERMONT ♦ WESTERN COLORADO ♦
WESTERN MASS ♦ WESTERN MICHIGAN ♦ WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Cover photo: *Vega* in Skjoldungen Fjord, Greenland

GUEST LECTURER

DR. NIGELLA HILLGARTH



Dr. Nigella Hillgarth is a research scientist and Affiliate Professor at the Center for Ecosystem Sentinels in the Biology Department of the University of Washington. Dr. Hillgarth served as the Executive Director of the Birch Aquarium, the outreach arm of Scripps

Institution of Oceanography, from 2002 to 2014. Among other achievements, during her tenure, Nigella developed one of the first major exhibits on climate change in the US. Prior to her work at Birch Aquarium, she served as Executive Director of the Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City, the largest bird sanctuary in the country, where she collaborated on conservation efforts for marine birds in the Galapagos islands, Peru and Argentina. From 2014 to 2017, Dr. Hillgarth served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the New England Aquarium, where she raised the profile of the Aquarium's global conservation and research work by founding the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, as well as developing a vision for the future of the Aquarium and the surrounding Boston waterfront. In 2019, Dr. Hillgarth was the Climate Art Fellow for the Climate Science Alliance, and worked on visualizations of ocean-atmosphere interactions and climate with the National Science Foundation Center for Aerosol Impacts on Chemistry of the Environment at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. An avid photographer of the natural world, Nigella received a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from Oxford University in the UK, as well as a PhD in Evolutionary Biology. She has conducted research on behavioral ecology and evolution of birds, including penguins, in many parts of the world, including Britain, India, Thailand, the Arctic, South America, and the United States.



Nuuk, Greenland

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



Oceanview Stateroom



Balcony Suite



Swan Restaurant



Swimming Pool



Observation Lounge

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 AND RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL **WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA** AT 800-942-5004

ITINERARY



Monday, August 18, 2025
DEPART THE UNITED STATES.

Tuesday, August 19
REYKJAVÍK, Iceland

Arrive at Keflavík International Airport, Reykjavík's airport. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Courtyard by Marriott Hotel* in the town of Keflavík, which is located just 30 miles from Reykjavík. In the evening, meet fellow travelers, Dr. Nigella Hillgarth, and the Trip Director at a welcome dinner. (D)

Wednesday, August 20
REYKJAVÍK/EMBARKATION

After breakfast at the hotel, begin your exploration of Iceland with a visit to the geothermal fields on the Reykjanes Peninsula where powerful jets of steam escaping from deep below the Earth's



Prins Christian Sund, Greenland

crust share the landscape with multicolored pools of boiling mud. Then explore Reykjavík with a panoramic tour of the city's major attractions, including Parliament and the Höfði house (site of the 1986 Reagan-Gorbachev Summit). Enjoy a light lunch before arriving at the pier in the late afternoon to embark *Vega*. (B,L,D)

Thursday, August 21
AT SEA

During this day at sea, attend informative lectures and briefings from Dr. Nigella Hillgarth and the ship's expert expedition staff, relax and enjoy cruising the open sea, and treat yourself to some of the many amenities aboard *Vega*. (B,L,D)

Friday, August 22
SKJOLDUNGEN, GREENLAND

On the rugged east coast of Greenland, Skjoldungen Fjord is surrounded by lofty snow-capped mountains growing thick with dwarf birch, arctic wildflowers, and willow forests. Serpentine rivers and large crevasses of ice pillars, known as seracs, share the sea with icebergs calved from the Thrym Glacier and gleam in a white to blue spectrum. In addition to the natural beauty of the fjord, whales are often seen here, cavorting among the floating bits of ice. (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 23
PRINS CHRISTIAN SUND/AAPPILATTOQ

The small, colorful and charming Nordic homes of Aappilattoq, the only settlement in Prins Christian Sund, are a stark contrast to the snow-tipped mountain ridges in this icy wilderness. A beautifully dramatic fjord in the south of Greenland, Prins Christian Sund is a favorite habitat of fin, blue and minke whales, and also hosts muskoxen, bearded seals, and an occasional polar bear. Explore these unspoiled, picturesque waterways, where magnificent glaciers tower and sheer granite cliffs are the site of crystal-clear waterfalls. (B,L,D)

Sunday, August 24
IVITTUUT

Ivittuut (formerly Ivigtut) is an abandoned mining village built on the site of an ancient Norse settlement. Cryolite, a mineral used as flux



Seltún Geothermal Area, Reykjanes Peninsula, Iceland



Eqi Glacier, Greenland



The colorful houses perched on rocks in Sisimiut, Greenland

in processing aluminum, was found in great quantities here, and the once incredibly productive mine played a crucial role in the Allies' production of aluminum for fighter planes during WWII. Walk among the Ivigtut's deserted buildings, see the enormous hole from which cryolite was mined, and pause at the above-ground cemetery used by the community until Ivittuut was abandoned. (B,L,D)

Monday, August 25

NUUK

Situated just 150 miles south of the Arctic Circle, Nuuk (also known by its Danish name, Godthåb) is the northernmost capital in the world. It is also the oldest town in Greenland, founded by missionaries in 1728. It is a town of colorful wooden houses, avant-garde architecture and fjords of clear ice water. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 26

SISIMIUT

Today we sail some 50 miles north of the Arctic Circle to call in Sisimiut, the second largest town in Greenland, boasting a population of just about 6,000. Primarily a fishing village, Sisimiut offers a small museum and an arts and crafts center. We may have the opportunity to see artisans at work and perhaps to purchase some Greenlandic arts and crafts. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, August 27 and Thursday, August 28

ILULISSAT/DISKO BAY

Heading further north, we come to Ilulissat and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Disko Bay. Here we will spend two days exploring this fascinating region. Eqi Glacier is one of the world's

most active glaciers and offers our best chance to witness calving. This is also the point in our expedition where we are most likely to see beluga whales as they feed on the rich krill in front of the glaciers. Weather and ice permitting, we will call in the town of Ilulissat (the word means "iceberg"), where Knud Rasmussen grew up, and where we will gain a first-hand sense of why he was drawn to devote his life to the exploration of the Arctic. (B,L,D)

Friday, August 29

EXPLORING FJORDS/KANGERLUSSUAQ

As we sail south to make our way to Kangerlussuaq and our expedition's end, the Captain and Expedition Leader will take *Vega* in and out of the fjords that define the coast, choosing our exact route on the basis of ice and weather conditions, and following sightings of the whales and seals that thrive in these ice-choked waters. During the course of the day, you might enjoy kayaking in the fjords or exploring glacial areas that attract muskoxen, reindeer, arctic foxes, and gyrfalcons. (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 30

KANGERLUSSUAQ/DISEMBARKATION/REYKJAVÍK

After breakfast aboard, disembark and transfer to the airport for a flight to Reykjavík. On arrival in Iceland's capital, check in to our hotel for overnight. (B)

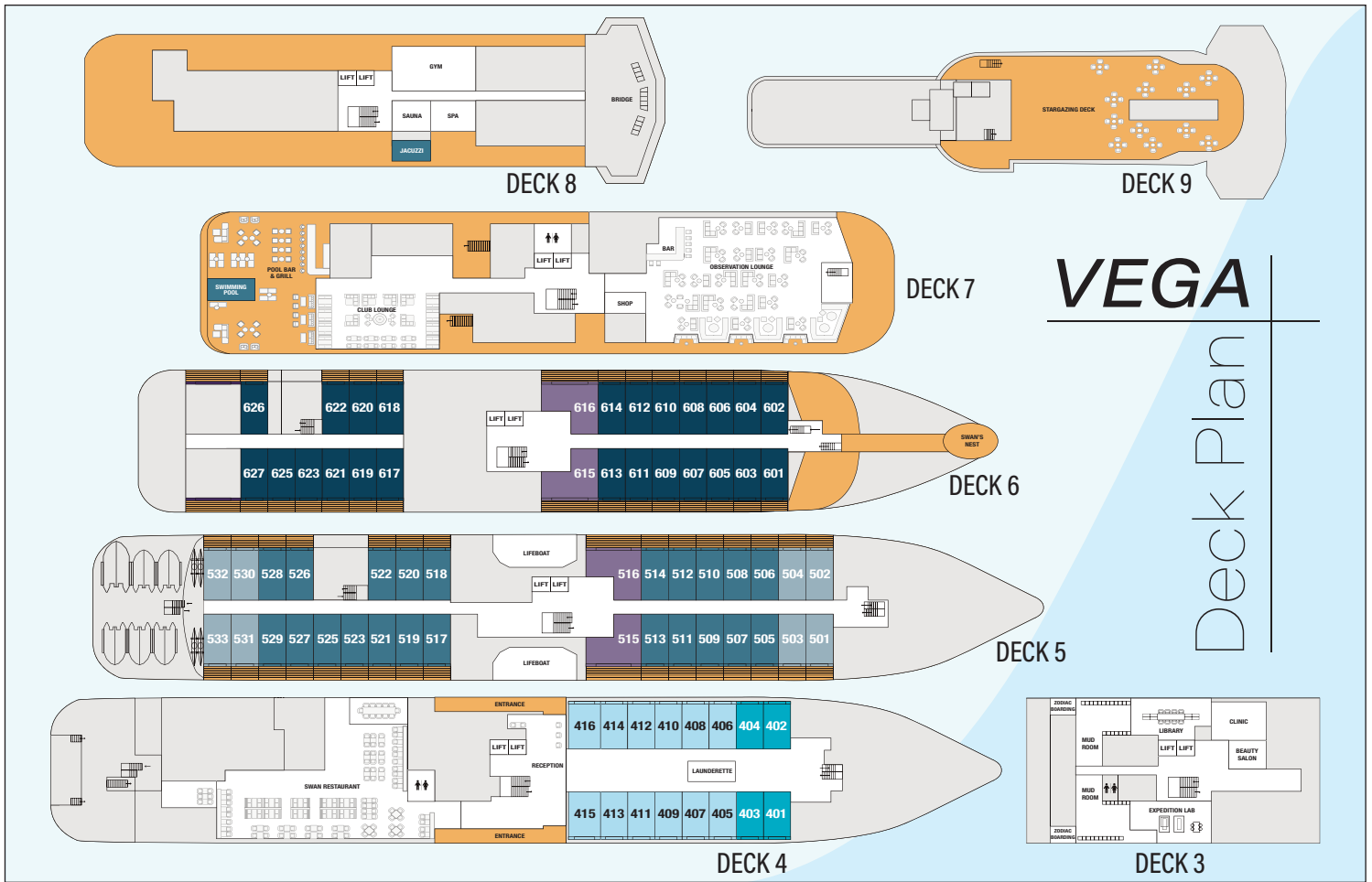
Sunday, August 31

REYKJAVÍK/HOMEWARD

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



Nature and landscapes of Greenland.



All accommodations aboard *Vega* 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
E	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 401-404.	\$ 13,490
D	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 405-416.	\$ 14,190
C	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501-504, 530-533.	\$ 17,190
B	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 505-514, 517-529.	\$ 17,990
A	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601-614, 617-627.	\$ 18,790
AA	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 440 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 515, 516, 615 & 616.	\$ 22,990

FOR SOLO TRAVELER | A limited number of cabins are available for single occupants in Category D at 120% of the per-person, double occupancy rate, and in Categories C, B, and A at 150% 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 **WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL 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 **PASSAGE FROM ICELAND TO GREENLAND**

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 and embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include the following:

- One night at the *Courtyard by Marriott Hotel* (or similar) in Keflavik.
- Welcome dinner in Keflavik.
- Cruise aboard the Swan Hellenic *Vega*, as described in the itinerary.
- Group airport/hotel/pier transfers overseas at designated times on the indicated arrival and return dates, and handling of luggage.
- Lectures and discussions with Dr. Nigella Hillgarth.
- Program of lectures and presentations from experts and naturalists.
- Complete program of shore excursions, led by professional local 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.



Humpback whale, Disko Bay, Greenland

REGISTRATION

WACP 25V-0818

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on **PASSAGE FROM ICELAND TO GREENLAND**, August 18 - 31, 2025 with World Affairs Council. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check.

You may visit our website to submit your reservation online or send a check payable to Thalassa Journeys with this reservation form to:

Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

Email: travel@wacphila.org

Phone: 800-942-5004 or 215-561-4700 • **Fax:** 215-561-5660.

Visit our website to submit your reservation online.

<https://wacphila.org/travel/iceland-to-greenland>

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)

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING) _____

E-MAIL _____

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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Join Dr. Nigella Hillgarth on a **PASSAGE** FROM ICELAND TO GREENLAND



Reykjavík, Iceland