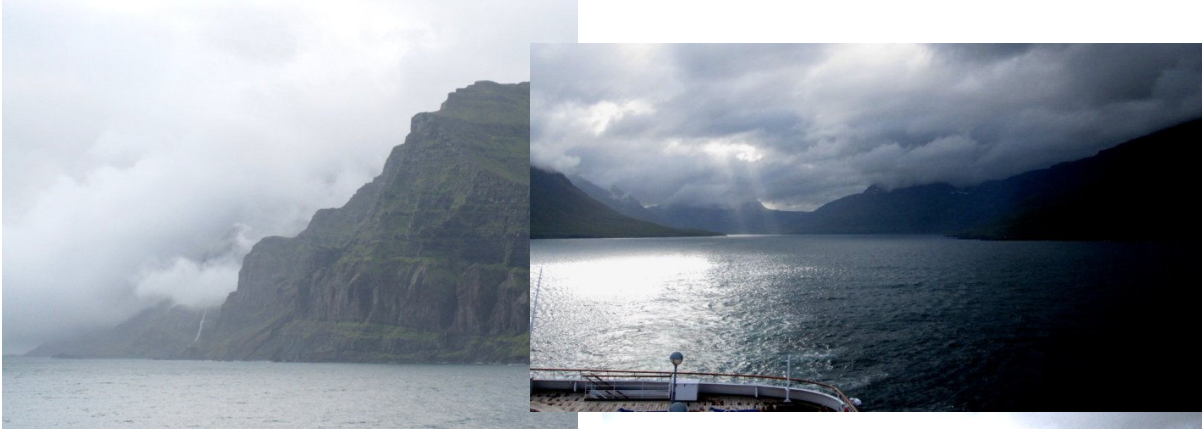


## Day 13 Aug. 6 – Seydisfjordur, Iceland

**The fjord of Seydisfjordur:** When we woke up the Maasdam was cruising down the east coast of Iceland and approaching the entrance to the fjord where the town of Seydisfjordur is located. The sea was calm with the sky overcast and misty. At about 7am the ship turned to the west and entered the fjord. The mountains on either side of the fjord were topped by clouds.



As we proceeded into the fjord we were treated to the most wonderful sight of thin ribbons of water cascading down the volcanic cliffs on either side of the

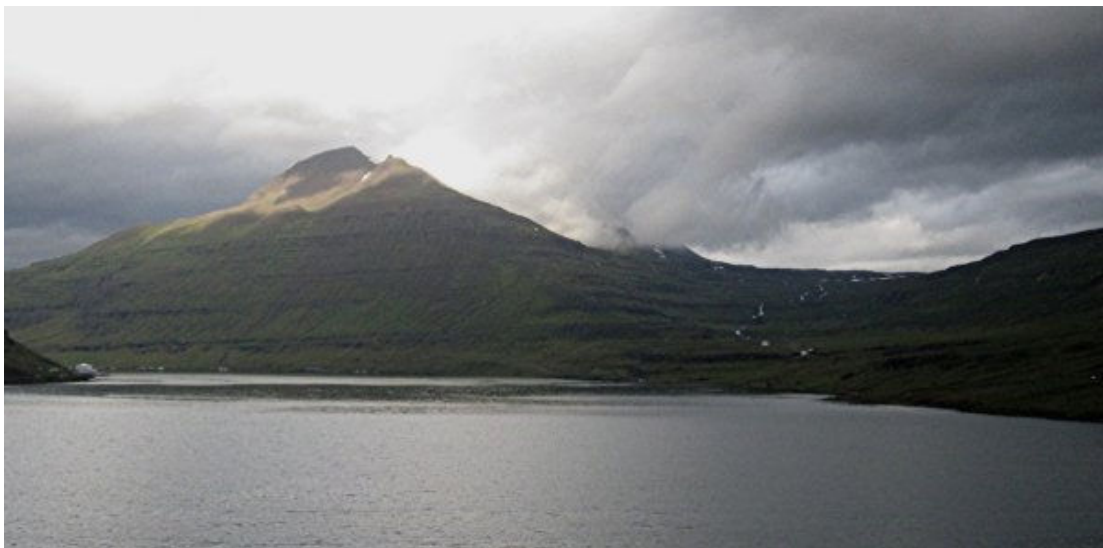


Maasdam. Pictures do not do justice to the beauty of the scene but the following photographs offer some notion of the visual treat.





Note the chain of waterfalls from the saddle of the mountains in the photo below.





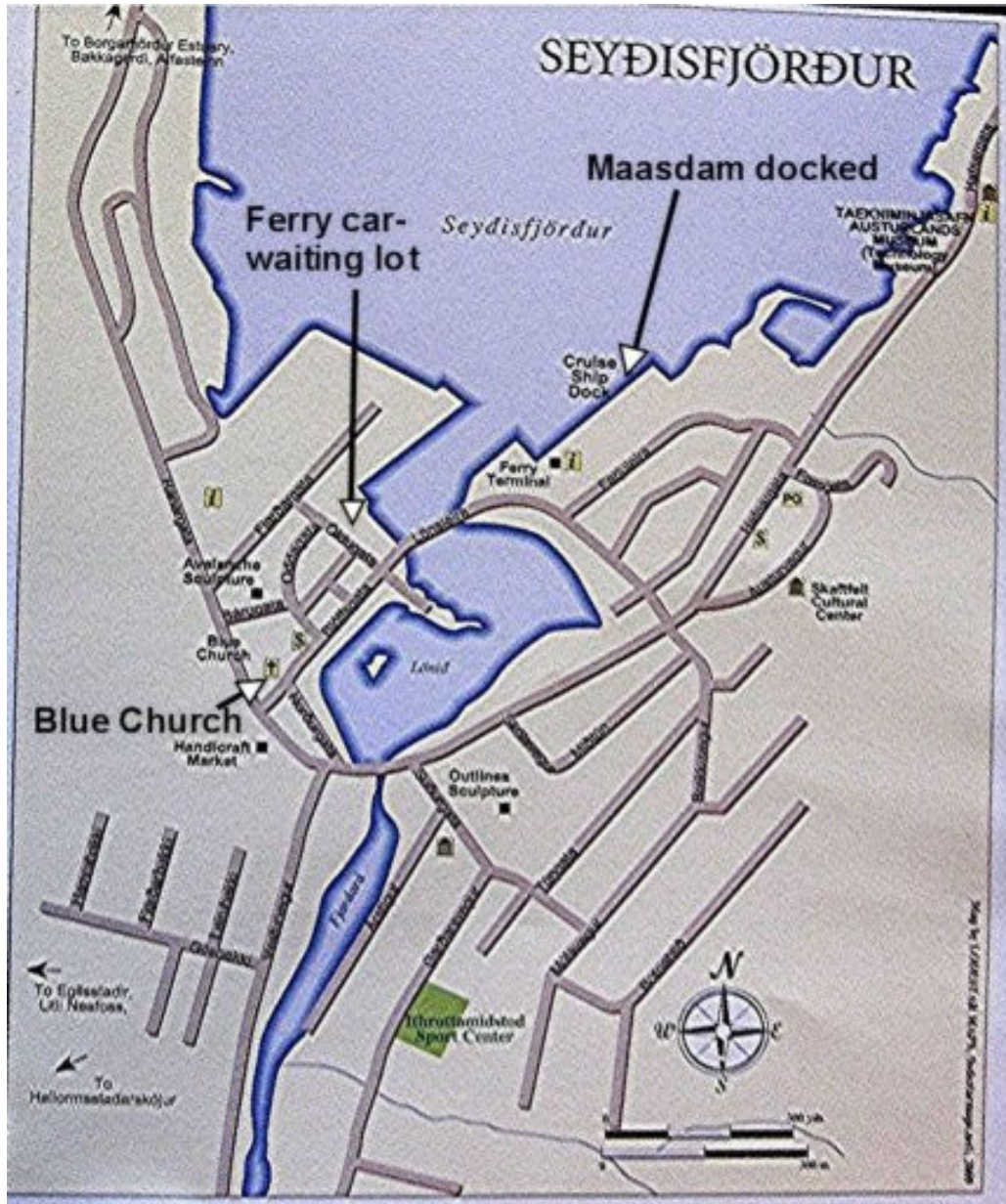
**Seydisfjörður:** The narrow fjord leading west to Seydisfjörður is about 18km (10 miles) long. After less than an hour we arrived at the town and the ship was tied to the dock by about 8am. The maps below show where Seydisfjörður is located on the east coast of Iceland.



The fjord of Seydisfjörður is much more narrow than the fjord where Húsavík is located, as shown in this map of the northeast corner of Iceland. The high, steep mountain walls close to the ship made the approach to Seydisfjörður more beautiful than we have experienced with other cities on this cruise.



The map below shows where the Maasdam was tied up at the Cruise Ship Dock. Not far in back of the Maasdam was the terminal for the ocean going car and passenger ferry boats that connect Iceland to the countries of Europe. The center of town was about 1000 yards southwest from the Maasdam.





The waterfall scenes we had witnessed on the way along the fjord were also visible all around the steep walls of the mountains that surrounded Seydisfjordur. Here are some photos of the town and surroundings taken from the deck of the Maasdam.



The dock for the international car/passenger ferry boats was located a short distance behind the Maasdam.



Shown below is a view of Seydisfjordur taken from the deck of the Maasdam.



The ship was quickly cleared by the local authorities and we were free to go in to town.

On this cruise, with small towns easily covered on foot, we have minimized bus tours in favor of just wandering the city streets and picking up the local flavor. It was drizzling rain off and on so we put on our raincoats and started the short walk in to Seydisfjordur. Here are some photos we took along the way.

This ferry boat from Denmark docked at the ferry pier soon after the Maasdam arrived.



We were told that the capacity of this ferry is about 800 cars and 1500 people for a two day trip to or from Denmark. Lots of motorcycles, cars and people streamed off the ship and into the town. Meanwhile cars and people were lining up waiting to board the ferry for a return trip to Denmark.



Shown below are the cars that were lined up in the parking lots waiting to load onto the ferry. In the photo on the left, the opening for the loading ramp at the back of the ferry can be seen.



We were amazed that within three hours all the cars and people had been swallowed up by the ocean going ferry and it had left the harbor.



As in other cities in Greenland and Iceland we found many brightly colored houses.



On the subject of tourist type shopping we have noticed a difference between the store clerks of Iceland compared with ones we have dealt with in past years while visiting other ports, such as in Asia. In these recent ports the clerks seem to be much more reserved and taciturn. They speak English but unless asked a direct question they do not volunteer any information about what the store has to offer. Perhaps it is the result of a tourist industry in its infancy or perhaps it is just a fundamental cultural difference.

Barbara had been looking, unsuccessfully, for an authentic Iceland wool headband as a souvenir and also a useful piece of clothing for the East Tennessee winters. Not only was this little town a winner in terms of scenery but she also found the headbands she wanted in this little shop near the center of town.



Nearby was a church that we thought was the crown jewel of buildings in Seydisfjordur. It was apparently non-denominational and simply called the Blue Church. The Blue Church is shown below in the serene setting of Seydisfjordur.

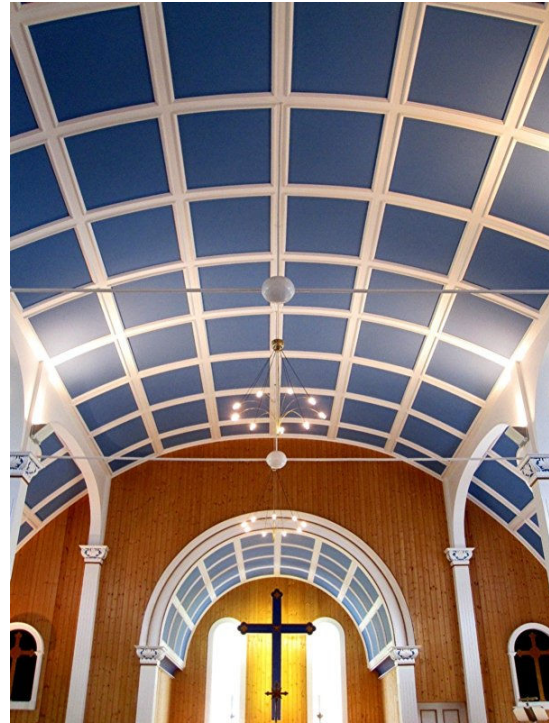




We walked over to the Blue Church and by good fortune we met a Cruise Critic friend, Ileina (IleinaMakai), who was also admiring the outside of the church.



The pale blue building was beautiful but the view on the inside was even more wonderful.



Many buildings around town had blue roofs. We had heard a plausible theory that because of the long dark winters and frequent overcast sky in Iceland the people painted their roofs blue to remind them of a sunny day with blue sky. The ceiling of the church with its bright blue color certainly could remind a person of blue sky.



On the left is the view of the organ at the back of the small church.

Not far from the Blue Church was a memorial to people who have died in snow avalanches that have devastated communities in this region of Iceland.



Also nearby was a pretty building that appeared to be a local government building, perhaps a courthouse.



We were looking for a public sign that would display the name of the town prominently so that we could take a picture showing that Barbara's library card had arrived in Seydisfjörður, Iceland. We have noticed that the cities we visited in Iceland do not commonly display the city name in public places as is done in most US towns. Using a city map provided by the local tourist bureau we went to the Seydisfjörður public library and found some Maasdam passengers with their notebook computers taking advantage of the wireless internet that was provided, as shown on the right. However, the only sign on the building said nothing about the building being a library or the location in the town of Seydisfjörður.





Finally, on the way back to the Maasdam we happened across a sign for a Technical Museum that had the city's name in big enough letters so that it would be shown on a photograph. Here is our proof of the visit. A slight problem is that the sign spells the city name "Seyðisfirdi" rather than Seyðisfjörður, but for our purposes we think this is close enough.



Along the way we checked the price of gasoline today in Seyðisfjörður. At this gas pump we found it only slightly higher than in Isafjörður, Iceland where it cost about \$5.70 USD per gallon. Here, at 191.8 Krona per liter (and the exchange rate of 131.59 Krona per USD), the cost would be about \$5.80 per gallon. Many of the motorcycles and cars exiting the ocean going ferry were being refueled at the gas station near the ferry terminal.



On the way back to the ship we found one more opportunity to photograph a waterfall on the steep wall of the mountain next to the road.



Nearly every picture we took had waterfalls as the main object or a backdrop to the primary subject. We felt that the beauty of Seydisfjordur had been at least partially captured in the photos.

The magnificence of the many waterfalls and towering mountains made Seydisfjordur the most beautiful area we have visited so far on the cruise. It will be difficult for any other port to rival the splendor of this place.

About 4:30pm the Maasdam got underway and cruised out through the fjord. Tomorrow will be a day at sea on our way to Invergordon, Scotland which is the next stop on the Voyage of the Vikings.