

Day 12 Aug. 5 – Husavik, Iceland – Arctic Circle Certificates

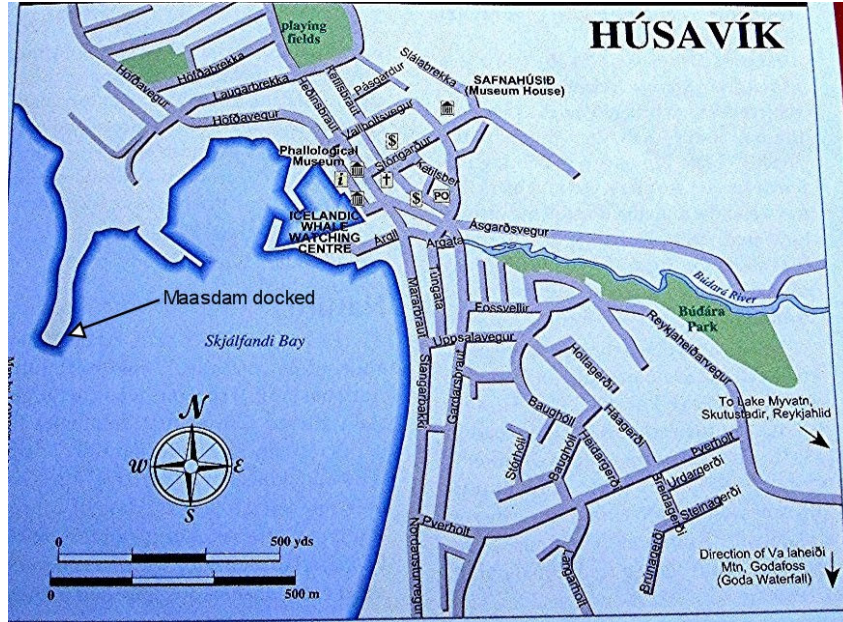
Husavik, Iceland: The day started with calm seas and a light drizzle of rain falling as we sailed into the harbor at Husavik, Iceland. There were massive mountains ringing the harbor and the beautiful snow decorated peaks shown below really got our attention.



The map below shows the location of Husavik on the northern coast of Iceland.



We were docked by about 8am at the location shown on the map below.



As with the other small towns we have been visiting on this cruise, most of the sights of interest within the city were only a few thousand yards from where the Maasdam docked.

There was still a light rain falling as the passengers who had signed up for land tours caught their tour busses on the dock.



We decided to wait for an improvement in the weather and it was about 11am by the time we left the ship for a walk in to Husavik.



We passed through an industrial part of the harbor where a lot of wood pallets were stacked.

As we walked along the quay into town we got wonderful views of the city with a backdrop of the hills covered in green vegetation.



One of the first things we saw in town was the small boat harbor which was busy this morning taking Maasdam visitors on whale watching tours.

There were also plenty of souvenir and craft shops. Barbara wanted to find a decorative woolen head band to remind her of Iceland but the supply was very limited and nothing she saw was appealing.

The weather was improving rapidly with sunshine breaking through so we just enjoyed the experience of exploring a nice prosperous looking little village in Iceland.

The beautiful wooden Husavik Church is located on one of the main streets and is built in the shape of a cruciform.



The streets of Husavik were clean and inviting as we strolled along a residential area just a block or two from the city center.



We returned to the central part of the town and happened to meet some Cruise Critic friends, Tom and Joan. We had met them at the Cruise Critic Meet & Greet get



together when the cruise started but hadn't seen them since. We stopped and chatted about our cruising experiences. It turns out that for a time they were part of a cruise ship staff teaching Bridge to card playing passengers. We took a picture of them to commemorate our chance meeting on the streets of Husavik.

A short distance down the street was a visitor's information office that gave Barbara an opportunity to record the visit of her library card to Husavik, Iceland.



Inside the information center were the usual maps, Internet connection and other travel aids. There was also this advertisement for a Phallogical Museum that caught our eye.

Part of the fun of travel is that a person is exposed to new and different forms of human enterprise. Barbara Haenni, the Maasdam travel guide had mentioned this museum in her port talk about Husavik, and this business certainly qualified as new and different. The pictures in the ad said it all.

Nothing was far away in Husavik so in a couple short blocks we were in front of "The Icelandic Phallogical Museum".

THE ICELANDIC PHALLOLOGICAL MUSEUM
HÍÐ ÍSLENZKA REÐASAFN

Húsavík

"...stands out among Iceland's attractions." Time Europe

The Icelandic Phallogical Museum is probably the only museum in the world to contain a collection of phallic specimens belonging to all the various types of mammal found in a single country. Phallogology is an ancient science which, until recent years, has received very little attention in Iceland, except as a borderline field of study in other academic disciplines such as history, art, psychology, literature and other artistic fields like music and ballet.

The Icelandic Phallogical Museum contains a collection of around hundred and seventy penises and penile parts belonging to almost all the land and sea mammals that can be found in Iceland. Visitors to the museum will encounter forty-seven specimens belonging to fifteen different kinds of whale, one specimen taken from a rogue polar bear, twenty specimens belonging to seven different kinds of seal and walrus, and a hundred and one specimens originating from twenty different kinds of land mammal: all in all, a total of one hundred and sixty nine specimens belonging to forty three different kinds of mammal. It should be noted that the museum has also been fortunate enough to receive four legally-certified gift tokens for future specimens belonging to Homo Sapiens.

In addition to the biological section of the museum, visitors can view the collection of about two hundred artistic oddments and other practical utensils related to the museum's chosen theme.

We are here!

Do not miss this unique scientific and humorous exhibition!

The museum is located at Hédinsbraut 3a in Húsavík (in Húsavíkurbær municipality)
 tel: 561 6663, 566 8668 and 868 7966,
 email: phallus@phallus.is, website: www.phallus.is

Opening hours are 12 to 6 pm daily from 27th of May to 4th of September. Groups welcome in winter.
 Entrance fee is 1,000 ISK.

Velkomin - Welcome - Willkommen - Bienvenu - Bonvenon - Bienvenidos



Outside was the appropriate phallic symbol. It looked suspiciously human although Barbara Haenni had said no human body parts were on display. When we got there one Maasdam passenger was in the process of opening the fly of his pants to make a comparison but his wife stopped this scientific inquiry. This photo shows his competition.



The blue diamond shaped area near the top of this tree stump has the word “Viagra” carved into it. Although this looked like an interesting venture we decided to pass on by.

Down the street was The Husavik Whale Museum that claimed to be the only museum in the world dedicated solely to whales. Husavik is known as the whale watching capital of Europe so this museum was appropriately located. They had a huge jaw bone from a whale outside to draw attention.



We decided to take a tour of this museum and it was worthwhile. We were previously unaware of the large number of different whale types that exist and were displayed. There were several complete skeletons of the huge animals. We took pictures of the skeletons but had very limited success as shown here.



After completing the whale museum tour we began our walk back to the Maasdam. The sun was shining brightly by this time and some of the houses along the harbor were showing the day's laundry hanging out to dry. Along with us, other Maasdam passengers were beginning the pleasant hike back to the ship as shown below.



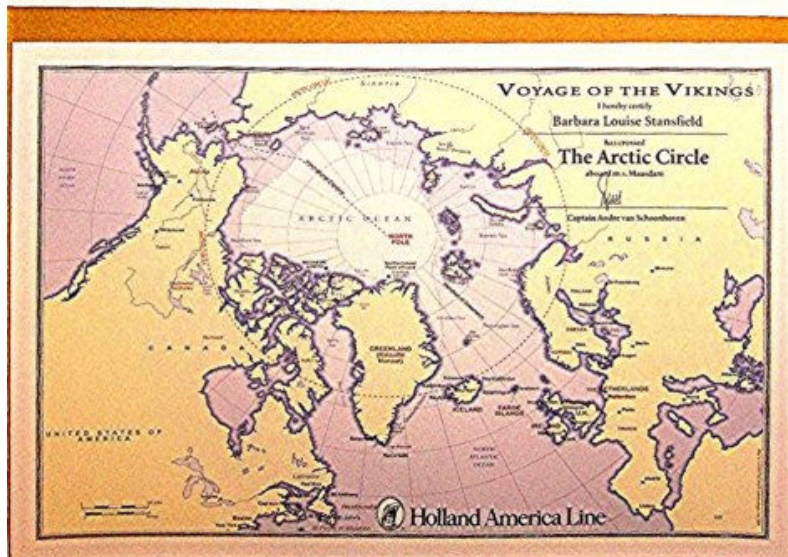
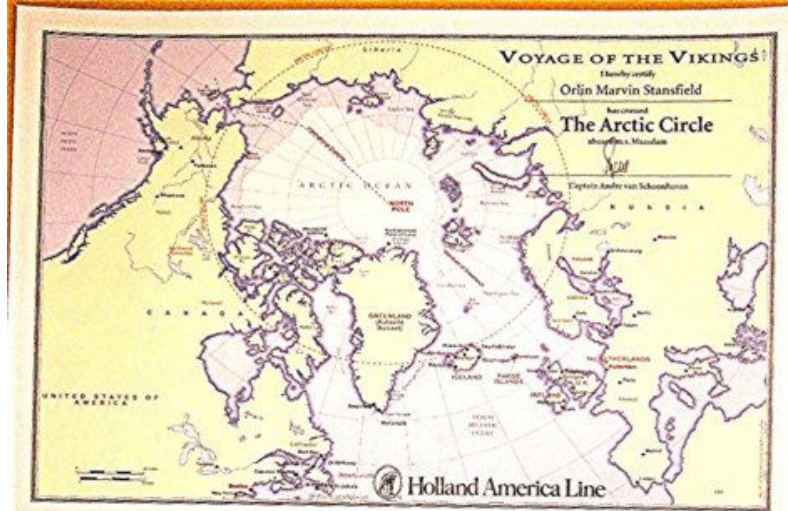
Along the way we picked up a few small reddish chunks of lava as Iceland souvenirs. Here is a picture of some boys we saw enjoying the day by fishing along the quay.



Back on board the Maasdam, Barbara rested her feet and took advantage of the bright sunshine on the verandah.

The entertainment tonight was an hour with the comedian Paul Adams. We enjoyed his performance which included a humorous story of his arrival by plane in Akureyri, yesterday. As his plane circled for landing he saw the Maasdam pulling away from the pier. He claimed to have had a good break because it only took him 80 minutes to drive to Husavik from Akureyri while it took us all night to get here.

Arctic Circle Certificates: When we got back to our room, after the show, our Arctic Circle Certificates were waiting for us. Nothing had been said by the ship about certificates for people who didn't subject themselves to the Polar Bear Swim, but they had decided to recognize all of us who accompanied the heroic "Bears". Each of us got one of the 11 x17 inch documents which will be framed and join the Equator and Date Line Crossing mementoes on the office wall at home.



The ship got underway about 5:30pm headed for Seydisfjordur, Iceland. We should arrive there about 7am tomorrow. While we had a glorious sunny day here, after starting with rain showers, the Captain made no promises about the prospective weather tomorrow.