

Expedition MSM 138 Reykjavik - Reykjavik

Weekly report No 1
16. June – 22. June 2025



Our scientific party started their journey to Reykjavik, Iceland on June 14 to go on board RV *Maria S Merian*. While Summer finally started in Germany, Iceland welcomed us with significantly lower temperatures. Scarves and jackets were needed again. The evening of June 14 was spent walking around the city and enjoying Reykjavik. Next morning we went on board RV *Maria S Merian* and moved into our cabins.



(Photo: G. Uenzelmann-Neben)

Emptying the containers and installation of the equipment followed. Boxes were distributed into the various labs, screens, computers, keyboards unpacked, installed and immediately lashed. One never knows what type of weather waits at sea. The focuses of the installation initially were the seismic recording system and the hydroacoustics lab. The late afternoon again provided an opportunity to leave the vessel to shop, go for walks or a meal. On Monday we continued with the setting up the equipment, now installing the seismic sources.



(Photo: P. Daub)

We left port late afternoon of June 16. Our destination is the Iceland Faroe Ridge. This magmatic structure between Iceland and the Faroes will be studied during our cruise. When leaving port we could observe humpback whales in the distance.

The installation of the equipment was completed during the transit into the working area, followed by tests. On the afternoon of June 18 we arrived in the southeastern corner of our working area. We deployed a sound velocity profiler to gather data needed for the calibration of the multibeam and Parasound systems. Deployment of the streamer, our 3000 m long cable receiving the seismic signals, and the seismic sources. The measurements could start. In between we have gathered two long profiles across the Iceland Faroe Ridge and get an impression of the structure.

Our area of interest is the Iceland-Faroe Ridge in the northeastern Atlantic. So far, the weather has been good, but the unfamiliar movement of the vessel initially led to some pale faces. In the meantime everyone has become accustomed to the ship movement.

Why have we set sail for the Iceland Faroe Ridge? What are our objectives, what do we hope to learn? More about this in the next weekly report.

All participants are cheerful and send home greetings.

North Atlantic, 22. June 2025, 62° 55.74 N / 13° 30.75' W

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