

ARCTIC - CLASSIC NORTHWEST PASSAGE & GREENLAND



INTRODUCTION

This iconic voyage explores the remote Northwest Passage and stunning fjords of the Baffin Island coastline before crossing to Greenland and its mindblowing icebergs. Following the paths of the legendary early Arctic explorers, we journey through the archipelago of islands and channels of Canada's high Arctic on our expedition ship, the RCGS Resolute.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Embarkation

We depart Edmonton on a charter flight to Cambridge Bay, a remote outpost above the Arctic Circle. Located on the southern shores of Victoria Island, today it is a centre for hunting, trapping and fishing. Enjoy a walking tour of the town and then board our expedition ship, the Akademik Ioffe. Excitement is in the air as we enjoy a welcome cocktail and cast off, bound for the fabled Northwest Passage.



TRIP CODE

ACTSCNP

DEPARTURE

31/08/2019, 31/08/2020

DURATION

13 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic



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DAY 2: Northwest Passage

As we chart a course into the Northwest Passage, our onboard presentation series begins and we delve into the tale of the Franklin expedition. The mystery of what happened was partially solved in September 2014, when a joint Parks Canada and Royal Canadian Geographic Society expedition found the HMS Erebus in the Victoria Strait. One Ocean Expeditions played a pivotal role in the search by carrying underwater search equipment on our ship as well as scientists, historians, researchers, dignitaries and sponsors. We aim to visit Victory Point, travelling very near the actual location of the wreck of HMS Erebus, while learning about the quest for exploration that eventually opened up the Arctic. Experts all agree that the second of Franklin's lost ships, HMS Terror, is likely to be in this vicinity.



DAY 3: Conningham Bay

This morning we arrive at Conningham Bay on the shore of Prince of Wales. This is one of the most remarkable wildlife sites in the Arctic. A hotspot for polar bears who come here to feast on Beluga whales, it is not unusual to find the shoreline littered with whale skeletons and very healthy looking polar bears!



DAY 4: Bellot Strait

Today we transit the narrow passage of Bellot Strait. The mixing of waters in this strait provides an abundant food source for marine mammals, and we will keep our eyes peeled for harp seals, bearded seals and even polar bears. The skill of the Captain and officers and the capabilities of the ship become apparent during this exciting day of Arctic navigation. The historic site of Fort Ross, located at the southern end of Somerset Island, is a former Hudson's Bay Company fur trading outpost. Fascinating archaeological sites nearby tell a story of more than a thousand years of habitation by the Inuit and their predecessors.



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DAY 5: Beechey Island

Beechey Island is of great historic importance. It is here that Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition spent its last 'comfortable' winter in 1845 before disappearing into the icy vastness. A trip ashore at Beechey Island to visit the grave markers on a remote windswept beach gives one pause to wonder on the bravery (or foolhardiness) of these pioneering explorers, as they sought a way through the barren, frozen landscape.



DAY 6: Devon Island

Cruising the coastline of Devon Island, we are now in the waters of Lancaster Sound – a rich, bio-diverse region often referred to as the wildlife 'super highway' of the Arctic. Massive volumes of water from Baffin Bay to the east, Beaufort Sea to the west, and the archipelago of islands to the north combine here to make a rich cocktail of nutrients supporting an abundance of Arctic wildlife. We plan to visit the old Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) outpost at Dundas Harbour. Muskox and Arctic hare are sometimes seen around here, and there are great hiking options in the area.



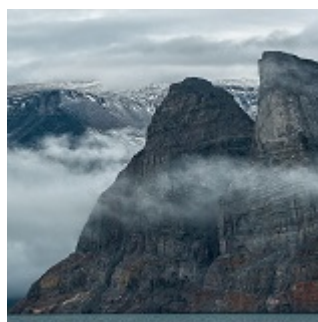
DAY 7: Baffin Island

We sight the wild north coast of Baffin Island and navigate through Navy Board Inlet. The vast landscapes of Sirmilik National Park surround us as we approach the remote Inuit community of Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet). A highlight will be a visit to the Natinnak Centre, where a fascinating cultural exhibit showcases daily life, culture and history of the people of the north. We also enjoy meeting the local children of Mittimatalik and marveling at their athletic abilities as they demonstrate traditional Inuit games.



DAY 8: Gibbs Fjord

This morning we enter the spectacular Gibbs Fjord. Our expedition ship will be dwarfed by the giant peaks and snowy glaciers as we cruise along the dark waters.



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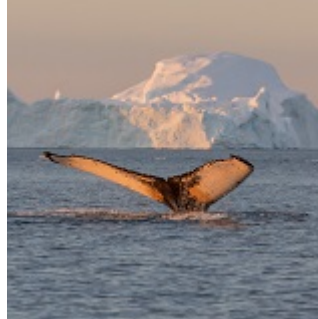
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DAY 9: Greenland

Leaving the rugged coastline of Baffin Island, our crossing of Baffin Bay allows us time to slow down and reflect on the beauty and experiences we have shared. Our team of onboard experts will continue to educate us on the history and wildlife of the region while our naturalists keep watch looking for fulmars and dovekies, pilot whales and perhaps even orca. As we approach Greenland, we also increase our likelihood of spotting some of the big baleen whales like the fin and sei whales.



DAY 10: Jacobshavn Icefjord

If one word could sum up today's experience it would be 'ice'. Truly one of the wonders of the world, the Jacobshavn Icefjord – a UNESCO World Heritage site – spews giant tabular icebergs out into Disko Bay. The glacier that creates these stunning monoliths advances at over 40 metres per day, creating around 50 cubic kilometres of ice annually. Our approach to Ilulissat is dependent on the amount of ice in and around the mouth of the fjord. Our Captain and officers are skilled ice navigators and our ship has one of the highest ice ratings of any vessel exploring Arctic waters.



DAY 11: Sisimiut town

We will explore the fjord behind the town of Sisimiut before going ashore to explore this beautiful location. Characterized by colourful local houses, the town features a towering granite peak as a backdrop. We hope to meet a few of the traditional Greenlandic kayakers and to see a demonstration of 'Eskimo rolling' by one of the former Greenland kayak champions. A small museum is another interesting diversion.



DAY 12: Sondre Stromfjord

One of the world's longest fjords, Sondre Stromfjord towers above the ship as we sail up it. We plan to venture into some of the small side fjords that we can zodiac into and explore on foot or by kayak. Major geologic and geomorphologic features will surround us and we hope to find muskox along the shores of the fjord as well. Soaring high above us will be the white-tailed sea eagle, riding the thermals off the ridges. There are fantastic opportunities for hiking.



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DAY 13: Disembarkation

Our journey through the Arctic is all but complete as we disembark the ship in Kangerlussuaq and make our way to the airport and a charter flight returns us to Ottawa. A transfer is provided from the airport to a central location downtown.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

Inclusions

Arrival/Departure Transfers
Shipboard accommodation
All meals onboard
All scheduled landings/excursions
Guiding and lectures by expedition leader and team
English-speaking expedition team
Services of English speaking medical officer
Windproof / waterproof jacket and bib pants
Comfortable insulated rubber boots
Water resistant binoculars
Waterproof backpack
Trekking poles available on shore
All port fees

Exclusions:

Charter Flights - Additional USD\$1,995 per person
Edmonton to Cambridge Bay and Kangerlussuaq to Ottawa
Airlines to/from embarkation and disembarkation city
Visa and passport fees (if applicable)
Travel insurance
Beverages (other than coffee and tea)
Laundry and personal expenses incurred on board
Gratuities

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request

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Notes

Charter Flights - Additional USD\$1,995 per person
Edmonton to Cambridge Bay and Kangerlussuaq to
Ottawa

Price Dependent upon

Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

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