



# INTRODUCTION

Discover the unforgettable sights of Greenland as you explore the incredible west coast and Disko area. Departing from Reykjavik, this 12-day voyage will see you venturing deep inside the Arctic Circle. Explore countless fjords, viking ruins and fertile Arctic landscapes as you undertake a number of zodiac excursions and on shore walks. Along the west coast you will explore colourful Inuit villages and even get to explore the quaint capital of Greenland, Nuuk. Finally, you will reach Disko bay where the famous Iluissat icefjord awaits, packed with natural wonders of floating icebergs and crystal blue water.

## **ITINERARY**

## DAY 1: Arrival in Reykjavik

Welcome to Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland and starting point of our expedition cruise! Even though this country lies below the Arctic Circle, Reykjavík is the world's northernmost capital of a sovereign state. Visitors needn't travel far to find geysers and waterfalls, mountains, and glaciers. Accommodations tonight at a centrally located deluxe hotel will make embarkation tomorrow much more convenient.



## DAY 2: Embarkation in Reykjavik

This afternoon, meeting in the lobby for your transfer to the port and embarkation of the Sea Spirit. There's time to get settled in and explore this ship, you home-away-from-home for the next ten days. After departure, keep an eye out for our first whales (humpback and Minke whales are most common) as we sail out of the picturesque bay.



### TRIP CODE

**ACPOSG** 

### **DEPARTURE**

27/05/2022

### **DURATION**

12 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Greenland





DAY 3: At Sea - Days 3 to 4

Enjoy a few restful days at sea, as we get ready for icebergs, Inuit villages, whales and much more! Along with our expedition team, watch for whales and seabirds from the deck, or participate in their presentations in the Oceanus Lounge on the flora, fauna, geology and cultural heritage to be found along West Greenland's western coast.



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DAY 5: South and West Greenland - Day 5 to 8

The Sea Spirit rounds Cape Farewell, the southernmost point in Greenland, and calls in at Greenland's most southerly town Nanortalik. The town lies at the mouth of beautiful Tasermiut Fjord surrounded by steep mountains that flank an intricate fjord system. The local open-air museum demonstrates the fascinating history from Viking and Inuit times to the present days. The Uunartog area is famous for its natural hot springs, where we can soak in the geothermal waters watching the icebergs pass by. During the next few days, we head further north to visit some enchanting Greenlandic settlements and explore the beautiful fjords of Greenland's western side. Hvalsey, or "Whale Island", is the site of Greenland's largest and best-preserved Norse ruins. It was originally settled by an ancestor of Erik the Red in the late 10th century. There's time to wander and learn about the ancient farmstead that includes a granite stone Christian church, likely built in the early 14th century, and several adjacent buildings. The fells and fjord around the farmstead have not changed at all over the centuries, and the site is believed to have been a meeting place for festivals and banquets throughout the year. Set amidst breathtaking scenery, our visit to Qaqortoq gives us some additional cultural and Viking background on the region. Placed on a beautiful hillside, the small settlement boasts colorful houses and a museum. We continue north in the wake of the Vikings as our Sea Spirit navigates through the picturesque Eriksfjord to the settlement of Qassiarsuk. The town was founded back in the 10th century by Eric the Red following his exile from Iceland for murder. We will see the foundation remains of his manor house and other buildings. Nowadays, the area is known as a sheep farming settlement. As we approach, Paamiut, there are good opportunities to see humpback and fin whales along the coastline. It is also an especially good place to spot white-tailed eagles. Inhabited by incredibly welcoming locals, Paamiut justifiably proud of their church that was built in 1909. The architecture reflects the Danish colonization of Greenland. Nuuk, the capital of Greenland, is lively and surrounded by natural beauty. Here, old traditions meet modern change. Fashion shops and a cultural center represent the modern Greenland; the picturesque old port area, however, testifies to the island's long history. The town was founded by the danish missionary Hans Egede in the early 18th century, and you'll learn much more about the area on an included tour. In the National Museum, you'll be fascinated by the mummies of Qilakotsoq - evidence of a bygone era.

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DAY 9: Disko Bay - Day 9 to 11

Fjords and scenic Inuit villages shape the landscape of this icy region of western Greenland. The Sea Spirit holds her course north, and landings and activities are adapted to the current ice and weather conditions. Accordingly, we will plan to visit some of the following: Sisimiut, the second-largest city in Greenland with about 5,400 inhabitants, is located 40 km north of the Arctic Circle. While there are modern elements, you'll also find an outdoors hunting and fishing culture. A small museum depicts the history of trade, shipping and industry in the region. Ilulissat, the "city of icebergs", is the a focal point of West Greenland tourism. The fjord is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and pushes unimagable amounts of icebergs into the bay. A hike to the historic Sermermiut settlement offers some spectacular views. The famous Danish polar explorer Knut Rasmussen is a son of the city and an interesting museum here is dedicated to his life. Itilleq is a typical Greelandic fishing village on a small island just above the Arctic Circle, with a local population of about 120. The residents make a living from fishing and hunting and there are probably more dog sleds than residents.



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DAY 12: Disembarkation in Kangerlussuag

Your adventure finishes at the port of Kangerlussuag. You will disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your outbound flight and further connection flights home.



# **INCLUSIONS & DETAILS**

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship



**Price Dependent upon** 

# SOUTHWEST GREENLAND AND DISKO BAY, 12 DAY

Inclusions	Cabin accommodation on board vessel All meals whilst on board 1 pre-voyage night accommodation in Reykjavik (Day 1) Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition crew All scheduled landings and excursions by zodiac Landing fees Group transfers to ship for embarkation (Day 2) Tea and coffee station 24 hours daily Polar Expedition parka Group transfer to airport or central location upon disembarkation EXCLUSIONS Pre or Post Cruise accommodation International Flights All items of a personal nature Customary gratuities for staff/crew Any pre or post cruise travel extensions Travel insurance	TRIP CODE
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<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)	×
Single Surcharge	Available on request. Please contact us for more information.	
Notes	Please note this itinerary may be subject to change depending on weather ice and sea conditions	

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

depending on weather, ice and sea conditions.

Departure date, seasonality and availability.

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.



While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click <u>HERE</u>

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