

ISLANDS AND FJORDS | FROM GREENLAND TO SPITSBERGEN




INTRODUCTION

Departing from Iceland this majestic 13 day Arctic expedition will have you soaking in the sights of Greenland and Spitsbergen. From Reykjavik, you will begin your expedition cruising for the stunning east coast of Greenland, discovering incredible Inuit culture at Ammassalik Island. Here you will explore this remote region whilst also learning the deep-rooted traditions of the Inuit people.

You will then cruise through Kangerlussuaq fjord a wonderful landscape dotted with snow capped peaks and dark rocks which reflect magnificent colours of the deep blue waters of the fjord. Moving on you will reach Scoresbysund, the largest and deepest fjord system in the world where a truly magnificent realm of exploration awaits. On your final leg toward Svalbard you will make your first sightings of Jan Mayen Island. Located on the edge of the Arctic and North Atlantic Ocean, this volcanic and uninhabited island is home to vast bird colonies and was once a popular whaling centre. As you reach Svalbard you will explore the vast Isfjorden system, some of which branches to the heart of the island of Spitsbergen before finally disembarking in Longyearbyen.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ACPOISF
DEPARTURE
31/07/2023
DURATION
13 Days
LOCATIONS
Greenland and Spitsbergen


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DAY 1: Arrival and Embarkation in Reykjavik

Iceland's capital stretches along the edge of a vast bay in the west of the country. Perlan, the "Pearl of Reykjavík", a museum located on 'Oskjuhlíð hill, offers a panoramic view of the lush, green landscapes. A little further, one can easily spot the signpost showing the way to the evangelical Hallgrímskirkja church, and to the historical centre where one can stroll along the Skólavörðustígur and the Laugavegur, two lively streets with charming small shops. For some relaxation just outside of the city, visitors have the opportunity to visit the Reykjanes peninsula and its famous thermal lagoons of the Blue Lagoon.



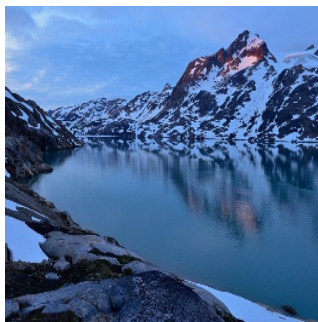
DAY 2: At Sea

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.



DAY 3: Ammassalik Island

Still almost unknown just a century ago, the east coast of Greenland remains the most authentic and majestic region. Here, the alpine mountains merge intimately with the sea, while the fjords are adorned with high snow-capped peaks and drifting icebergs. Follow in the wake of Captain Jean-Baptiste Charcot's famous ship, the Pourquoi Pas?, which set off with its crew to discover Ammassalik, a small island of primitive and wild beauty where the Inuit people chose to live. The name of this island is a reference to the capelin, a small flamboyant silver coloured fish, whose presence in the thousands announces to inhabitants the return of spring. A surprising discovery in a spectacular setting.



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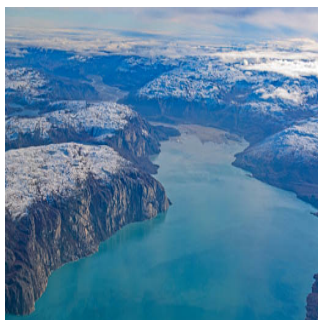
DAY 4: Storo Island

In the Ammassalik region, the small island of Storo welcomed the famous French explorer Paul-Emile Victor during his first stay in Greenland in 1932. This young ethnologist was set down by Captain Charcot at Ammassalik then made his way to the island of Storo, where he spent a year hosted by an Inuit family. Bones, stones, a tomb and a few vestiges of huts and wooden cabins are evidence that people have been coming to the island for a very long time. Its location facing the Denmark Strait, at the entrance of a small fjord, is indeed ideal for hunting or for observing the whales, narwhals or belugas that live in the fish-rich waters of the Greenland Sea.



DAY 5: Kangerlussuaq, East Greenland

Midway between the magnificent Sermilik fjord and the vast expanses of Liverpool Land, you will discover the impressive Kangerlussuaq Fjord, one of the largest on the south-east coast of Greenland. You will sail through a wonderful décor of ice and vertiginous, jagged peaks of dark grey rock coated in snow that plunge into the deep blue waters of the fjord. The fjord is fed by the gigantic Kangerlussuaq glacier, the largest on the east coast of the Greenland Ice Sheet. In the north-west, the Watkins Range is home to the tallest peaks in the Arctic. Gunnbjorns Fjeld stands 3,693 metres (12,000 feet) tall. Known for its abundant fauna, this hard-to-reach fjord is uninhabited, although Inuit hunters have been visiting it for thousands of years.



DAY 6: Nansen Fjord

A postcard example of Arctic beauty, Nansen Fjord is a true hidden gem of Greenland's Arctic. The glaciers and icebergs here glisten in under the Arctic sun. The intense arctic backdrops here are often home to migratory whales to which you may be lucky to see.



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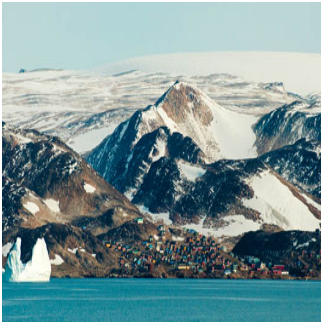
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DAY 7: Ittoqqortoormiit Region

Located between the largest national park and the longest system of fjords in the world, the town of Ittoqqortoormiit, whose name means “great house” in Greenlandic, is one of the remotest inhabited places in the world. Covered with ice and snow for nine months of the year, you will be able to discover the ancestral way of life of the last hunters of the polar region. As soon as the thickness of the ice floe allows, they set out on the trail of walruses, seals, narwhals, musk ox and polar bears, travelling by traditional dog sleds.



DAY 8: Scoresbysund

Covering an area of 13,700 km2 (5,290 mi2), Scoresby Sound is the largest and deepest fjord system in the world. Named after the explorer and whale hunter William Scoresby, who mapped the region in 1822, it opens onto the Greenland Sea to the north of the Blosseville Coast. This wild and desert region offers untouched panoramas of infinite beauty, with high snow-capped peaks rising tall alongside icebergs immersed in clear, blue-tinged waters. Rode Fjord and its cliffs coloured red by iron ore provide a fascinating setting you will not want to miss. Discovering these stunning places in the wake of great explorers like Captain Charcot, who was deeply attached to the land of the Inuit, inspires a profound reverence.



DAY 9: Ittoqqortoormiit Region

Today you will return to the Ittoqqortoormiit Region. Continue to undertake unique landings and search for the roaming Arctic wildlife.



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DAY 10: Jan Mayen Island

The island of Jan Mayen, belonging to Norway, lies hidden off Greenland's coastlines, lost between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic Ocean. This small piece of land is inhabited by only a handful of Norwegian meteorologists. Tongues of ice descend from its volcanic summit, which culminates at 2,227 metres and is covered with a thick glacial coat. These tongues join the sea, between ranges of black volcanic rocks at times tinged with red. If the sky is clement, you will have the chance to glimpse the summit, decked out in magnificent light. The visit of a small fin whale will perhaps enable you to complete this memorable picture.



DAY 11: At Sea

The following day will be spent at sea as you return toward Svalbard.



DAY 12: Isfjorden

The vast Isfjorden is one of the main fjords in Svalbard. These different branches reach the heart of the island of Spitsbergen. Located deep inside the Billefjorden, the Nordenskiöld Glacier with its front of ice, nearly 5 km wide, is one of the most spectacular in the Svalbard Archipelago. You will perhaps have the opportunity to discover the ghost town of Pyramiden. Constructed at the foot of a mountain in the form of a pyramid, this former mining town, founded by Sweden at the beginning of the 20th century before being sold a few years later to the Soviet Union, and abandoned in 1998, has conserved all the buildings from its glory days, when it lived off coal mining.



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DAY 13: Fly Longyearbyen to Paris

Longyearbyen is the capital of the Norwegian Svalbard archipelago, located on Svalbard’s main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you’re in completely unexplored territory. Your cruise package includes flight from Longyearbyen to Paris. The flight time will be approximately 4 and a half hours. We highly recommend you spend the night in Paris after this flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<p>Cabin accommodation on board ship All meals whilst on board Charter flight Longyearbyen/Paris on Disembarkation Day Transfers to/from airport to vessel Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition crew</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS International flights Pre and post land arrangements and accommodation in Paris Any optional activities not mentioned in itinerary Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance</p>
Difficulty Rating	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 and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is

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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 [HERE](#)

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