

## CANADIAN ARCTIC - NORTHWEST PASSAGE: EPIC HIGH ARCTIC | OCEAN EXPLORER



### TRIP CODE

ACQENWEA

### DEPARTURE

31/08/2026

### DURATION

17 Days

### LOCATIONS

Canadian Arctic & Greenland



## INTRODUCTION

**The Northwest Passage, a legendary sea path that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, has captured people's attention for millennia. We invite you to join us on this exciting 17-day journey on our revolutionary new ship, Ocean Explorer, which offers an unparalleled array of onboard amenities and off-ship experiences.**

As you travel through the Canadian Arctic archipelago, visitors will travel back in time to the heyday of Arctic exploration, traversing waterways that have been explored by sailors from various countries and stopping at places where Inuit people have lived for thousands of years.

Admire the most breathtaking parts of Greenland's west coast and the Canadian Arctic, including a stop at Inuit and Greenlandic settlements. See the Sermeq Kujalleq glacier, which produces massive icebergs, at the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage site. And be on the lookout for the spectacular and elusive animals like polar bears, muskoxen, walrus, and whales that inhabit these untamed, isolated areas. Explore the fabled passage that has captivated explorers for ages by boarding Ocean Explorer, and come home with a lifelong connection to the spirit of Arctic adventure.

## ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Calgary, Canada

Your Arctic expedition begins in Calgary. Explore this vibrant Western Canadian city—much celebrated for its cowboy culture and Prairie hospitality—on your own before spending the night at your hotel, which is included in the Charter Flight & Hotel Package.



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### DAY 2: Fly to Kangerlussuaq

After an early breakfast at the hotel, guests will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the harbor for the Zodiac shuttle to your awaiting ship. After a late-afternoon embarkation, we will set sail for the stunning Arctic wilderness.



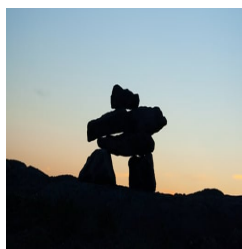
### DAY 3: Crossing the Davis Strait

As we make our way across the Davis Strait, your Expedition Team will offer a series of polar presentations that set the stage for the adventures ahead. You'll learn about the storied history of the Arctic, its fascinating wildlife, geology and ecology. Our team will also keep a lookout for seabirds soaring above your ship, as well as whales that pass through these waters.



### DAY 4: Exploring Baffin Island - Day 4 & 5

The Inuktitut name for Baffin Island, the fifth-largest island in the world, is Qikiqtaaluk, and it has been home to Inuit for the last thousand years. The island was named after William Baffin, who explored the area in the early 17th century in search of the fabled Northwest Passage. Your days sailing along the island's eastern coast will be determined by weather and ice conditions, with each day and each landing presenting new adventures. Some of our favorite destinations include Qikiqtarjuaq and Sam Ford Fjord. Expect to see towering mountains, deep fjords, colorful tundra, and Inuit settlements. The Inuit community of Qikiqtarjuaq (which means "the big island" in Inuktitut) is located just north of the Arctic Circle, on Broughton Island. Fondly called Qik by locals, the welcoming hamlet offers a superb vantage point of the Davis Strait. You'll also have a chance to support local Inuit artisans by purchasing unique artwork, crafts and jewelry. Well inside the Arctic Circle, Sam Ford Fjord is a standout Arctic adventure destination on Baffin Island's northeast coast, and one of the world's most spectacular big-wall playgrounds. A traditional Inuit hunting area, the fjord is a study in contrasts: sheer granite cliffs seem to rise straight up from the ocean below, reaching up to 457 meters (1,500 feet) above sea level. If weather conditions permit, this region offers fabulous Zodiac cruising, sea kayaking and paddling as well as opportunities to go ashore. With a bit of luck, we may see Arctic fox onshore, and we'll keep our eyes peeled for polar bears during our off-shore excursions. Cruising the fjord in a Zodiac is a striking reminder of just how small we are. Winding along a 110-kilometer (68-mile) path, Sam Ford Fjord narrows to less than 3 kilometers (2 miles) wide as it meanders farther inland.



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### DAY 6: At Sea

As our ship sails farther north, you can take advantage of the onboard amenities, deepen your knowledge of the Arctic by attending another polar presentation, sip a cocktail in the bar, watch a documentary film or join your Expedition Team on the bridge as they scan for wildlife—there is no shortage of activities while at sea.



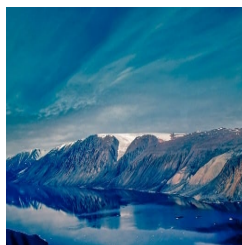
### DAY 7: Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound) - Day 7 to 9

Lancaster Sound (Tallurutiup Imanga), the gateway to the Northwest Passage, is one of the richest marine habitats in the Arctic. With open-water areas that remain ice-free year-round, it is an important summer feeding area for whales and other marine wildlife. We'll spend our days exploring several beautiful bays and inlets, visiting historical sites, enjoying Zodiac cruises and searching for such iconic wildlife as walruses, seals and, of course, whales. Polar bear sightings are possible too. If you're fortunate, you may even spot the elusive narwhal. There may be a possibility for a shore visit at Radstock Bay, the location of one of the most impressive ancient Thule sites in the Arctic. Exploring the well-preserved remains of the subterranean houses, including the whale bones used as supports for the dwellings, will give you an understanding of how these Paleo-Inuit thrived in the Far North. We will attempt to land at Beechey Island, a National Historic Site of Canada. Named after explorer Frederick William Beechey, the island is the final resting place of three members of Sir John Franklin's 1845-46 expedition to find the Northwest Passage. The graves, on a desolate rocky raised beach, were discovered in 1850 by a search party looking for signs of the ill-fated expedition. Predominantly covered in glaciers and ice fields, Coburg Island and its surrounding waters comprise the Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area. The island's steep coastal cliffs are an ideal habitat for hundreds of thousands of nesting seabirds such as Brünnich's guillemots (thick-billed murre), black legged kittiwakes, northern fulmars and black guillemots.



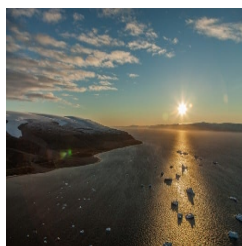
### DAY 10: Exploring Smith Sound

Before saying goodbye to Canada, we'll try to sail as far north as possible, exploring both sides of Smith Sound, the uninhabited passage between Ellesmere Island and Greenland.



### DAY 11: Qaanaaq, Greenland

Qaanaaq, formerly known as Thule, is one of the northernmost towns in the world. Here, local Inuit share their culture and traditions, and the museum sheds more light on what it's like living near the top of the world.



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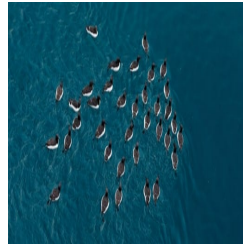
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### DAY 12: At Sea

As we sail south along the west coast of Greenland, presentations by our on-board experts will prepare you for the adventures that lie ahead.



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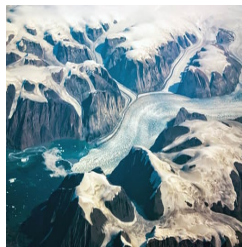
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## DAY 13: Exploring West Greenland - Day 13 to 15

With spectacular glaciers, soaring fjords and vibrant communities, the west coast of Greenland will leave you breathless. Nuussuaq (formerly known as Kraulshavn) is the only mainland community in the Upernavik Archipelago. Founded in 1923 as a trading station, it's one of the most traditional hunting and fishing villages in Greenland. Each community visit in Greenland is a unique experience and Uummannaq might just steal your heart. It's not surprising that the red-hued, heart-shaped mountain that rises up behind gave this traditional village its name (Uummannaq means "heart-like" in Greenlandic). As your ship approaches the shore, you'll want to be on deck to take in the incredible view of the twin peaks towering over the vibrantly painted wooden houses dotting the rocky terrain below. The settlement was established as a Danish colony in 1758 on the mainland, but it relocated five years later because seal hunting was more plentiful here. In the nearby archaeological site of Qilaqitsoq (also written as Qilakitsoq), you'll visit the ruins of an ancient settlement, where the remains of eight fully dressed mummies were discovered under a rock outcrop in 1972 by a pair of hunters. The famous Greenlandic mummies, which date back to 1475 A.D., are on view at the Greenland National Museum in Nuuk. Cruising farther south rewards with spectacular views of Eqip Sermia. The jagged, blue-tinged glacier soaring out of the icy waters is one of the most beautiful sights in Greenland, and we hope to Zodiac cruise along its massive front from a safe distance. We may also go ashore to explore nearby. Just south of Ilulissat, which means "iceberg" in Greenlandic, is the impressive Ilulissat Icefjord. The UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to Sermeq Kujalleq, the most productive glacier in the northern hemisphere. As we Zodiac cruise at the mouth of the fjord, you may be lucky to witness the wonders of calving ice (listen to the loud roars as the ice breaks off). Founded in 1741, the traditional town, which boasts more sled dogs than people, is famous in its own right: it was the birthplace of explorer and anthropologist Knud Rasmussen, the first to traverse the Northwest Passage by dogsled, in the early 1920s. Hikes here lead out to stunning views of the young icebergs as they float out the fjord to Disko Bay. In Sisimiut, you'll be treated to a traditional kayaking demonstration. The kayak (an Inuit word that the English borrowed) has become a national symbol of Greenland and has been used by Inuit hunters for thousands of years. The town has several 18th-century colonial buildings, including the oldest surviving church in Greenland, so take time to wander through the historic area. Surrounded by sea and mountains, Itilleq is situated about a mile (2 km) above the Arctic Circle, in a scenic hollow on a small island. It is the southern limit of the Greenlandic sled dog. To keep the breed pure, the dogs are not permitted south of this community and all other dog breeds are prohibited this far north. It's also known as a welcoming community, where you might experience "kaffemik," a Greenlandic tradition of inviting visitors in for coffee, cakes and conversation. Explore the town's charming wooden houses painted in a rainbow of colors, chat with the locals, whose main trade is fishing, and maybe challenge them to a game of football (soccer) —it won't be long before you're experiencing Itilleq's famous friendly vibe.



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DAY 16: Disembark in Kangerlussuaq & Fly to Reykjavik

Enjoy one more Zodiac ride to shore, where you'll board your charter flight back to Reykjavik, Iceland. Upon arrival in Reykjavik, you will be transferred to your included hotel.



DAY 17: Depart Reykjavik, Iceland

Today, you can make your way home at your leisure or spend some time exploring this fascinating city.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

### Accommodation

Cabin On Board Ship & Hotel

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<p><b>Inclusions</b></p>	<p><b>INCLUSIONS</b></p> <p>Cabin accommodation on board ship.          All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage.          Select beer and wine during dinner; and coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock.          All scheduled landings and excursions.          Guiding and leadership by expert exploration team and crew.          A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions.          An Expedition parka (yours to keep).</p> <p><b>EXCLUSIONS</b></p> <p>Any other pre or post land arrangements not mentioned above.          Passport and visa expenses.          Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above.          Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended.          Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned.          Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew.          Meals ashore unless otherwise specified.          Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights.          Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified.          Optional Adventure Activities.</p>
<p><b>Difficulty Rating</b></p>	<p>2 (Light Adventure)</p>
<p><b>Single Surcharge</b></p>	<p>Available upon request. A supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please <a href="#">contact us</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>Notes</b></p>	<p>Prices are based on per person, and vary from single, quad, triple, and twin cabins.          Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.          All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.          Includes charter flights from Calgary, Canada to Reykjavik, Iceland.</p> <p>Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions*</p>
<p><b>Price Dependent upon</b></p>	<p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.</p>

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## SUSTAINABILITY

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