

GREENLAND - EXPEDITION TO THE EDGE OF THE ICE SHEET 2027 | LE LYRIAL



INTRODUCTION

You have the opportunity to set off on this itinerary for a 14-day expedition cruise to Greenland. You will go on Le Lyrial in Erik the Red's footsteps, the first Europeans to discover eastern Greenland all the way to Nuuk. In the presence of an expert group of naturalist guides, anthropologists, ornithologists, and marine mammal specialists, you will also enjoy a blend of adventure and discovery...

You will reach Tasiilaq, a settlement established by the Danish explorer Gustav Holm, on the east coast of Greenland from Reykjavik. On the edge of an inlet on Ammassalik Island, it provides a stunning view of the icebergs, whose blue sparkling reflections dot the horizon. You will have several possibilities during your cruise and zodiac excursions to observe an extensive and diverse flora, including seals, whales, orcas, and other species of seabirds.

Your vessel will travel through the constrained Prins Christian Sund Passage, which links Greenland's south-east and south-west. A beautiful wild terrain made up of craggy mountains, jagged cliffs, waterfalls, and floating ice supports bearded seal colonies that play there. You will cruise through the blue icebergs of the Narsaq region to the west of the nation and via Disko Bay amidst some of the biggest icebergs in the entire Northern Hemisphere.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ACPOEOIE
DEPARTURE
20/08/2027
DURATION
14 Days
LOCATIONS
Iceland & Greenland


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DAY 1: Arrival & Embarktion from Reykjavik - Day 1-2

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. Embarkation from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm and departure at 12:00 am.



DAY 3: At Sea

During your journey 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 journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or 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.



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DAY 4: Tasiilaq & Sermilik Fjord

In Tasiilaq, on Ammassalik Island, follow in the wake of Captain Jean-Baptiste Charcot’s famous ship, the Pourquoi Pas ?, which set off with its crew in 1935 to discover this small island of primitive and wild beauty that remained unexplored until the end of the 19th century. Along with Ittoqqortoormiit, a village with 500 inhabitants located at the entrance of the Scoresby Sound, the village of Tasiilaq and its surroundings, 800 kilometres (500 miles) further north, are the only inhabited areas on the east coast of Greenland. 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. You will be captivated by the spectacular scenery of the Sermilik Fjord, the largest in the south-east of Greenland. To the north, above the glacial valleys, the Schweizerland Alps and their peaks that rise to an altitude of more than 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) stretch out in the distance, while in the south, where it opens onto the Irminger Sea, heavy erosion has carved the landscape. Three main glaciers calve a multitude of dazzling icebergs that drift serenely along the indigo waters of this majestic fjord. It owes its name to the Inuit word Sermilik, which generally refers to a fjord into which a glacier flows. It was mapped in 1884 by the Danish explorer Gustav Holm and his crew, while they wintered in the Ammassalik region.



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DAY 5: Skjoldungen

Discover Skjoldungen Island on the south-east coast of Greenland. This uninhabited land boasts magnificent landscapes that are sure to dazzle you. The island is surrounded by a stunning fjord, a distinctive feature of which is its double entrance: it forms a bend before joining the sea on the other side. Mountains, glacial valleys, rocky outcrops, tundra and willow forests make up the beautiful scenery which you will be able to admire more closely when you land here. At this port of call, surrounded by wild and pristine nature, it is quite common to see bearded seals, orcas, but also birds such as the common redpoll, the northern wheatear, or the common raven.



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DAY 6: Prins Christian Sund

Your ship glides silently towards the Greenland coast, in a setting punctuated by pointed peaks and majestic glaciers... You are on the verge of crossing the Prins Christian Sund, a narrow channel that stretches out and zigzags over some one hundred kilometres between Greenland’s south-east and south-west. Fall under the spell of the primitive beauty of these unique landscapes, including rocky cliffs and waterfalls that are fed by the ice sheet and plunge into the icy waters. Here, bearded seals love to lie on the floating ice to soak up the sunshine.



DAY 7: Hvalso & Igaliku

Around you, a grassy meadow filled with flowers stretches out, dotted with imposing granite rocks. A few semi-wild sheep and horses greet you; they are the only inhabitants of this place surrounded by beautiful mountains. You are in Hvalsø, in the heart of the fertile lands in Greenland’s south. During the 10th century, this site was colonised by the Vikings, who established a large community here. When your ship calls at these lands brimming with history, you will see the ruins of a church whose remains are still very well preserved. It was most likely built in the 14th century. It has lost its timber roof, but its four stone walls continue to stand proudly as a moving relic of a long-gone era. Nestling on the southern tip of Greenland, Igaliku offers a peaceful panorama, dominated by high snow-capped mountains and vibrant valleys of flowers on fine days. Home to the first Viking agricultural settlements, this bucolic village houses the remains of the Garðar religious site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



DAY 8: Ikka Fjord

As you sail through the majestic Ikka Fjord in south-west Greenland, you will discover over 10,000 years of underwater geology, for mysterious columns up to 20 metres high, formed several millennia ago, rise up from the seabed. Their material, ikaite, gives the fjord its name. Truly magical! You glide over calm, clear waters amidst breathtaking mountains in the endlessly wild, huge area of Greenland.



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DAY 9: Nuuk

When Erik Le Rouge, the exiled Norse chief, landed on the coast of Nuuk, he found a fertile and welcoming land dotted with fjords. He settled there with a group of his former countrymen, and the Norse remained the principal inhabitants until, over a period of 500 years, their population declined and gave way to the Inuit. Nuuk is situated at the mouth of one of the largest networks of fjords in the world, where the waters never freeze. The town spreads gently out towards the Davis Strait and enjoys an historic center that is particularly rich in national heritage. The vivid reds, blues, greens and yellows of the houses are a lively contrast to the somber waters of Greenland and serve to lift the spirits of the locals during the Winter months.



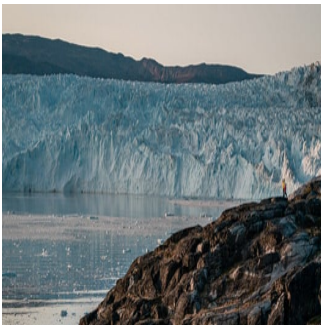
DAY 10: Sisimiut

During your cruise, we invite you to discover Sisimiut, founded in 1756 and the second largest town in Greenland. This small town is typical of Greenland, boasting bewitching panoramas: here and there, colourful stilt houses dot the undulating landscape, and the small fishing port stands as the gateway to an icy realm. As for the town centre, it is home to a number of historic buildings, a small church and a museum which retraces the history of the Inuit people, as well as many craft shops. When your ship drops anchor here, you will set out to meet the locals in a typically arctic atmosphere.



DAY 11: Eqi Glacier

'The most beautiful place in the Arctic' is how Paul-Émile Victor described Greenland, a land of great icebergs and of towering ice formations calved by the giant glaciers of the polar ice cap. The Eqi Glacier is one of the region's most impressive sights. Here, the silence is broken only by the roaring and cracking of the ice. It is impossible to know if one is shivering from cold or from the sheer thrill of being here... Imagine the vast outline of a glacier, its translucent crystals glowing with an ice-blue fire in the sunlight. Paul-Émile Victor's shelter cannot be overlooked; it was from here that the French Polar Expeditions' anthropological and geographic explorations set off in the 1950s.



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DAY 12: Disko Bay

To the east of Baffin Bay, discover Disko Bay, scattered with countless icebergs produced by the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From your ship, admire the majestic ballet of these ice giants as they slowly drift across the dark waters. This site is a natural marvel of Greenland, and is also renowned as an observation point for the region’s many humpback whales. The encounters with wild fauna and stunning landscapes in the heart of this spectacular and fragile nature will be pure moments of wonder for you.



DAY 13: Nooralak

Located a few kilometres away from the Arctic Circle, the Nooralaq peninsula features raw and untamed beauty. Nature reigns supreme here, with the tundra stretching as far as the eye can see, decked out in various forms of flora and inhabited by Greenland’s emblematic fauna — snow buntings, common ravens, reindeer, musk oxen, and the discreet Arctic fox. The heights of Nooralaq afford sublime panoramas over the Itteq fjord, whose water reflects the moving skies of the Far North.



DAY 14: Disembark in Nuuk

When Erik Le Rouge, the exiled Norse chief, landed on the coast of Nuuk, he found a fertile and welcoming land dotted with fjords. He settled there with a group of his former countrymen, and the Norse remained the principal inhabitants until, over a period of 500 years, their population declined and gave way to the Inuit. Nuuk is situated at the mouth of one of the largest networks of fjords in the world, where the waters never freeze. The town spreads gently out towards the Davis Strait and enjoys an historic center that is particularly rich in national heritage. The vivid reds, blues, greens and yellows of the houses are a lively contrast to the somber waters of Greenland and serve to lift the spirits of the locals during the Winter months.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board a ship
Inclusions	INCLUSIONS Cabin accommodation whilst on board Le Lyrial Charter flight Nuuk/Paris on Disembarkation Day Transfer from the vessel to the airport All meals whilst on board Open bar (no premium brands) Mini bar in your stateroom (Champagne additional fee) Scheduled landings and excursions, conditions permitting Guiding and lectures by expedition team Complimentary Polar expedition jacket Free use of rubber boots for shore excursions All port taxes Comprehensive pre and post voyage informational material Free WIFI EXCLUSIONS Airfares other than specified Pre land arrangements and accommodation in Reykjavík Post land arrangements and accommodation in Paris Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel Insurance Personal expenses such as laundry Gratuities for the crew (recommend US\$15 per person per day) Optional Activities not mentioned in itinerary
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Subject to availability upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	Please note flight from Nuuk to Paris on disembarkation day is included in your cruise price. * Prices are based on per person, twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions. * In rare and unforeseen situations, an operator may apply a fuel surcharge after your booking has been confirmed and paid. This is outside our control and uncommon, but transparency with our travelers is important to us.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

TRIP CODE

ACPOEOIE

DEPARTURE

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DURATION

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