THE ARCTIC - WEST GREENLAND: EXPLORING THE FAR NORTH | OCEAN EXPLORER



TRIP CODE
ACQEWGFN
DEPARTURE
02/09/2027, 23/08/2028
DURATION
16 Days
LOCATIONS
Greenland & The Arctic

INTRODUCTION

No other itinerary within our Greenland portfolio travels farther north than our 16-day West Greenland: Exploring the Far Northâ□□which has the potential to reach an astonishing 78Â° north latitude. Ideal for guests with a passion for discovery and rarely visited destinations, this voyage ventures into regions tied to legendary explorers like Knud Rasmussen and Robert Peary. In fact, this is the only 2027 Arctic itinerary to visit the remote communities of Upernavikâ□□and to explore the remarkable Smith Sound, where, on a clear day, Greenland and Canada are visible on the same horizon. Journey with us to the Far North.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Reykjavik

Arrive in the Icelandic capital and make your way to the group hotel near Keflavik airport, included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. You will have the rest of the day to explore this fascinating city, known for its Norse history and stunning architecture. If you do plan to visit Reykjavik, allow for a one-hour transfer to and from the airport area.



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DAY 2: Fly to Nuuk & Embarkation



After breakfast, guests and their luggage will be transferred to the airport for the charter flight to Nuuk, the capital of Greenland. Upon arrival, guests will be transferred to their ship, Ocean Explorer.

DAY 3: Sisimiut

Congratulations, you've crossed 66°33' north latitude. On our first-off ship excursion in the Arctic, we'll visit Sisimiut, a community rich with Greenlandic history and culture. As we approach via the inner harbor, you'll spot locals coming and going from the marina, bringing halibut, shrimp and other seafood freshly harvested from Baffin Bay. Upon reaching shore, we'll walk winding roads through this vibrant town dotted with colorful homes and Arctic cotton grass blooming under the summer sun. While the waterfront may be lively with boat traffic, life uphill moves at a relaxed, peaceful pace. You may hear children laughing, sled dogs barking, and locals exchanging greetings. Greenlandic dogs, often seen in kennels throughout town, reflect the deep bond between owners and their canine teams. As in any Arctic community, always ask before petting or approaching these working dogs. Today's activities feature a locally guided town walk that includes admission to the museum, and a taste of local Greenlandic food. You will also be able to converse with locals who will be eager to learn about your part of the world. One scenic walk leads to the Taseralik Cultural House, beside Nalunnguarfiup Tasia, a small tranquil lake at the base of the 780-meter (2,550 feet) Nasaasaaq Mountain. You'll walk the same paths locals use every day, experiencing not just the look of Sisimiut, but its rhythm, sounds and genuine sense of place. Guests can also book our Mountain Bike Adventure Option (see page 12). Led by local partners, this biking tour includes the town harbor area as well as the tundra surrounding Sisimiut.



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DAY 4: Disko Bay

In September, Disko Bay is bathed in an ethereal autumn light—a phenomenon specific to the high latitudes. Giant icebergs drift with the currents, many of which can be seen in nearby Illulisat Icefjord, which was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004 because of its outstanding natural beauty and its significance in understanding ice-cap glaciology. You'll quickly realize that icebergs come in all shapes and sizes— some of them larger than Ocean Explorer. Disko Island shelters the expansive bay, where we hope to make landfall at or near the small community of Qeqertarsuaq. Colorfully painted homes dot the gentle rocky slopes of this quiet community, which moves at a pace set by the changing seasons, the tides, and the steady rhythm of small skiffs heading out from the harbor into the vast surrounding landscape. The sea horizon here feels endless. Icebergs drift past—some bound for Baffin Island, Labrador, or even Newfoundland—reminding us of our vast, interconnected world. From this point, we begin to leave behind the more populated regions of West Greenland and push farther northwards. Shortly after lunch, we set a course northward toward Ultima Thule—the extreme far north.



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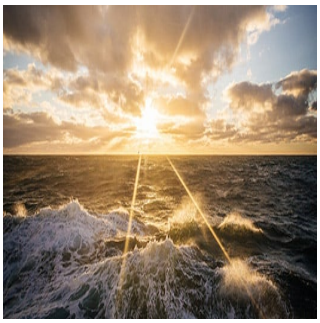
DAY 5: Upernavik

There's a good chance you will wake up surrounded by icebergs and mountainous landscapes to the east. We continue our push north, arriving at the beautiful community of Upernavik around midday. Although much farther north than most Greenland communities, Upernavik is relatively large, with a population topping 1,000, most of whom live in brightly painted homes that climb the hillside from the sea. The signature quiet of the town amplifies the lap of waves on rock, barking sled dogs, children's laughter, and the hum of ATVs. Down in the small harbor, you may see fishermen and hunters heading out or just returning from sea. Although Upernavik is an active harbor town, the pace is noticeably slower than in Sisimiut. There's a deep connection to the sea and sea ice. Here, we'll meet friendly, welcoming locals—proud of their home and local culture. We may visit the grave of Navarana, the wife of famous Arctic explorer Peter Freuchen, who was buried here in the 1920s. Navarana, a seasoned Arctic traveler, joined her husband and Knud Rasmussen on numerous expeditions, using her vast knowledge to guide them through the coastlines, ice, and cultures of northern Baffin Bay. We aim to leave Upernavik after dinner to continue our epic journey to the high north.



DAY 6: At Sea

Reaching Ultima Thule, at the highest latitude on our voyage, is no small feat—it requires covering great distances at sea. Today you'll be able to relax on board, gaze out at the horizon, spot icebergs and possibly marine mammals. Our Expedition Team will host a variety of presentations as they recap recent experiences and set the stage for what lies ahead. Sea days also offer opportunities to connect with fellow travelers from around the world—united by a shared passion for Arctic travel. Conversations flow easily here, many leading to lifelong friendships.



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DAY 7: Kap Alexander

Today marks the northernmost point of our journey, in the region of Kap Alexander and Smith Sound—the famous narrow body of water separating Greenland and Canada by less than 55 kilometers (35 miles). On clear days, both coastlines may be visible from Smith Sound. This dynamic area is shaped by drifting sea ice from the Arctic Basin. Conditions vary daily—packed sea ice one day, open water the next. Your Expedition Team will navigate accordingly to make the most of our time in Kap Alexander. We may Zodiac cruise here, immersed in the remote, far-north landscapes—where drifting ice, resilient wildlife, and distant mountains of Greenland and Canada surround us. Shore landings may be possible in places few have ever set foot. In early September, migratory birds often gather, and other iconic Arctic species— polar bears, muskoxen, Arctic foxes, and belugas—are sometimes spotted. Wildlife is never guaranteed, but always worth watching for. Reaching this latitude is a rare privilege, and you'll feel just how different it is here compared to regions 1,000 nautical miles to the south. While daylight hours still offer warmth by day and Northern Lights when darkness falls, you'll sense the polar night approaching—ready to return and cloak this region in darkness for months. Here, time isn't marked by conventional sunrises or weekdays, but by polar extremes. Take a moment to look north, deeper into Smith Sound, and let your imagination follow the Arctic wilderness as it stretches into the Arctic Basin and across the polar ice to Siberia. This is a place where nature—not the clock—sets the rhythm.



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DAY 8: Qaanaaq

Approaching Qaanaaq (home to fewer than 700 people) along Inglefield Fjord, near the entrance to Smith Sound, we'll likely encounter large icebergs drifting or resting in the waters around town. The ship will navigate through this maze of ice to reach Greenland's northernmost community—and the second northernmost town in the world (after Longyearbyen, Svalbard). But unlike Longyearbyen, which welcomes tens of thousands of visitors annually, Qaanaaq is far more remote and receives only a small fraction of that number. We'll reach this community by Zodiac, arriving at the end of the pier where we'll likely be greeted by smiling children— just as curious about us as we are about their High Arctic way of life. In town, you're welcome to wander among the colorful homes, where you'll meet friendly locals and see many working sled dogs. As mentioned above, always ask before petting these dogs, who spend much of their life out on the sea ice. In town, we urge you to visit Qaanaaq Katersugaasivia (Qaanaaq Museum), which showcases the ingenious tools of Inuit hunters—including collapsible barbed hooks crafted from ivory, bone and animal hide. Historic photographs offer a glimpse into life at these northern extremes, and the friendly museum staff are happy to answer questions. Locals may also share stories of life on the sea ice, where hunting and fishing remain vital to survival. The legacies of explorers like Knud Rasmussen, Robert Peary, and Peter Freuchen and his Greenlandic Inuit wife, Arctic guide Navarana, are also celebrated in this museum. For those keen to explore outdoors, short hikes above town may be possible, weather permitting, of course. Keep your camera ready to capture the sweeping views of endless landscapes and seascapes. While this itinerary includes several community visits, Qaanaaq often leaves the strongest impression in terms of its deep, ongoing relationship with the surrounding wilderness. Located hundreds of miles farther north than most settlements, Qaanaaq is difficult to reach by boat, helicopter or plane. As a result, the community continues to rely on traditional skills refined over centuries of adaptation to this high Arctic environment. Expect to see a mix of modern conveniences—as well as tried-and-true practices of past generations. For example, while skiffs with outboard motors are anchored off shore, you will also see traditional kayaks, propelled by hand-carved paddles, gliding through the water. As we sail south, many travelers leave with a deep appreciation for this remarkable, remote community— wishing they could stay just a little longer.



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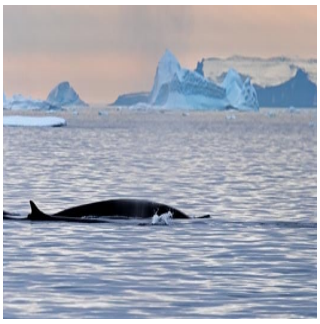
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DAY 9: At Sea



We will spend two full days journeying southward until we reach the fjords just north of Disko Bay, where we will visit areas unexplored earlier in our voyage. Indulge in the amenities of Ocean Explorer: the two-story, light-filled library at the bow of the ship; two outdoor Jacuzzis, sauna and fitness center; our unique observation areas on Decks 7 and 8 that allow for higher, longer-view landscape photography; and stylish lounges where you can share a drink with new-found friends while enjoying even more incredible views.

DAY 11: Uummannaq



We arrive in Uummannaq Fjord in the morning and cruise toward the community of Uummannaq, which, in Greenlandic, translates to “heartshaped,” inspired by the dramatic mountain that rises above the town. Visiting this remote community is a rare privilege. We reach town by Zodiac and may be greeted by locals—and the eversmiling chief of police. It’s been said that smiles in Uummannaq are as common as drifting icebergs. Winding roads take you past colorful homes before reaching a meadow of turf houses and a stone church. You can visit the local museum and artisan market for a glimpse of life in northern Greenland. Another nearby museum honors artist Rockwell Kent, who was inspired by the landscapes of Uummannaq Fjord and Disko Bay. You may choose to join a guided walk or explore on your own. Several homes may open for kaffemik—a social gathering with warm drinks, light snacks, and a chance for locals and visitors to connect. Rest assured, the people of Uummannaq will be curious about your part of the world. Shy smiles and translated conversations are natural parts of these authentic cultural exchanges—and often become some of the most memorable moments of your time in this remote Greenlandic community. A parting gift from one local fisherman: “Keep life simple—simple is beautiful.”

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DAY 12: Eqip Sermia

Today we'll explore the northern regions of Disko Bay, possibly including the Eqi Glacier—known locally as Eqip Sermia. This tidewater glacier is a highlight for many reasons. Its wide glacial face makes it one of Greenland's most active glaciers, regularly calving ice into the sea. You'll likely see icebergs drifting in the bay, along with smaller pieces called brash ice. On quiet days, you can hear the ice popping and crackling—and if you're lucky, the thunderous rumble of the calving glacier. Though the glacier is the main attraction, the surrounding landscapes make for interesting shore excursions. Whether you prefer a slow walk among the tundra, taking in autumn vegetation and sweeping views, or a more vigorous hike for elevated glacial vistas, the terrain suits all levels. Underfoot, expect a mix of rock and vegetation, and we'll tread carefully to protect the fragile plant life that thrives during the brief Arctic summer.



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DAY 13: Ilulissat

Ilulissat, located in Disko Bay, is home to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ilulissat Icefjord, which serves as the thoroughfare for countless icebergs calved from the world's fastest-moving glacier, Sermeq Kujalleq. A small boardwalk leads to an elevated overlook, where you can view bergs of all sizes spread out before you. The overlook, a rocky outcropping, gives the feeling of standing at the edge of town and the beginning of a vast wilderness. Looking out over the ice evokes a humbling sense of scale. As you explore, notice the Arctic cotton grass and summer wildflowers thriving in theslong daylight hours. The inner harbor often holds evidence of the icefjord's reach, with drifting icebergs mingling among fishing boats and skiffs. The town itself is well worth exploring, and has become one of Greenland's top destinations. Recent years have brought growth— colorful homes now sit beside new restaurants, boutique hotels and small businesses. History buffs will be excited to know Ilulissat is the birthplace of Arctic explorer Knud Rasmussen, who traveled by dog sled from Greenland to Alaska (and briefly Siberia) during the Fifth Thule Expedition (1921–1924). Fluent in Kalaallisut, he moved slowly, learning from and documenting the Circumpolar Inuit he met—considered one of the Arctic's greatest expeditions. The dramatic landscapes around Ilulissat inspired Rasmussen's life of exploration. And as we approach town, watch out for whales, which occasionally frequent the iceberg-laden waters.



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DAY 14: Itilleq

The small settlement of Itilleq is a favorite among guests and Expedition Team members, thanks to the warm welcome we've received over the years. When it comes to community charm, Itilleq stands out. Approximately 100 residents live among brightly painted homes—greens, pinks, purples, baby blues, mustard yellows, and chocolate browns. Many people earn their living at sea, as evidenced by the small seafood processing building near the pier. Despite its size, the village is full of life, from respected elders to playful children. You may be invited to a kaffemik (where people socialize over coffee and cake), or follow a short dirt road to a viewpoint near the cemetery. The view into the f jord and surrounding mountains is worth the walk. Watch your step—lichens, succulents, and mushrooms thrive underfoot. A longstanding tradition is a friendly football (soccer) match with locals, including guests, staff, crew, and residents. It's a fun, memorable experience—whether you're on the f ield or cheering from the sidelines.



DAY 15: Disembark in Kangerlussuaq

Today, we disembark in Kangerlussuaq, formerly known as Søndre Strømfjord, and transfer you to your charter flight to Reykjavik, where you'll spend the night in your included hotel, both of which are included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package.



DAY 16: Depart Reykjavik

Today, after breakfast, make your way independently to the airport for your f light home, or continue your personal travel plans as prearranged.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

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Accommodation	Cabin on board ship & Hotel
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** 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) A photographic journal documenting the expedition Transfers between Longyearbyen town center and port on embarkation and disembarkation day **MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE (INCLUDED)** One night's pre-expedition hotel night at Helsinki airport hotel, with breakfast Charter flight from Helsinki to Longyearbyen Arrival and departure transfers in Longyearbyen Charter flight from Longyearbyen to Helsinki **EXCLUSIONS** International flights Arrival transfer in Helsinki 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
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, a supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please Contact Us for more information.

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Notes	Prices are based on per person, and vary from single, triple, and twin cabins. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. **Includes charter flights from Helsinki to Longyearbyen and return back to Helsinki** Please note this 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. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages.

SUSTAINABILITY

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