THE ARCTIC - DISKO BAY: MEETING THE INUIT & DISCOVERING THE UNKNOWN 2028 | LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT



TRIP CODE
ACPODSUN
DEPARTURE
22/05/2028
DURATION
16 Days
LOCATIONS
Greenland & Iceland

INTRODUCTION

This expedition is a perfect combination of spectacular landscapes and cultural experiences. Start by exploring the southwest coast of Greenland, home to the iceberg filled waters of Disko Bay and many Inuit communities. Here, you will have the chance to learn about local traditions and life in Greenland, while opportunities to dog sled, snowshoe and kayak bring you even closer to this extraordinary environment.

Then head to the remote east coast, where you will encounter dramatic landscapes such as Tingmiarmiut Fjord. As this expedition takes place in spring, ice and weather conditions will help shape the itinerary. Along the way, you may encounter vast ice floes, glaciers and wildlife, while exploring remote landscapes that are rarely accessible to other expedition ships.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Embarkation 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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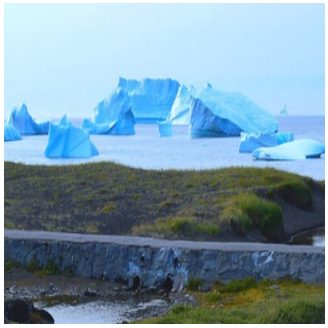
DAY 2: Baffin Bay Exploration

In the icy waters of Baffin Bay, you will sail into the heart of the scattered sea floe. You will be captivated by icebergs in dreamlike shapes as your ship takes you into the ice of the Far North. Everything comes in shades of white here and, if you watch closely, you may get a glimpse of the lord of this kingdom, the polar bear. This fascinating animal finds its food in the heart of the ice, so this is where you have more chances of spotting it. The polar light gives a shine to the ice floe that you sail along as you explore Baffin Bay, leaving you with memories of unforgettable moments.



DAY 4: 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 5: Disko Island

Disko Island, called Qeqertarsuaq in Greenlandic, is one of the most spectacular jewels of the west coast of Greenland. It is crossed by an ice cap, which gives rise to small coastal glaciers and to immaculately white inland landscapes. At the end of the winter, the island unveils a magical face, between stretching ice, crystal-clear polar light and frozen fjords, offering the perfect setting for polar exploration. At this period, the south of the island is also home to bowhead whales, one of the rarest species in the world, which spend the winter in these polar waters.



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DAY 6: 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 8: Baffin Bay Exploration

In the icy waters of Baffin Bay, you will sail into the heart of the scattered sea floe. You will be captivated by icebergs in dreamlike shapes as your ship takes you into the ice of the Far North. Everything comes in shades of white here and, if you watch closely, you may get a glimpse of the lord of this kingdom, the polar bear. This fascinating animal finds its food in the heart of the ice, so this is where you have more chances of spotting it. The polar light gives a shine to the ice floe that you sail along as you explore Baffin Bay, leaving you with memories of unforgettable moments.



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DAY 9: Qaqortoq & Uunartoq

Follow the Davis Strait currents and Qaqortoq, the largest town in southern Greenland, reveals itself in a rocky setting covered in immaculate white in winter and enchanting green in summer. From the moment your ship enters the fjord edging the town, off in the distance you will be able to glimpse the delightful, brightly-coloured houses built upon the hillsides surrounding this charming fishing port, the most southerly in Greenland. You will have the opportunity to wander around the streets of the town centre which have distinct Danish influences and are home to numerous historical buildings and landmarks, such as the country's famous and oldest fountain, topped with whales. Not far from there, you will also have the chance to discover the town's open-air fish market, where fishermen come to sell the day's catch. In the heart of Greenland's icy waters lies the island of Uunartoq, a harsh and wild land forged by the constant Arctic winds. Discovered in 2005 by explorer Dennis Schmitt, Uunartoq is an impressive island of sheer cliffs sculpted by the relentless waves and home to unexpected natural wonders. An icy mantle covers every part of this austere land, with the exception of a hidden cove where hot springs defy the harshness of the Arctic cold. Surrounded by icebergs and drifting glacial ice, Uunartoq offers an unusual activity: the chance to swim in a natural pool carved out of the rock. Here, after a polar hike, you will have the opportunity to shed your winter clothes, immerse yourself in these relaxing springs and let the warmth soothe each of your muscles as it envelops your body.



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DAY 10: Exploring Prins Christian Sund & Aappilattoq

The Prince Christian Sound natural strait is located in the south of Greenland and connects the Labrador Sea to the Irminger Sea. It is home to a veritable labyrinth of spectacularly beautiful steep fjords. Imposing mountains, majestic glaciers and grandiose cliffs offer a unique sailing experience, during which you will perhaps be lucky enough to glimpse bearded seals relaxing on the ice. This exceptional natural setting is also an invitation to walking and polar hiking in the heart of striking Arctic landscapes. Within this wild setting, the village of Aappilattoq, founded in the 1920s, will reveal itself. Fall under the charm of its church in which you will hear the songs of a welcoming choir, and discover the traditional way of life of its inhabitants, focused on hunting, fishing and livestock farming.



DAY 11: Kujalleq Glacier

In the immense and mythical Greenland, in the Prince Christian Sound region, your ship will make its way to the Kujalleq Glacier. You will be captivated by this frozen tongue, in front of which dance small icebergs and a few growlers. Growler is the surprising name given to chunks of ice that are smaller fragments of an iceberg. They are either white or, more remarkably, blue-green. Birds fly in your wake and bearded seals observe you from afar, stretched out on granite rocks. Combined with the surrounding ice, these rocks form a magical landscape that immerses you in the polar realm.



DAY 12: Timmiarmiut Fjord

Located on the south-eastern coast of Greenland, the Timmiarmiut Fjord opens onto a world of vertiginous alpine mountains whose jagged peaks rise to over 2,000 metres (6,560 ft) and plunge directly into the icy waters below. Lined by active glaciers and both extremely remote and rarely visited, Timmiarmiut embodies the very essence of polar exploration. In this pristine, untouched environment, you may be fortunate enough to spot a polar bear.



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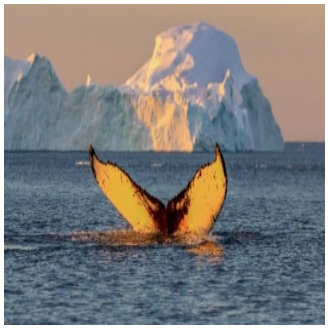
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DAY 13: Sailing ice floes along Greenland



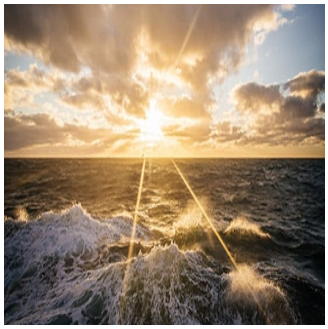
The north-east of Greenland is renowned for being home to one of the oldest and thickest layers of ice on the planet. Aboard your ship, you will have the unique opportunity of sailing to the heart of this icy wilderness, many thousands of years old, and will travel along one of the world's most isolated coasts, between drifting ice and blue icebergs.

DAY 14: Tasiilaq



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.

DAY 15: At sea aboard Le Commandant Charcot



Spend exceptional moments sailing aboard Le Commandant Charcot, the world’s first luxury polar exploration vessel and the first PC2-class polar cruise ship capable of sailing into the very heart of the ice, on seas and oceans which the frozen conditions render inaccessible to ordinary ships. Le Commandant Charcot is fitted with oceanographic and scientific equipment selected by a committee of experts. Take advantage of the on-board lectures and opportunities for discussion with these specialists to learn more about the poles. Participate in furthering scientific research with us and discover together what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.

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DAY 16: Reykjavík

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 ’Oskjuhlið 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 Skólavördustígur 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.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board a ship
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Cabin accommodation whilst on board Le Commandant Charcot Flight Paris/Nuuk on Embarkation Day Group transfer from airport to the pier for embarkation Meet & greet at the airport by our local English-speaking representative. All meals whilst on board including snacks Open Bar (excluding premium brands) Room Service & Mini Bar (excluding Champagne) Scheduled landings and excursions, conditions permitting Guiding and lectures by expedition team Complimentary Polar expedition jacket (yours to keep) 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 and post land arrangements and accommodation 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 whilst on-board

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Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. A supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	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

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