

THE ARCTIC - HIGH ARCTIC EXPEDITION: WHERE ART MEETS LAND 2028 | OCEAN NOVA



INTRODUCTION

Explore Greenland and Canada's High Arctic on an expedition combining Arctic wildlife, Inuit culture and a unique artistic perspective. Cruise through remote waterways framed by glaciers, fjords and sea ice, with opportunities for wildlife viewing, guided shore landings and visits to Inuit communities.

In partnership with the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, discover how Arctic landscapes have influenced Canadian art while gaining insight into the region's natural and cultural history. From wildlife encounters and shore landings to cultural and artistic perspectives, experience the High Arctic beyond the scenery.

NOTE: This itinerary goes in both directions with the 3 September 2028 departure starting in Resolute & going the opposite direction to the itinerary published here to finish in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather & ice conditions

9 August 2028 Departure: Optional charter flight information and cost:
 Northbound Charter Flight: Toronto, ON, Canada to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. Early-morning departure.
 Price: \$1,300 USD. *(Cost subject to change)*
 Southbound Charter Flight: Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU, Canada to Ottawa, ON, Canada. Evening arrival.
 Price: \$1,300 USD. *(Cost subject to change)*

3 September 2028 Departure: Optional charter flight information and cost:
 Northbound Charter Flight: Ottawa, ON, Canada to Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU, Canada. Early-morning departure.
 Price: \$1,300 USD. *(Cost subject to change)*
 Southbound Charter Flight: Kangerlussuaq, Greenland to Toronto, ON, Canada. Evening

TRIP CODE
ACADKHAE
DEPARTURE
09/08/2028, 03/09/2028
DURATION
14 Days
LOCATIONS
Canadian Arctic, Greenland


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arrival.
 Price: \$1,300 USD. *(Cost subject to change)*

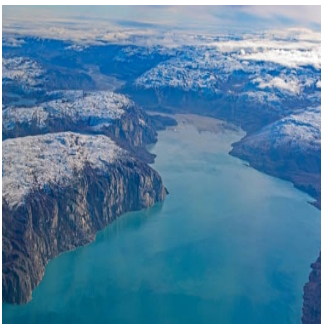
Please note these costs are **NOT** included in the advertised cruise price.

Charter flight packages are highly recommended for this region, even for European-based guests, due to the variable ice conditions in the high Canadian Arctic. This is especially true for the western end of the Northwest Passage trips. If the operator and captain decide they are not able to make it to the end destination due to sea ice, they may change where the trip ends and then re-direct the charter flight accordingly, at no cost to guests. This can also affect the starting location of the next voyage.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

Arrive by charter flight in Kangerlussuaq, whose Kalaallisut name means “big fjord.” The community developed around an American airbase established during the Second World War, its sheltered inland setting chosen for comparatively stable flying conditions. From here, transfer by Zodiac to your expedition vessel and prepare to follow the fjord toward the sea. Kangerlussuaq Fjord carries the journey westward through a landscape shaped by ice and meltwater. Rounded mountains rise above broad glacial valleys, while suspended sediment lends the shallows a milky turquoise colour. As the long waterway opens gradually toward Davis Strait, cross the Arctic Circle and leave the continental interior behind. The transition from land to fjord to open sea marks a fitting beginning to the northern passage ahead.



DAY 2: Sisimiut Coast

Cruise along the dramatic Sisimiut coast, where mountains rise sharply from the sea and small settlements cling to the shoreline. This region reflects Greenland’s seafaring traditions, with communities deeply tied to land and water. As you sail, shifting light continually redraws the jagged peaks, revealing new textures, colours, and contours along the coast.



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DAY 3: Ilulissat

Ilulissat means “icebergs,” a fitting name for a city beside one of the world’s great moving ice systems. At the head of the UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord, Sermeq Kujalleq ranks among the fastest and most active glaciers on Earth. Its immense icebergs travel slowly through the fjord before entering Disko Bay, continually transforming the seascape. The icefjord has shaped human life here for more than four thousand years. That relationship continues in contemporary Ilulissat, a lively Greenlandic city where fishing boats crowd the harbour and the streets bustle with residents and travellers. Restaurants showcase Greenlandic ingredients, while cafés, shops, and the striking Ilulissat Icefjord Centre reflect the city’s growing cultural and creative energy. Here, deep human history, vibrant city life, and constant environmental change come together at the edge of the ice.



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DAY 4: West Greenland

Sail among towering glaciers and drifting bergs, each one a shifting sculpture in white and blue. Fjords echo with the sound of calving ice, and mountains rise sheer above waters crowded with floes. Immense, elemental, and constantly changing, this landscape invites you to consider how something so vast and dynamic can ever be captured in paint, photography, or words.



DAY 5: Upernavik

Greenland’s coast breaks apart here into a vast maze of islands, narrow channels, and drifting ice. Upernavik, meaning “the springtime place,” rises from this intricate seascape in a bright sweep of colourful houses and a working harbour. Fishing and hunting remain central to life across the archipelago, connecting Upernavik with the smaller communities scattered along the coast. Its historic quarter forms the world’s northernmost open-air museum, preserving the church, trading buildings, boats, and tools of an earlier era. Surrounded by rock, sea, and ice, Upernavik reveals the remarkable character of life along Greenland’s northern coast.



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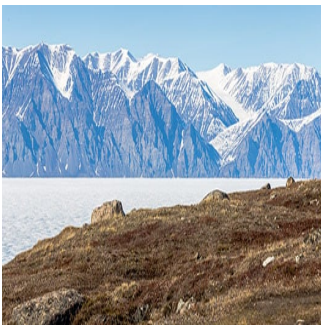
DAY 6: Upernavik

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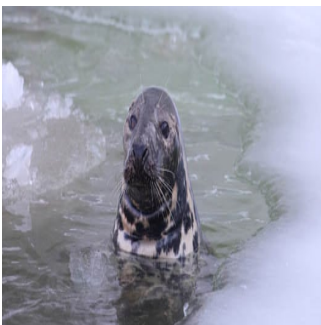
DAY 7: Smith Sound - Day 7 & 8

Venture through Smith Sound, the dramatic channel connecting Baffin Bay with Kane Basin and part of the greater Pikialasorsuaq region. Pikialasorsuaq means “great upwelling” in Kalaallisut and is known in Nunavut as Sarvarjuaq. Recurring open water within the surrounding sea ice makes this the Arctic’s largest polynya and one of the most biologically productive regions north of the Arctic Circle. Nutrient-rich waters sustain an extraordinary abundance of life, drawing whales, seals, and millions of seabirds to this vital Arctic ecosystem.



DAY 9: Kane Basin

Sail into Kane Basin, where Ellesmere Island and Greenland nearly meet. Glaciers tower above drifting sea ice, and the shifting Arctic light continually transforms the passage. Long travelled by Inuit, these waters later became a route for expeditions seeking both the lost Franklin expedition and a way to the North Pole. The basin bears the name of American explorer Elisha Kent Kane, who crossed it in 1854 during his search for Franklin.



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DAY 10: Ellesmere Island

Explore the rugged coastline of Ellesmere, Canada’s northernmost island. Towering mountains, vast ice caps, and deep fjords define a landscape of extraordinary scale. Here, the High Arctic exceeds the images that first inspired us, revealing a world more intricate, dynamic, and alive than any single representation can capture.



DAY 11: Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord)

Set between the mountains of southern Ellesmere Island and the waters of Jones Sound, Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord) is Canada’s northernmost civilian community. Its Inuktitut name means “the place that never thaws,” a reference to the enduring ice above the community. Ausuittuq was established through the High Arctic Relocations of 1953 and 1955, when the Canadian government moved Inuit families from Inukjuak and Mittimatalik, in part to reinforce Canadian sovereignty. The hardship and injustice of that history remain part of the community’s story, commemorated by a monument overlooking the shore. Today, family, language, harvesting, and community life give this small and remarkable Inuit hamlet its enduring character.



DAY 12: Tallurutiup Imanga

Sail through Tallurutiup Imanga, one of Canada’s largest marine protected areas, alive with whales, seals, and seabirds. Beneath towering cliffs and drifting ice, the sea glimmers with shifting light. Step ashore on Devon Island, the world’s largest uninhabited island, where glaciers meet the sea and tundra unfolds in broad, glacial valleys. Here, light and silence create their own compositions, inviting stillness, reflection, and a deep sense of the Arctic’s living beauty.

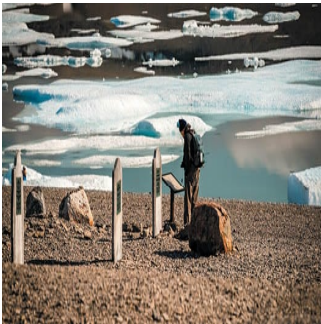


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DAY 13: Beechey Island

Beechey Island holds one of the most tangible chapters in the Franklin mystery. HMS Erebus and HMS Terror spent the winter of 1845–46 here before sailing south and disappearing. The graves of three crew members, remains of the winter camp, stone cairns, and traces left by later search expeditions still mark its narrow, windswept shore. Protected as part of Beechey Island Sites National Historic Site, these remains capture the expedition at the threshold of mystery. The island later became a base for the vast search effort that helped map much of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Inuit testimony proved essential to tracing the expedition’s final movements and, generations later, locating its lost ships. Beechey Island connects Franklin’s failed voyage with its wider legacy, including expanded geographical knowledge, growing colonial ambitions, and an increasingly sustained southern presence in Inuit homelands.



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DAY 14: Qausuittuq (Resolute)

Set among the gravel plains and raised beaches of Cornwallis Island, Qausuittuq occupies a strategic place within the waterways of the Canadian High Arctic. Its Inuktitut name means “place with no dawn,” a reference to the long polar night, while the summer season brings light that lingers around the clock. The modern community began with the Canadian government’s High Arctic Relocation of 1953. The Qausuitturmiut who call it home have built a distinct community that now serves as an important centre for northern research, transportation, and expedition travel. Disembark in Qausuittuq and transfer to the airport for the charter flight to Ottawa. Here, at a historic crossroads of Inuit travel, Arctic exploration, and contemporary northern life, the sea journey ends and the route turns south.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin On board a Ship

Inclusions	INCLUSIONS Cabin aboard the Ocean Nova All meals on board Applicable taxes and credit card fees Complimentary expedition jacket Special access permits, entry, and park fees Expert expedition team Guided activities Sightseeing and community visits All Zodiac excursions Port fees Pre-departure materials Educational program Interactive workshops Evening entertainment Basic Wi-Fi (Please note: travel to remote regions and therefore the connection can be unreliable)	TRIP CODE ACADKHAE DEPARTURE 09/08/2028, 03/09/2028 DURATION 14 Days LOCATIONS Canadian Arctic, Greenland 
	EXCLUSIONS Optional Charter flights (please see notes for more details) International Flights Program enhancements/optional excursions Gratuities Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, juices Personal expenses Mandatory medical evacuation insurance Additional expenses in the event of delays or itinerary changes Possible fuel surcharges and administrative fees Any pre or post land arrangements	
	Optional Charter Flight Information & Cost: Charter Flight between: Toronto, ON, Canada and Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. Price: \$1,300 USD. <i>(Cost subject to change)</i> Charter Flight between: Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU, Canada and Ottawa, ON, Canada. Price: \$1,300 USD. <i>(Cost subject to change)</i> Please note the charter flight costs are NOT included in the advertised cruise price. Please contact your booking agent to include charter flights. Flight packages are excluded from any discounts.	
	Difficulty Rating 2 (light adventure)	
	Single Surcharge A limited number of single cabins, with their own designated cabin price, are available. Subject to cabin availability. Contact Us for more details.	

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Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY