

ARCTIC 2026

Northwest Passage: The Legendary Arctic Sea Route

 OCEAN EXPLORER



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Expedition Overview

Northwest Passage: The Legendary Arctic Sea Route

Our 17-day Northwest Passage: The Legendary Arctic Sea Route begins in West Greenland before pressing onward into the Canadian High Arctic—a realm of sweeping landscapes, resilient cultures and powerful polar history. Experience the highlights of West Greenland, East Baffin Island and Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound), continuing as far west as Beechey Island, where we'll honor Sir John Franklin and the men of his ill-fated 1845 expedition. Throughout the voyage, you'll be immersed in rich history, vibrant Indigenous cultures and the slow, powerful movement of icebergs and glaciers.

HIGHLIGHTS

-  Experience Maniitsoq—the Venice of West Greenland
-  Encounter towering icebergs and glaciers
-  Explore deep into Eternity Fjord
-  Travel in the footsteps of Sir John Franklin along the Northwest Passage
-  Visit the Greenlandic community of Ilulissat
-  Spot iconic Arctic wildlife, such as whales, walruses and potentially muskoxen and polar bears.



Itinerary

DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Arrive in the Icelandic capital and make your way to your designated hotel, which is included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. You will have the day to explore this fascinating city known for its stunning modern architecture, contemporary music and Viking history.

DAY 2 | FLIGHT TO NUUK AND EMBARKATION

In the morning after breakfast, guests and their luggage will be transferred to the airport for their charter flight to the Greenlandic capital of Nuuk. This picturesque city of 17,000 is situated on a fjord with the Sermitsiaq mountain in the background. Depending on the final timing of our charter flights, we may have an opportunity to explore Nuuk upon arrival in Greenland, or may transfer directly to your ship.

DAY 3 | CROSSING THE DAVIS STRAIT

Upon leaving Nuuk, we set sail across the Davis Strait to the east coast of Baffin Island. Join us on the outer deck as we cast off, keeping an eye out for seabirds and marine life gliding alongside the ship. Have your binoculars at hand to scan for seabirds, including great black-backed gulls and black guillemots.

There are many ways to spend your time aboard *Ocean Explorer*. Visit Tundra Spa and other onboard amenities, or attend educational presentations led by our polar experts—glaciologists, historians and other specialists. You'll learn about northern communities and ways of life in preparation for our first community visit. There will also be mandatory briefings with our expedition team on how we'll safely explore this remote and compelling Arctic region.



NORTHWEST PASSAGE
The Legendary Arctic Sea Route
Onboard *Ocean Explorer* ———
Flights from Reykjavik from the ship - - -

You will also have time to relax in the Observation Lounge while spotting drifting ice, seabirds and other wildlife. From the outer decks, take in the wide-open panoramas of western Greenland while we cross the Arctic Circle at 66°33' North.

DAYS 4 & 5 | EXPLORING THE EAST SHORE OF BAFFIN ISLAND

We're excited to be heading to Qikiqtarjuaq, fondly called Qik, a small Inuit hamlet located north of the Arctic Circle on Broughton Island, off the east coast of Baffin Island. Known as the iceberg capital of Nunavut, Qikiqtarjuaq sits at the northern entrance to the mountainous Auyuittuq National Park, which is home to narwhals, bowhead and orca whales, polar bears, seals and migratory birds. Community visits, arranged in collaboration with our local partners, enable guests to learn about on-the-ground culture, and purchase art and traditional handicrafts, such as parkas, boots and local art when available.

As icebergs travel down the Davis Strait, many are naturally trapped at Qikiqtarjuaq. The surrounding waters are also home to ringed and harp seals, often surfacing between floes. A hike up to the hilltop offers sweeping views of the community and its coastal setting. You'll also see inukshuks—carefully placed stone figures or cairns that have served as navigational guides and markers of important places, but also as expressions of spirit, memory, and connection to the land.

Cruising further north along the mountainous east shore of Baffin Island, we'll approach Isabella Bay, an important summer and fall feeding area for the largest concentration of bowhead whales in Canada. Bowheads are a truly remarkable Arctic leviathan, with research suggesting they can live more than 200 years—making them the longest-lived mammal on Earth. Isabella Bay is a marvel, its dramatic landscapes and wide-open horizons best experienced from the outer decks of *Ocean Explorer*. We'll aim to

launch the Zodiacs and explore the bay, binoculars at the ready. For our intrepid paddlers, our sea kayak and paddling programs may also be available here.

DAY 6 | ICY ARM FJORD

This is an especially exciting day, as you become one of the few travelers to explore the stunningly majestic Icy Arm Fjord, which cuts almost 80 kilometers (50 miles) deep into northern Baffin Island. Accessible only by water in summer months when the sea ice recedes, this rarely visited fjord is known for its unrivalled landscape of towering cliffs and stunning glaciers, and is valued as much for its sheer remoteness as it is for its pristine environment. Icy Arm Fjord is the epitome of unspoiled Arctic wilderness. We may observe polar bears, Arctic foxes, seals, walruses, and guillemots, kittiwakes and other Arctic-dwelling birds. The fjord provides an excellent backdrop for Zodiac cruises and paddle activities, offering guests a sea-level intimacy with the surrounding lands and waters.



DAYS 7 TO 9 | THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

At the top of Baffin Island sits Tallurutiup-Imanga (also known as Lancaster Sound), a true Arctic oasis. Known by the Inuit and their predecessors for thousands of years, this channel and the surrounding lands are extremely rich in wildlife and history, both indigenous and European.

The surrounding area affords several hiking opportunities. At Dundas Harbour, on Devon Island, you'll visit an abandoned beachside outpost of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

At Croker Bay, we'll plan to cruise close enough to appreciate the splendor of glacial textures and calving ice, while always keeping a safe distance. Walrus frequent the waters here, so be sure to have your camera handy.

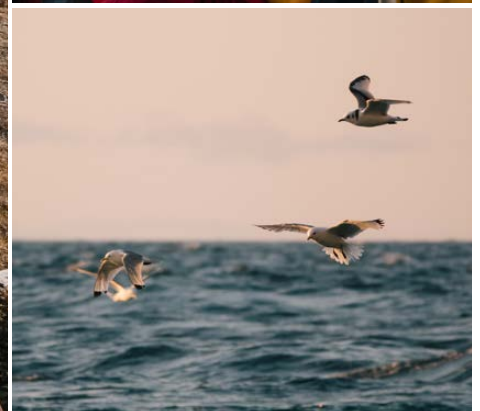
Next we'll head to the western end of Devon Island, on the north side of Tallurutiup-Imanga, and go ashore at windswept Beechey Island, which is home to Beechey Island National Historic

Sites. Maintained by Parks Canada, these sites tell the story—or at least the part that's still not shrouded in mystery—of Sir John Franklin's much chronicled 1845-46 expedition to explore the Northwest Passage. The island is small, only 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) at its widest point, but its shores are steep, and rise to a flat plateau 244 meters (800 feet) high. That's where Franklin and his crew of 128 men spent the winter after embarking from England on two ships, HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*. The ill-fated 1845-46 expedition—to navigate and chart the Northwest Passage—ended in tragedy for all 129 men and their two vessels. What happened to Franklin and his crew is the stuff of legend, and the focus for several search expeditions over the years, which discovered bodies, personal belongings of crew members, and handwritten notes that suggested starvation, deaths from hypothermia, scurvy, and lead poisoning from the tinned food supplies.

Accounts by Inuit suggest the crew split up into small groups and subsequently

perished. What is known for certain is that no one survived. The graves of three officers from HMS *Erebus*—John Hartnell, William Braine, and John Torrington—were discovered in 1851. You will have an opportunity to visit their graves, and honor the memory of the entire Franklin crew who braved daunting challenges to explore the Northwest Passage. Franklin's story is an integral part of the history of Arctic exploration. The wrecks of *Erebus* and *Terror* were discovered in 2014 and 2016, respectively.

We also hope to explore the shores of the uninhabited Prince Leopold Island, known primarily as a significant Migratory Bird Sanctuary and an Important Bird Area, where we aim to launch the Zodiacs for an immersive cruise at the foot of the bird cliffs. The island is renowned for its steep cliffs that host hundreds of thousands of nesting seabirds, including thick-billed murres, northern fulmars, and black guillemots during the summer months.



Port Leopold, an abandoned Hudson's Bay Company trading post dating back to 1937, sits on the northeast tip of nearby Somerset Island. It's the closest landmark to Prince Leopold Island, situated about 13 kilometers (8.1 miles) to the southwest. This site is closely tied to the history of Arctic exploration, including the search for the Franklin Expedition. Visitors can still see the remains of the original trading post, including the old store and the manager's home.

DAY 10 | CRUISING THE EAST COAST OF BAFFIN ISLAND

As we position from Lancaster Sound down along the east coast of Baffin Island, spend time out on deck to soak in the scenery: expansive landscapes, jagged spires, and bird life. Today is also ideal to enjoy the onboard amenities—such as Tundra Spa—and deepening your knowledge through presentations by our polar experts.

DAY 11 | SAM FORD FJORD

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.

DAY 12 | AT SEA: CROSSING THE DAVIS STRAIT

As *Ocean Explorer* continues eastward across the Davis Strait, you'll have a choice of presentations by our polar experts, who will share insights that bring greater meaning to the experiences so far and set the stage for our time in West Greenland.

DAYS 13 TO 15 | EXPLORING WEST GREENLAND

Prepare yourself for an awe-inspiring experience. Ilulissat, located in Disko Bay, is home to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ilulissat Icefjord, which is the thoroughfare for countless icebergs calved from one of the world's fastest-moving glaciers, Sermeq Kujalleq. Locals have constructed a boardwalk leading to an elevated overlook, where you can view bergs of all sizes spread out before you. From this vantage point, it feels as though you're standing where the town ends and the wilderness begins. Visitors say they've



EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice, wildlife, and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you may experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife sightings as described are expected, but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not guaranteed.

felt humbled by the sweeping vista of ice. You will also notice the Arctic cotton grass and summer wildflowers thriving in the long daylight hours.

The inner harbor is a rare sight: icebergs drifting 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 learned from and documented the Circumpolar Inuit he met—making it one of the Arctic's greatest expeditions. It was in these dramatic landscapes around Ilulissat that Rasmussen's passion for exploration took root. As we approach town, watch out for whales, which frequent the iceberg-laden waters.

Pride of place for our seasoned expedition team is Eternity Fjord, which is home to the tallest mountains in all of West Greenland. This a favorite spot for us to launch the Zodiacs to explore in-depth—where larger vessels can't navigate. There are few settlements along this lengthy fjord, but you will quickly appreciate nature in its rawest form as you hike among the towering mountains, and photograph the colorful tundra and other dramatic landscapes.

Another fascinating highlight is Maniitsoq, often called the “Venice of Greenland,” as it's situated in an archipelago intersected by natural canals. Soaring, snow-capped mountains surround this small, rocky town, whose name means “the uneven place.” Playful humpback whales spend the summer in the surrounding waters, so we'll keep our eyes peeled as we transit ashore by Zodiac.

DAY 16 | KANGERLUSSUAQ AND DISEMBARKATION

Today we'll explore 50 kilometers (31 miles) above the Arctic Circle. Our destination is Kangerlussuaq, which

is Greenlandic for “the long fjord.” At the end of this 180-kilometer (112 mile) fjord is a settlement bearing the same name. Fishing boats based in the town of Kangerlussuaq sail the full length of the fjord to access the ocean. The town is known for its natural beauty—and for previously being the home of the largest airport in Greenland. You will be ferried from ship to shore on one last Zodiac ride, then transferred to the airport where you will board your charter flight to Calgary, Alberta. Upon arrival at the airport, you will be transferred to your included hotel for the night, which is part of the Charter Flight & Hotel package.

DAY 17 | DEPARTING CALGARY AND ONWARD FLIGHT

Today, make your way to the airport to connect with your onward flight, or stay longer to explore this unique Western Canadian city.





Arrival and Departure Details, and International Flight Planning

DAY 1	DAY 2	EXPEDITION DAYS		DISEMBARKATION DAY	FINAL DAY
International flight in* Arrival and hotel night	Charter flight to embarkation point and embarkation	On ship or landing days		Disembarkation, charter flight and hotel night	Leave hotel International flight onward

* Arrive anytime on Day 1 or earlier. Day 1 includes an optional briefing.
 International flights are not included in the cost of the voyage.

Arrival Day and Embarkation

DAY 1 — ARRIVING AND HOTEL NIGHT IN REYKJAVIK

You may arrive at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary. Make your own way to the group hotel, conveniently located near Keflavík International Airport. The hotel is included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. A Quark Expeditions representative will be available in the lobby later in the day to answer any questions.

DAY 2 — TRANSFER TO AIRPORT, FLIGHT TO NUUK AND EMBARKATION

On the morning of Day 2, guests and their luggage will be transferred to the airport for the flight to Nuuk.

Upon arrival at Nuuk, guests and their luggage will be transferred to the pier, where they will be transported directly to their awaiting ship by Zodiac.

PLEASE NOTE

There is a strict luggage weight limit on checked luggage and cabin baggage on the flights between Reykjavik and Nuuk, and between Kangerlussuaq and Calgary. There is NO option to pay for additional luggage.

You will find in your final documents:

- › Luggage weight restrictions on charter flights.
- › Hotel information and check in time
- › Charter flight time to embarkation point
- › Embarkation plan
- › Departure charter flight time

Final Day and Departure

DISEMBARKATION IN KANGERLUSSUAQ

Your voyage is scheduled to end back in Kangerlussuaq where you will disembark after breakfast. The disembarkation process takes about an hour. After disembarkation, you will be transferred to the airport for the return charter flight to Calgary.

DEPARTING FROM CALGARY

Upon arrival in Calgary, there will be a group transfer to your included post-expedition hotel. After breakfast the following morning, you may make your way to the airport to connect with your onward flight, or stay longer if you have booked additional accommodation.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

REYKJAVIK /CALGARY AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival and departure transfers in Reykjavik /Calgary are not included; If you require a transfer, you will need to arrange your own transportation.

PLEASE NOTE

Included Hotel Accommodations

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated in your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the final day and would like help booking a pre- or post-stay, please contact your Polar Travel Adviser or travel professional for hotel options. As accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.





Your Ship

OCEAN EXPLORER

Ocean Explorer, the newest addition to our fleet, is modern, elegant and purpose-built for polar exploration. The 138-passenger vessel has been designed with the latest in expedition ship technology. One of the ship's key features is the ULSTEIN X-BOW®, a marine engineering innovation that ensures a comfortable and smooth sailing experience thanks to the inverted bow. Located at the bow is the two-story, light-filled library, which introduces a welcome airiness to the expedition ship. Spacious cabins feature a modern, bespoke Scandinavian design and almost all have verandas. Guests can relax and find comfort in the spacious gym, sauna with large windows, and two outdoor Jacuzzis. *Ocean Explorer* features ample outdoor viewing areas and multi-height outer decks, which are ideal for long-view photography and wildlife viewing. The vessel is equipped with a fleet of 15 Zodiacs that enable guests to get off the ship quickly and safely for off-ship adventures. In addition to the well-appointed and spacious public areas, *Ocean Explorer* has an industry-leading mix of sustainability systems, including fuel-efficient Rolls Royce engines.

SHIP SPECIFICATIONS:

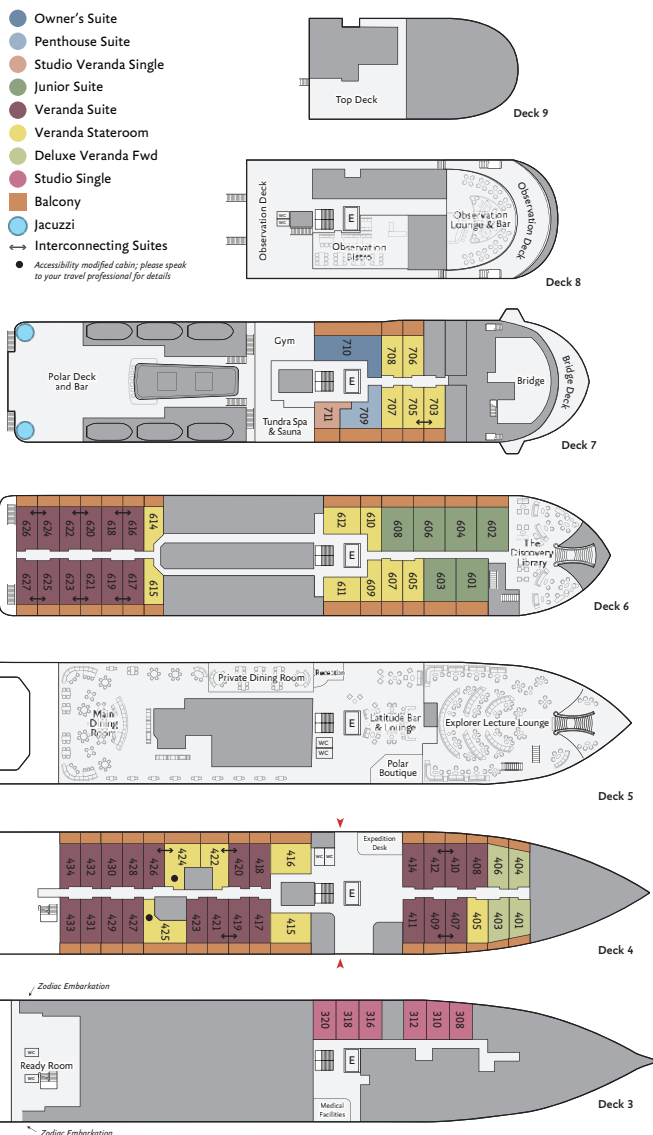
Staff and Crew: 105

Guests: 138

Lifeboats: 2

Ice Class: 1A, PC6

Visit QuarkExpeditions.com to view deck plan details.





Included Activities

All of these activities are included in the price of your trip.

Ready for a little adventure beyond your ship? Each Quark Expeditions® voyage offers a variety of recreational activities to enhance your polar experience.

ZODIAC CRUISING

Zodiacs are the workhorses of polar expeditions, taking you to places the ships can't access, allowing you to reach remote shorelines, explore shallow inlets and search for unique wildlife. Expedition staff make stepping in and out of them safe and comfortable, and your Zodiac drivers will provide active interpretation, making the landscape come even more alive.

HIKING

Led by experienced staff, exploring on foot is one of the best ways to appreciate the polar landscapes. Our guides are able to accommodate a range of skill levels.

PRESENTATIONS

Enjoy daily chats with and presentations by our world-class onboard polar experts—expedition guides, specialists, photography guides and other special guests who will introduce you to the fascinating history, biology, ornithology, glaciology and geology of the region, and much, much more.

POLAR PLUNGE

This rite of passage, scheduled only once per expedition, gives you the chance to jump safely into the bracing Arctic waters under the watchful eye of our staff—and just about every single camera on board.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Documenting your voyage so you can take the memories home is a rewarding experience. Our photography guides will help you hone your skills to capture the beauty of the polar regions.

COMMUNITY VISITS

Thanks to Quark Expeditions' longstanding partnerships in the Arctic, our expedition team arranges community visits—always coordinated in close collaboration with local partners—and dependent on ice and weather conditions. These opportunities give guests meaningful insights into the culture, traditions, food, and everyday life of Arctic people. Many visits include time in Indigenous communities, often Inuit in Nunavut or Greenland, where guests may experience music, dance, food, and storytelling that reflect the resilience and richness of life in the North.

Contact your Polar Travel Adviser or your Travel Professional for more information about your Included Activities.



Adventure Options

All of these activities cost extra and should be booked in advance of your trip.



SEA KAYAKING

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers. Our Sea Kayaking program is a great way to intimately explore your surroundings. A small group of kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage as an alternative to shore landings or Zodiac cruises.

The number of opportunities to kayak is weather dependent, and will be conducted only during calm conditions. Prior kayaking experience is required, and you must be able to do a wet exit to participate. Beginners interested in kayaking should consider participating in the Paddling Excursion.



PADDLING EXCURSION

If you're interested in kayaking but would like to try something a bit less demanding than Sea Kayaking, you're the perfect candidate to sign up for a one-time paddle on our stable sit-on-top kayaks—perfect for anyone with minimal or no kayaking experience. Small groups of passengers will be taken out on calm days, with our expert guides always present to provide instruction and help you connect with the polar sea. Two groups of 10 will be pre-booked, and once successfully completed, any subsequent outings will be offered via lottery on board.

PLEASE NOTE



Pre-booking is required for all paid activities. We recommend booking early, as spaces fill quickly.



Departure Date

Northwest Passage: The Legendary Arctic Sea Route

OCEAN EXPLORER

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Days</i>	<i>Start / End</i>	 Sea Kayaking	 Paddling Excursion
ARCTIC 2026				
AUG 17 - SEPT 2, 2026	17	Reykjavik/Calgary	\$	\$

\$ Paid Activities



Inclusions and Exclusions

Inclusions

RATES INCLUDE:

- An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Leadership throughout your voyage by our experienced Expedition Leaders, including shore landings and other activities
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising as per the daily program
- All shore landings as per the daily program
- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage (Please inform us of any dietary requirements as far in advance as possible.)
- Complimentary select beer, wines and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner
- Complimentary coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled
- A photographic journal documenting the expedition
- A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions
- Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- Complimentary Wi-Fi service on one device permitting basic Internet browsing, email, posting on social media and voice applications. (Premium packages are available for more data-intensive applications.) Note: Internet access in the polar regions is subject to geography, climate, and other factors beyond our control.
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Greenland voyages cruise passenger tax

Exclusions

RATES SPECIFICALLY

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Charter Flight & Hotel Package*
- International airfare
- Arrival transfers in Reykjavik
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned
- Laundry, bar, spa and other personal charges unless specified
- Phone charges may vary by location
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew
- Additional overnight accommodation
- Adventure Options not listed in Included Activities

*CHARTER FLIGHT & HOTEL PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Reykjavik (breakfast included)
- Charter flight from Reykjavik to Nuuk
- Group transfer from the ship to the Kangerlussuaq airport on disembarkation day
- Charter flight from Kangerlussuaq to Calgary
- One night's post-expedition airport hotel accommodation in Calgary (breakfast included)



Your Expedition Team

Our Expedition Leaders and their teams bring diverse expertise in subjects as varied as polar history, marine biology, glaciology, ornithology and photography. Their knowledge and enthusiasm will greatly enhance your immersion into the polar environment and further deepen your connection to the Arctic.

With over 30 years of experience bringing passengers to remote polar regions and an industry-leading staff-to-guest ratio, we know how to safely handle the unexpected. Ensuring this hard earned experience is passed on, our expedition staff receive comprehensive training in Quark Academy, which provides hands-on polar expedition training prior as part of our onboarding process as well as ongoing training for experienced staff.



Raise a Glass and Stay Connected

See below for specifics on our complimentary Wi-Fi and bar service.



Meals on Board

If there is one constant on board, it is that you'll enjoy delicious meals daily. While meal times may change due to landings and wildlife sightings, you'll always be served three well-prepared meals per day. Most dietary restrictions can be accommodated by letting us know prior to your expedition.

Breakfasts and lunches are normally served buffet style, while dinners are served plated. À la carte meals are made at the time of your order, allowing our chefs to prepare each dish to your individual needs, ensuring you receive top-quality meals during the course of your expedition.

Complimentary coffee, tea, cocoa and water stations are available around the clock, while soft drinks and juices are available during meals and when the bar is open—all included in the cost of your package.

Enjoy free beer, standard wines, spirits, and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner as part of our “Raise a Glass and Stay Connected Free” program. Premium wines and champagne are available at extra cost and can be billed to your shipboard account. The well-stocked bars on the ship are open late morning, afternoon and evening, though hours may occasionally change to accommodate the expedition schedule.





Possible Excursions

Canadian Arctic

BEECHHEY ISLAND

Beechey Island stands as a haunting touchstone for anyone drawn to the epic—and often tragic—history of Arctic exploration. Named after Frederick William Beechey, a Royal Navy explorer, this is one of Canada's most important Arctic heritage locations and is designated as a Parks Canada National Historic Site. Beechey Island is where Sir John Franklin's lost Northwest Passage expedition crew spent the winter of 1845-46. Both of Franklin's ships, HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*, anchored here with perilous results. Three of Franklin's crew are buried in marked graves, where visitors may pay their respects.

CROKER BAY

Croker Bay, on the south coast of Devon Island, is home to a constantly calving glacier that sends fresh icebergs drifting

into the bay. In the 1800s, this sheltered inlet was a frequent stop for expeditions searching for the Northwest Passage.

DUNDAS HARBOUR

On Devon Island, you'll find the remains of a 1924 Royal Canadian Mounted Police post, along with a small RCMP cemetery that is still tended annually by officers who travel here for that purpose. Nearby, archeological traces reveal that people lived in this region long before the RCMP post was established.

ICY ARM FJORD

Icy Arm Fjord cuts 80 kilometers (500 miles) deep into northern Baffin Island. This rarely visited fjord, prized for its towering cliffs, stunning glaciers and unspoiled wilderness, is home to polar bears, Arctic foxes, seals, walrus, as well as guillemots, kittiwakes and other Arctic-dwelling birds.



ISABELLA BAY

Isabella Bay, on the mountainous east shore of Baffin Island, is an important summer and fall feeding area for the largest concentration of bowhead whales in Canada. Bowheads are a truly a remarkable Arctic leviathan that research has revealed may live more than 200 years of age—possibly longer than any other mammal on the planet.

PRINCE LEOPOLD ISLAND

Impressive vertical cliffs surround part of this small island, creating an ideal environment for seabirds, which nest here in vast numbers—more than 300,000 strong. Thick-billed murre, black guillemots and northern fulmars are the most commonly seen species.

RADSTOCK BAY

Radstock Bay is a popular research location for observing polar bears, which frequent this area in summer. An impressive Thule archeological site

provides insight into how these pre-Inuit people lived in the Far North. Some subterranean dwellings, constructed of giant whale skulls and bones, are still visible today.

QIKIQTARJUAQ

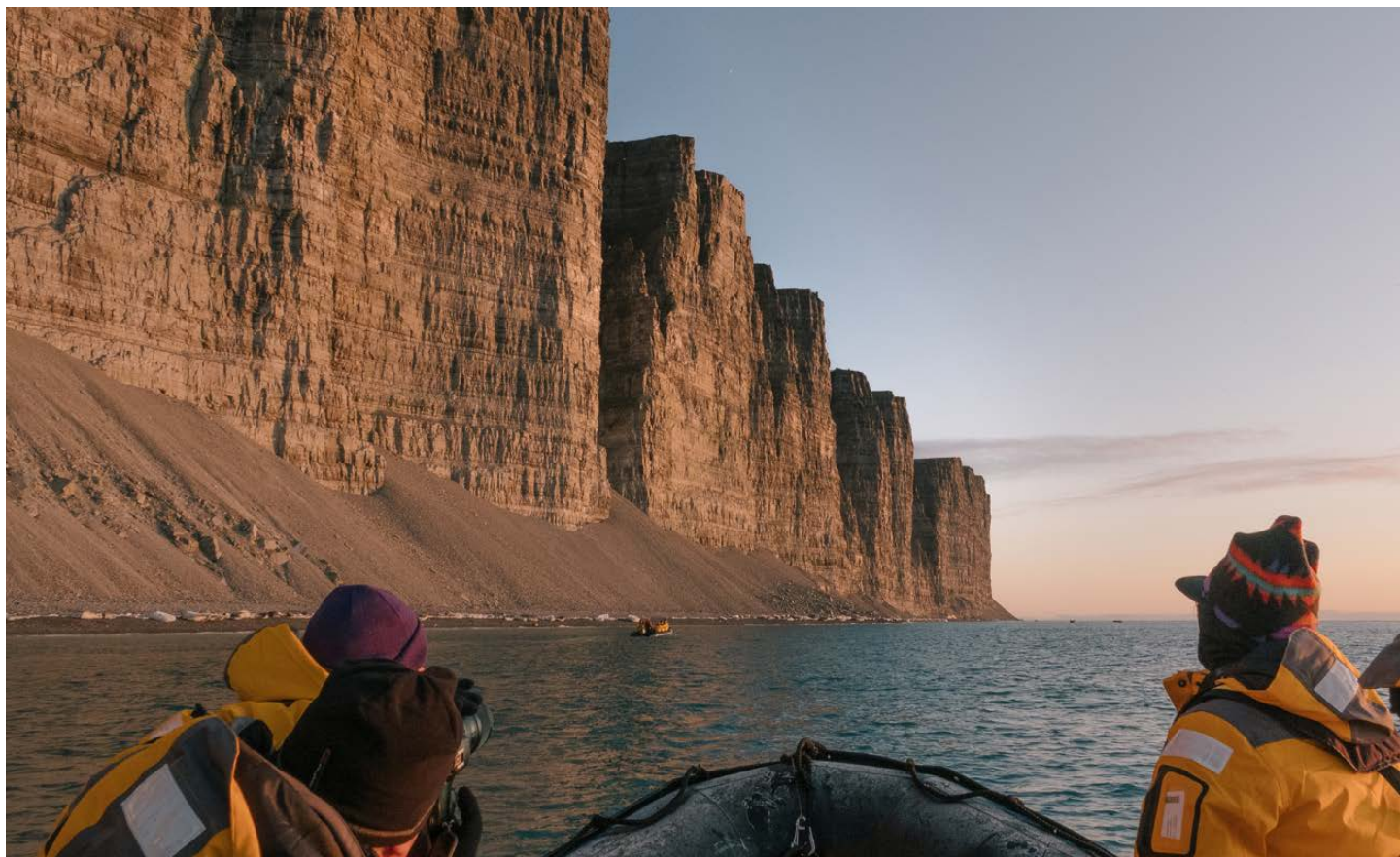
Known until 1998 as Broughton Island, Qikiqtarjuaq (population: 600) sits at the foot of the Baffin Mountains, the highest range east of the Rocky Mountains. From the cape, multitudes of icebergs can be seen flowing down Davis Strait, which are home to seals and whales. Qik, as it's known locally, offers visitors the chance to connect with Inuit culture firsthand, and to purchase traditional handcrafted items—parkas, boots and locally made art—depending on availability.

SAM FORD FJORD

Well into the High Arctic, Sam Ford Fjord on Baffin Island's northeast coast is renowned for its soaring granite walls, making it one of the world's most spectacular big-wall playgrounds. The

EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice, wildlife, and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you'll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife sightings as described are expected, but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not guaranteed.



fjord, a traditional Inuit hunting area, 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. Cruising the fjord in a Zodiac reminds us just how small we are. Stretching and winding along a 110 kilometer path (68 miles), Sam Ford Fjord is 18 kilometers (11 miles) wide at its mouth, but it narrows to less than 3 kilometers (2 miles) as it meanders farther inland.

West Greenland

ETERNITY FJORD

This long, narrow fjord seems to stretch on forever. Beautiful, glaciated mountains line the length of the 90-kilometer fjord. Where we explore will depend on local conditions at the time, but there will likely be opportunities for Zodiac cruising, hiking and photography. Iceberg-studded landscapes can be viewed from both ship and Zodiac.

ILLULISAT

Home to the UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord—gateway to Sermeq Kujalleq, one of the fastest-moving glaciers in the world—Ilulissat offers unforgettable views of immense blue-white icebergs drifting from the glacier into Disko Bay. While icebergs are visible from the ship, the boardwalk to the fjord overlook provides a breathtaking, close-up perspective of this slow, powerful procession. With a population of 4,500, Ilulissat is Greenland's third-largest community and a cultural hub for the region. Its name, meaning "icebergs," reflects its dramatic setting. Founded as a Danish trading post in 1741, the town remains a center of fishing and modern Greenlandic life. Ilulissat is also the birthplace of renowned polar explorer Knud Rasmussen, whose childhood home is now a museum.

ITILLEQ

Itilleq in Greenlandic means "a hollow," which is where this village is situated, on an island without any freshwater. The village has approximately 130 inhabitants and offers picturesque views of colorful Greenlandic houses dotted along the rocky landscape. It's also known as a welcoming community, where you might experience kaffemik, a Greenlandic tradition of inviting visitors in for coffee, cake and conversation.

MANIITSOQ

The town of Maniitsoq is in the Qeqqata Municipality on the west coast of Greenland along the Davis Strait. Its name means "the place of rugged, uneven terrain." That's precisely what you see in the surrounding terrain: towering mountains, pristine rivers, seemingly endless glaciers and incredibly deep fjord. Locals call Maniitsoq the "Venice of Greenland," as it's situated in an archipelago intersected by natural canals. Playful humpback whales spend summer in the surrounding waters.



What to pack on your Arctic expedition

BY SEA

All transfers ship to shore and Zodiac/ship cruising.

- ☐ Waterproof pants (mandatory for every Zodiac ride)
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic top*
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic bottom*
- ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece top*
- ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece bottom*
- ☐ Warm hat that covers ears (bring an extra)
- ☐ Scarf, buff, or other face protection
- ☐ Warm wool or synthetic socks (keep a dry pair in your bag, and bring extras for layering)
- ☐ Waterproof gloves or mitts (bring an extra, lighter pair for hiking)
- ☐ Glove liners*
- ☐ Hand and feet warmers*
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Polarized sunglasses with UV protection (consider bringing an eyewear retainer: string/clip etc.)
- ☐ Ski goggles (for Zodiac cruising on snowy or windy days)
- ☐ Waterproof, lightweight backpack or dry sack and/or rain sleeve for camera or a waterproof phone case (to keep camera & gear dry)

*recommended layering depending on the conditions of the day and reflecting your personal thermo-regulation comfort levels.

BY LAND (Shore Excursions and Hiking)

In addition to the gear requirements (as above) mandatory for the transit from ship to shore, it is recommended to bring:

- ☐ Hat, buff or scarf (for wind and weather protection)
- ☐ UV protection (sun hat, polarized sun glasses, sun block, lip balm etc.)
- ☐ Collapsible walking sticks for hikes (if required)
Quantities are available to borrow on every vessel
- ☐ Additional reusable (thermos-regulating) water bottle (in addition to the reusable collapsible water bottle provided)

WHAT TO BRING Packing for the Polar Regions doesn't have to be daunting, and to make it easier for you, all Quark Expeditions voyages include a Quark parka to keep, and a loan of insulated waterproof boots. Additional suggested items include:

TO WEAR ON BOARD

- ☐ The complimentary Quark 3-in-1 Parka provided on board is designed with a waterproof shell that can be worn out on deck, and a removable liner that you can wear to stay comfortable indoors)
- ☐ Comfortable casual clothing like lighter shirts, pants or jeans, etc. (in case the ship gets warm)
- ☐ Comfortable non-slip closed-toed, heelless shoes (flip flops, sandals or slip-on shoes should not be worn on board due to safety concerns)
- ☐ Workout attire (for the fitness center and other indoor activities)
- ☐ Swimsuit for the Polar Plunge. Some vessels may also have a pool, hot tub, sauna and/or steam room. See your ship book for details.

Just a reminder: No formal evening wear required on our voyages but if you would like to bring something a little more dressy for the Captain's welcome and farewell cocktails you may certainly do so.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Passport, visas, immunization records, travel documents, etc. as required
- ☐ Camera gear—complete with charger, storage medium, transport and cleaning kit (lens cloth etc.) and extra batteries
- ☐ Reusable waterproof bags or plastic bags with zippers (to keep small items organized and cameras dry)
- ☐ Voltage converters and plug adapters (see ship book for details)
- ☐ Seasickness, indigestion, headache, or other medications
- ☐ Earplugs and eye masks for sleeping
- ☐ Moisturizer for face and hands (skin dryness due to wind and temperature changes)
- ☐ Credit card and small amount of local currency (see pre-departure book for more details)

- › To view our packing checklist online, visit: QuarkExpeditions.com/What-to-Pack/Arctic
- › Related topics are covered on our Frequently Asked Questions page: QuarkExpeditions.com/Frequently-Asked-Questions



Scan this QR code or [click here](#) to watch our video on what to pack before you go.

WEATHER CONDITIONS & TEMPERATURES

Polar weather is extremely variable; temperatures may hover around the freezing mark and winds can be strong. The extended daylight warms sheltered areas so that you may sometimes find it warm enough for t-shirts. However, you may encounter rain, snow squalls, fog and white-outs during an expedition and should be ready for any conditions.



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TO BOOK YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

Contact your Travel Professional
or a Quark Expeditions® Polar Travel Adviser

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Photos captured with a telephoto lens from a responsible distance, following regulatory/AECO guidelines.

PHOTO CREDITS: *(over all Expedition Brochures for the Arctic 2026 season):*

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