

Greenland to Newfoundland

Mountains, Wildlife and Viking History

Onboard Ocean Explorer



Expedition Overview



From Greenland's Ice to Newfoundland's Shores

Our 14-day **Greenland to Newfoundland: Mountains, Wildlife and Viking History** starts with a charter flight from Reykjavik, Iceland, to your embarkation port in Kangerlussuaq, West Greenland. Within a few days we'll cross the Davis Strait to Nunavut, then south to Labrador, and ultimately to St. John's, Newfoundland. This itinerary allows guests to immerse themselves in a cross-section of Greenlandic, Inuit and Nunatsiavut cultural traditions—including the welcoming East Coast hospitality of St. John's, famously steeped in Celtic music. You'll even get to enjoy a Down East Kitchen Party.

- Experience both Arctic and boreal environments
- Witness countless icebergs at Ilulissat
- Visit the Viking ruins at l'Anse aux Meadows
- Explore wild Torngat Mountains National Park
- Experience northern Indigenous cultures in Greenland and Labrador
- End your voyage in St. John's, Newfoundland, one of the oldest cities in North America.

Day by Day Itinerary



— Onboard *Ocean Explorer*
- - - Flight from Reykjavik

Day 1 Arrive in Iceland

Upon arrival at Keflavik International Airport (outside Reykjavik), make your way to the group hotel, included in the Charter Flight & Hotel Package. You will have the rest of the day to explore fascinating Reykjavik, known for its Norse history and stunning architecture. Make sure you allow for a one-hour transfer (by taxi or public transit) from the Keflavik hotel and airport area to Reykjavik city centre.

Day 2 Fly to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland and Embark on Ocean Explorer

This morning you'll catch your charter flight to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, where you'll board your vessel and begin your expedition. Get ready for great adventures ahead. Expect a welcome and safety briefing from your Expedition Leader.

Greenland to Newfoundland Mountains, Wildlife and Viking History

Day 3

Explore Sisimiut

Today we'll explore in the Qeqqata Municipality on the west coast of Greenland along the Davis Strait. You will have time to wander through the historic town of Sisimiut, where several 18th-century colonial buildings still stand, one of which is Bethel Church. Just look for the striking blue-and-red wooden place of worship. Today's activities also include a demonstration of the traditional art of kayak making. Experiencing a cultural resurgence, the kayak is a symbol of Greenland and can be traced back over 4,000 years to the Inuit, who used the vessels for hunting and transportation. We also aim to team up with our local mountain-biking partners in Sisimiut, exploring trails that lead outside the town limits. (Limited spaces available; offered at an additional cost.)

Day 4

Illusissat: Iceberg Viewing at the UNESCO World Heritage site

Ilulissat, Greenlandic for icebergs, is one of the highlights of any journey along west Greenland. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004, Ilulissat Icefjord gives birth to countless icebergs. In fact, it's home to one of the most productive glaciers in the northern hemisphere, Sermeq Kujalleq (also known as Jakobshavn Glacier). A Zodiac excursion is a unique way to enjoy the spectacle of enormous bergs floating out to Disko Bay. We plan to Zodiac cruise ashore to visit the nearby town of Ilulissat, and from there we'll hike to the icefjord, where you can view this incredible parade of icebergs from the rocky shore.

Expect to see a lot of dogs while you're in town. There was a time when sled dogs actually outnumbered citizens in Ilulissat, which, unsurprisingly, is the birthplace of the first European to traverse the Northwest Passage by dogsled, explorer Knud Rasmussen. If time allows, you can visit a local museum dedicated to his memory.

Day 5

At Sea: Crossing the Davis Strait

As your ship navigates across the Davis Strait, onboard polar experts will present on a variety of topics such as glaciology, history and wildlife. You may even get a taste of the traditional music of Newfoundland and Labrador and learn about the origins of the famous kitchen party tradition (see page 6).

Day 6

Pangnirtung: Stronghold of Inuit Culture

Today is our first day exploring the Canadian Arctic as we arrive in Nunavut, Canada's youngest territory. Nunavut, which means "our land" in the Inuktitut language, stretches north of the Arctic Circle and covers over 1.8 million square kilometers (695,000 square miles), and is considered the homeland of the Inuit in Canada. Guests will get to spend time in Pangnirtung, located at the mouth of Pangnirtung Fjord, which merges with Cumberland Sound. It's a stronghold of the Inuit community, and an ideal place to learn about Inuit culture while admiring finely crafted traditional art, especially the textiles. You may want to purchase a famous Pang toque, a must-have knit cap for anyone visiting the community.

Greenland to Newfoundland Mountains, Wildlife and Viking History

Day 7

Monumental Island: Ice, Wildlife and History

Located just off the southeast shore of Baffin Island, Monumental Island—Oomienwa in Inuktitut—was named by Arctic explorer Charles Francis Hall in tribute to Sir John Franklin, who vanished searching for the Northwest Passage. Like the adjacent lands, the island is barren, rocky, and windblown. Yet, positioned at a confluence of currents, it hosts prolific numbers of black guillemots in peak summer, nesting, incubating, and fledging. Monumental is also known for massive walrus with impressive tusks, often seen in groups at haul-outs. If the wind is right, you'll smell them before you see them. Shoals here capture massive icebergs drifting south, and Zodiac cruising on the edge of Davis Strait—linking Baffin Bay to the Labrador Sea—is unforgettable.

Day 8 & 9

Torngat Mountain National Park: Exploring the Boreal Wilderness

Torngat Mountains National Park will leave you awestruck. Within the 10,000 square-kilometer (3,861 square mile) national park, established in 2008, are Canada's highest mountains east of the venerable Rockies. The park is a wilderness landscape painting brought to life: breathtaking fjords, dramatic glacial formations, stunning landscapes, boreal woodlands and wildlife.

For students of Indigenous history, Torngat Mountain National Park is especially meaningful: the park is located at the northern edge of semi-autonomous Nunatsiavut territory, which was recognized as the homeland of the Labrador Inuit in 2005, operating under its own constitution and administration. In fact, these lands have been home to the Nunatsiavut and their predecessors for over 7,500 years. We are honored to explore this majestic wilderness territory with you. Torngat, in Inuktitut, means "place of the spirits," which reflects the spiritual significance of the region to the Inuit communities. As a national park, this wilderness domain offers protection to boreal woodland caribou, black bears, Labrador wolves, red and Arctic foxes, polar bears, and peregrine falcons, among other species. You will have opportunities to explore this national wilderness area during Zodiac and kayaking excursions, as well as guided hikes

Day 10

Nain, Nunatsiavut: Home of the Labrador Inuit

Nain, which has a population of approximately 1,200, is the administrative capital of Nunatsiavut, the semi-autonomous region in northern Labrador claimed by the Inuit. Visitors can learn about Labrador Inuit heritage through interactive exhibits, artwork, and cultural programs at the very modern-looking Illusuak Cultural Centre. Then, to learn about the other cultural group that influenced the region, stroll through town to discover the historic Moravian Mission complex, established in 1771. The white-painted church and mission house bear witness to centuries of cultural exchanges between the Inuit and European missionaries. You'll have time to engage with friendly locals to hear stories passed down through the generations, and sample traditional foods like arctic char and cloudberries. There will be a guided hike to take in breathtaking vistas of the surrounding mountains and sea.

Day 11

At Sea: the Labrador Coast

As our ship heads south, enjoy the views of the Labrador coast. While at sea for the day, join expedition staff out on deck as they look for whales and birdlife. This is also your chance to relax with a glass of wine or hot tea and simply take in the wondrous beauty around you.

Greenland to Newfoundland Mountains, Wildlife and Viking History

Day 12

L'Anse aux Meadows: Vikings in North America

Consider the wooden longboats that transported the Vikings an incredible 2,180 kilometers (842 square miles) from Greenland to Newfoundland in 1000 AD. Today, you're going to visit the archeological remains at the place they landed in their hand-hewn vessels. L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site (also a recognized UNESCO World Heritage Site) is the only confirmed Norse or Viking settlement in North America. Join a guided tour to see where Norseman Leif Erikson, son of Erik the Red, is believed to have founded "Vinland" (the East Coast area including what would later be known as Newfoundland) around 1000 AD. Explore the reconstructed sod huts and Norse ruins throughout the historic site—proof that Vikings discovered North America 500 years before Christopher Columbus' much-chronicled arrival.

Day 13

At Sea

Your final at-sea day is a great opportunity for you to ask any lingering questions you have for our team of onboard experts, attend one last presentation, or relax.

Day 14

Disembark in St. John's, Newfoundland

Your ship arrives at the pier in St. John's for a morning disembarkation. After breakfast, you may make your way to St. John's International Airport to connect with your onward flight, or stay longer if you have booked additional accommodation.

Down East Kitchen Party

Just as our on-board experts will chronicle the histories of the diverse places we visit on this 14-day journey, we'll also highlight a popular music tradition of Newfoundland, our final stop. With performances by talented musicians from Atlantic Canada, guests will enjoy Down East Kitchen Party entertainment on most nights of the voyage. Expect lively music— and a rollicking good time.

Arrival & Departure Details



* Arrive at the hotel on Day 1 by 3pm or earlier. Day 1 includes a mandatory briefing.
 International flights are not included in the cost of the voyage.



Day 1 Arrival in Iceland

- Arrive at the airport and check in to your hotel
- Explore Reykjavik—from geothermal baths to Viking history

Upon arrival at Keflavik International Airport (outside Reykjavik), make your way to the group hotel, included in the Charter Flight & Hotel Package. You will have the rest of the day to explore fascinating Reykjavik. Make sure you allow for a one-hour transfer (by taxi or public transit) from the Keflavik hotel and airport area to Reykjavik city center.



Day 2 Fly To Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, and Embark

- Fly to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, and board your ship

This morning you'll catch your charter flight to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, where you'll board your vessel and begin your expedition. Get ready for great adventures ahead. Expect a welcome and safety briefing from your Expedition Leader.



Final Day Disembark in St. John's, Newfoundland

- Disembark after breakfast
- Head to the airport or stay longer to explore one of Canada's oldest cities

Your ship arrives at the pier in St. John's for a morning disembarkation. After breakfast, you may make your way to St. John's International Airport to connect with your onward flight, or stay longer if you have booked additional accommodation.

Greenland to Newfoundland Mountains, Wildlife and Viking History

Airport Transfers

Arrival and departure transfers are not included in either Reykjavik or St. John's. If you require a transfer, you will need to arrange your own transportation. Most airports we travel in and out of have reliable taxi ranks in the arrivals area, or you can often prebook a transfer online.

Luggage Restrictions

- Travel with one checked bag and one carry-on bag only.

This expedition includes charter flights. Your package includes one checked bag and one carry-on bag. Luggage weight restrictions on these flights are typically lower than those on international carriers. There is no option to pay for additional luggage. Specific weight limits will be confirmed in your final travel documents.



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



Book Your Next Adventure

Contact your travel professional or a Quark Expeditions Polar Travel Advisor.

Toll free and local numbers:

North America
(Toll Free) 1 888 332 0008

U.K.
Tel +44 203 514 2712
(Toll Free) 0 808 120 2333

Australia
Tel +61 2 72580333
(Toll Free) +61 1800 953518

France
Tel +33-1 80 14 01 05
(Toll Free) 08 05 08 66 46

Photo Credits: NewfoundlandAndLabradorTourism; Acacia Johnson; David Merron; Nicky Souness; Samantha Crimmin; Sam Edmonds; Michelle Sole; Cindy Miller Hopkins; Gajan Balan; Jonas Fellenstein; Brad Flowerdew; Nicolas Singh; Adobe Stock.

Updated May 14, 2026

P O L A R

O B S E S S E D

S I N C E

1 9 9 1

 Quark
Expeditions®