

South Greenland Alpine Exploration by Helicopter

Onboard Ultramarine



Expedition Overview

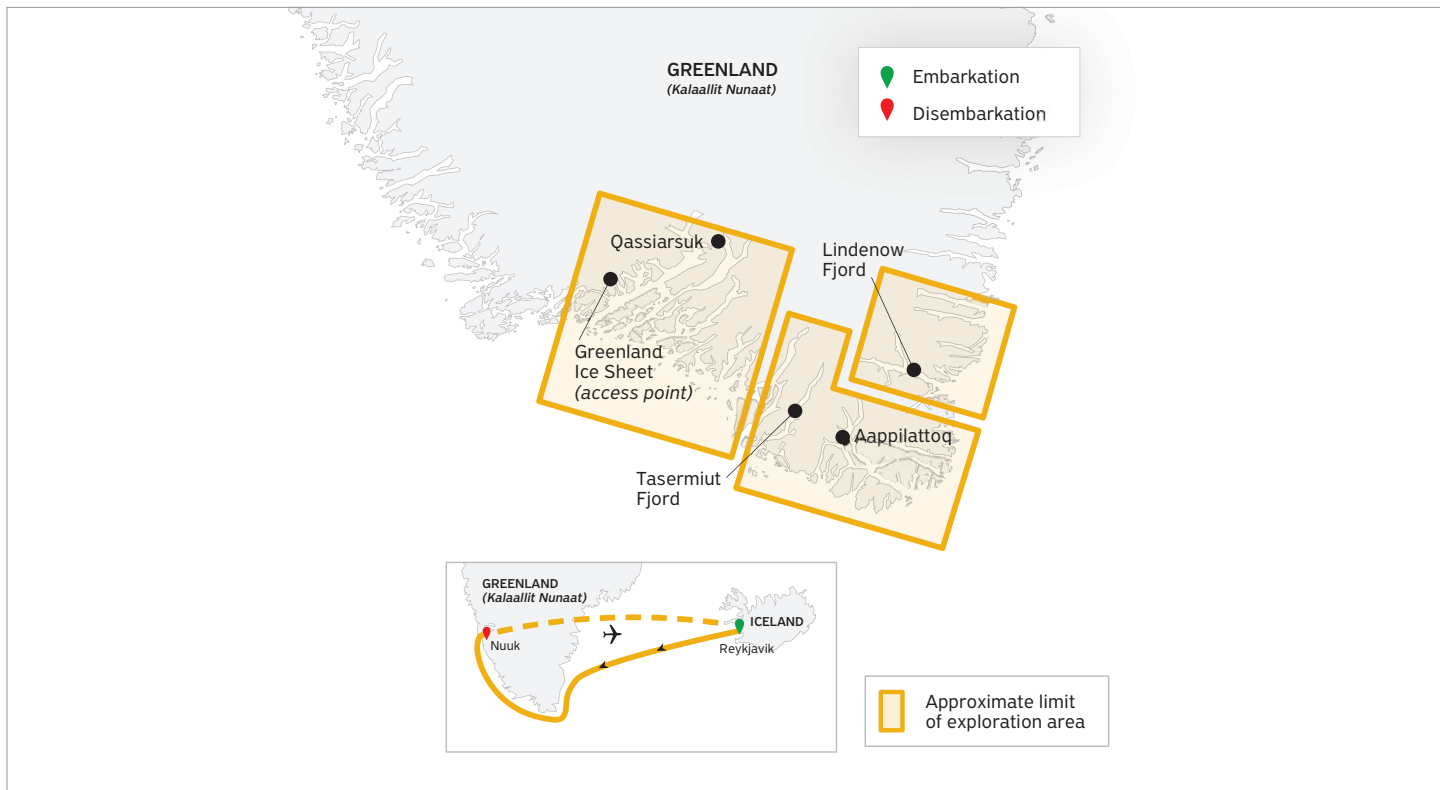


Into the Greenland High Arctic by Helicopter

Experience the rare thrill of landing on the massive Greenland ice sheet—an exclusive highlight of our 15-day **South Greenland: Alpine Exploration by Helicopter** itinerary. This activity-packed voyage is perfect for travelers who love spending time off-ship, hiking, cruising by Zodiac, visiting local communities, camping, kayaking icy waters, and soaring above fjords and mountaintops in one of our twin-engine helicopters. Suited to guests of all fitness levels, you can choose how adventurous you want to be or enjoy a slower pace on board—relaxing in the spa and gym, unwinding in spacious common areas, or indulging in our Tundra to Table culinary experience.

- Soar above the Greenland Ice Sheet
- Choose from unique off ship adventures, including helicopter landings and Tasermiut Fjord camping
- Discover Greenlandic culture with local partners
- Explore the Kujataa UNESCO World Heritage Site, where Inuit and Viking cultures meet

Day by Day Itinerary



— Onboard *Ultramarine*
- - - Flights to Reykjavik

Day 1

Arrive in Reykjavik, Iceland

Arrive in Reykjavik and transfer independently to your hotel, which is included in the Charter Flight & Hotel Package. Depending on your arrival time, you may wish to explore sites of the fascinating capital, which is known for its mix of modern architecture and Viking heritage. At 64°08' north, Reykjavik is the world's northernmost capital of an independent sovereign state.

Day 2

Embarkation in Reykjavik

On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel, transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin. Ship embarkation will usually occur around 4 p.m. You and your shipmates will meet in the lobby of the hotel and board the waiting buses for transfer to the ship. Information about transfer timing will be posted in your Reykjavik hotel.

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Days 3 & 4

At Sea

As we cruise north across Denmark Strait, with views of Greenland in the distance, your Expedition Team will prepare you for the adventures ahead. Our polar presentations are an excellent way to learn about the storied history of the Arctic, its fascinating wildlife, geology, glaciology, ecology, and climate, and the incredible sights that await you.

The team will also help you search for seabirds soaring around your ship, as well as whales that frequent the surrounding waters.

Days 5 & 6

Illusissat: Iceberg viewing at the UNESCO World Heritage site

As we arrive in Greenland, towering fjords and hanging glaciers grab our attention, marking our first encounter with the remote east coast. This uninhabited region offers excellent opportunities for wildlife sightings, including humpback whales and the occasional polar bear. Depending on conditions, you may explore this ice-shaped landscape by sea, land, and air—through Zodiac cruising, hiking, paddling, and heli-landings.

Look forward to exploring the fjords of Greenland's east coast, including Lindenow Fjord (Kangerlussuaq). Thousands of years ago, Paleo-Inuit hunters and fishermen lived in these isolated landscapes, sustained by the sea long before European explorers and mass settlements. Traces of their presence remain today, set against cascading glaciers and steep mountains.

The fjords are where you can observe plenty of wildlife, especially marine mammals. Rare sightings of polar bears are also possible as they drift down from the north on sea ice floes propelled by the East Greenland Current. Humpback whales are often sighted when entering fjords as the shallowing seas bring an upwelling of nutrients to the surface.

As we watch for wildlife, the alpine terrain invites exploration by sea, land, and air, offering a fully immersive experience of this remote icescape. Conditions permitting, activities may include heli-landings, hiking, paddling, Zodiac cruising, and shore landings.

Days 7–9

Arctic Patagonia

We'll transit through the scenic 105-kilometer-long Prins Christian Sund (Ikerasassuaq), and explore the dramatic fjords of South Greenland.

Our team plans a visit to the village of Aappilattoq, where you can experience local culture, music, and traditional foods. The journey continues to Tasermiut Fjord—a 70-kilometer, cliff-lined waterway known as “Arctic Patagonia”—where overnight camping and excursions unfold among glaciers and towering peaks.

The maze of fjords, sounds, islets, inlets, and skerries around Cape Farewell (Nunap Isua), Greenland's southernmost tip, has a distinct character. Transiting Prins Christian Sund (Ikerasassuaq)—one of the world's most scenic fjords—is unforgettable. Expect dramatic mountain and seascapes, with glaciers tumbling to the sea and striking views at every turn. This region is home to Southern Greenlanders living on the frontier, where migrating hunting peoples from the east eventually settled near European trading posts.

The few villages in this southern region are known for communities that remain closely tied to hunting and fishing traditions. We hope to visit Aappilattoq, a close-knit Greenlandic Inuit community on the shores of Prins Christian Sund, where you'll meet local partners and residents. Guests may have the opportunity to hear stories and music, sample traditional foods, learn about hunting practices, and perhaps even join a friendly game of soccer.

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Your time in Arctic Patagonia will allow you to marvel at the impressive glacier at its head, with rivers of ice tumbling toward the sea, and the imposing peaks of Nalumasortoq and Ulamertorsuaq that dominate the skyline, making for the most scenic backdrops to your hike or helicopter excursion.

Days 10 – 12 Westlands & the Greenland Ice Sheet

Following in the footsteps of the Greenlandic Norse into the western fjords, it's easy to see why Erik the Red chose this land and gave Greenland its name. In every direction, blue, ice-strewn waters meet lush valleys and blooming pastures. Warm microclimates deep within the fjords—rare across the Arctic—create surprisingly fertile landscapes. Farming traditions dating back to Viking times continue today, with families tending remote sheep farms and producing seasonal crops along the shores.

This quiet, pastoral landscape is a sharp contrast to what comes next: the Greenland Ice Sheet.

With an average thickness of 1,673 meters (5,489 feet) and a maximum depth of over 3,488 meters (11,444 feet) at its thickest point, the Greenland Ice Sheet covers approximately 80% of the island. You will enjoy sweeping aerial views of the world's second-largest ice mass from your seat in one of our helicopters—and upon landing, experience something few others humans do: set foot on the Greenland Ice Sheet. Visitors often feel unprepared for the reality and scale of the Ice Sheet, where the absence of edges—as it stretches into the horizon—and the sheer physical presence of this ancient ice crackling underfoot transforms the abstract into something deeply tangible.

Tamassa, meaning “Come in everyone” or “You are welcome,” is a unique onboard cultural exchange—offered on the same day as the Ice Sheet Experience—led by South Greenlanders themselves. Moving naturally through shared spaces onboard Ultramarine, local Greenlanders connect with guests through conversation, stories, hands-on workshops, food tastings, and performances. Tamassa, in this instance, invites Greenlanders into our home, the ship.

You'll also explore Kujataa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that preserves a remarkable legacy of Norse and Inuit farming. We also hope to visit Qassiarsuk, a small settlement across the water from Narsarsuaq, where you can experience true South Greenland hospitality and gain insight into life at the edge of the Ice Sheet. Take time to visit the remains and reconstructions of Brattahlíð, Erik the Red's estate and once the heart of the Norse Eastern Settlement.

Day 13 At Sea

We'll head north along the spectacular west coast of Greenland on our way to Nuuk. As your Arctic adventure winds down, you can take in a polar presentation by our onboard experts, share your photos, sip an icy cocktail in the bar, or watch a movie. This is a great opportunity to ask members of the Expedition Team any remaining questions you have about any aspect of your voyage.

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Day 14

Disembarkation, Visit Nuuk,
Flight to Reykjavik

Upon arriving in Greenland's capital, enjoy one more Zodiac ride to shore for the group transfer to the airport to catch your charter flight to Reykjavik, Iceland. Upon arrival in Reykjavik, we will transfer you to your hotel. Both your hotel and charter flight are included in the Charter Flight & Hotel Package.

Day 15

Depart Reykjavik

After breakfast at your included hotel, make your way to Keflavik International Airport for your onward flight, or continue exploring Reykjavik at your leisure.

Arrival & Departure Details



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



Day 1

Arrive In Reykjavik, Iceland

- Free time to explore the sites of Reykjavik

You may arrive in Reykjavik at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary and make your way to the included hotel. Use your free time to independently explore this fascinating city known for its stunning modern architecture, contemporary music and Viking history.



Day 2

Embark in Reykjavik

- Luggage collected in lobby of hotel
- Embarkation at approximately 4 p.m.

On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel, transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin. Ship embarkation will occur on Day 2 of your itinerary, usually around 4 p.m. You and your shipmates will meet in the lobby of your hotel and board the waiting buses for transfer to the ship. Information about transfer timing will be posted in your Reykjavik Hotel Final Day and Departure document.



Disembarkation Day

- Disembark and charter flight to Reykjavik

Disembark in Nuuk, fly to Reykjavik

Upon arriving in Nuuk, there will be a group transfer to the airport to catch your charter flight to Reykjavik. Upon arrival in Reykjavik, we will transfer you to your included post-expedition hotel.



Final Day

Departure from Reykjavik

- Make your way independently to the airport

Depart Reykjavik

After your included breakfast, you may make your way to the airport to connect with your homeward flight, or stay longer if you have booked additional accommodation.

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Airport Transfers

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

Luggage Restrictions

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

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