

Southeast to West Greenland Glaciers, Fjords and Viking History

Onboard Ocean Explorer



Expedition Overview



Three Coasts of Greenland—All in One Voyage

On our 15-day **Southeast to West Greenland: Glaciers, Fjords and Viking History**, guests can explore East, South and West Greenland in a single expedition, following a rarely traveled route along the southeast coast, around the greener southern tip, and briefly onward to the glacier-carved west. The voyage reveals Norse ruins, Greenlandic coastal communities, and two UNESCO World Heritage sites, set against a backdrop of deep fjords, ice-choked bays, steep mountains, and valleys that burst into color during Greenland's brief Arctic summer.

- Explore West, South and East Greenland in a single voyage
- Visit two UNESCO sites: Ilulissat Icefjord and Kujataa
- Meet locals and experience Inuit settlements
- Zodiac cruise among towering icebergs and tidewater glaciers
- Immerse yourself in the icy realm of the Arctic with optional kayaking

Day by Day Itinerary



— Onboard *Ocean Explorer*
- - - Flight from Nuuk 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.

Day 3 Sailing the Denmark Strait

As we sail across the Denmark Strait, your Expedition Team will teach you about the wildlife and enthralling history of Greenland, its fascinating geology, ecology and climate, and the incredible sights you will soon explore. Staff will also keep watch for the seabirds you'll likely see soaring around your ship, as well as the whales that can be encountered here.

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Days 4 & 5

Exploring East Greenland

Your exploration of Greenland begins with South East Greenland, one of the least visited and most remote parts of the island. Your days sailing along the coast will be guided by weather and ice conditions, with each day and each excursion presenting new adventures. The region is a sight to behold, boasting a mesmerizing maze of vast glaciers, steep mountains and breathtaking fjords.

One location we hope to visit, conditions permitting, is Skjoldungen Fjord (Saqqisikuik), where you'll cruise between steep mountains to view glaciers. The narrow reaches offer an ideal setting to launch our Zodiacs for a closer, more immersive exploration. If conditions allow, you may also visit the site of an abandoned Inuit settlement, whose residents were relocated to larger, more accessible communities around 1961.

If you're feeling even more adventurous, perhaps you'll treat yourself to an optional paddling excursion (extra cost), an unforgettable opportunity to glide past icebergs and glaciers and capture some photographs from a unique perspective.

Another possible destination is Lindenow Fjord (Kangerlussuatsiaq), and if conditions are favorable, it's a great spot for hiking through lush and varied flora, surrounded by epic mountain vistas. This rarely visited deep fjord is fed by a number of glaciers and offers ample opportunities for your camera to get a workout.

Day 6 & 7

Exploring South Greenland

Sailing on, we'll explore Greenland's fertile southern coast. Nicknamed Arctic Patagonia, this region is as rich in spectacular scenery as it is in history and culture. Here, it's easy to see why Erik the Red gave Greenland its name: everywhere you look rewards you with vistas of icy waters set against a backdrop of soaring mountains and unbelievably lush, green valleys. Scattered around the shores of the fjord systems that dominate the area are several small settlements, both ancient and present day, making South Greenland an ideal place to explore.

Prins Christian Sund (Ikerasassuaq) is a mesmerizing maze of narrow fjords and winding channels—an exceptional place to explore by ship. You'll cruise through this dramatic sound, where calving glaciers, jagged mountains and sheer cliffs plunge into the water. Sailing through this fjord from the vantage point of your ship or a Zodiac is an exhilarating experience. If conditions allow, venturing ashore provides opportunities for all levels of hiking.

Steeped in Norse history, the southern coast of Greenland provides plenty of opportunities to learn about this ancient culture. One such landing we hope to make is at Hvalsey (Qaqortukuloq), the site of Greenland's largest and best-preserved Norse ruins. Exploring the remains of the circa 14th-century church will feel like stepping back in time, as the building appears much as it did when it was abandoned in the 15th century and the surrounding fells and fjord remain similarly untouched.

The little village of Igaliku, home to about 25 inhabitants, is Greenland's oldest sheep-farming settlement. It's a charming place to go ashore, as sheep peacefully graze on the grass, surrounded by bloom-covered rolling valleys and tall mountains. The area is also known for its storied past, as evidenced by the remarkable red sandstone ruins of the Gardar cathedral (the largest church in Greenland in the Middle Ages) and bishop's residence, which date back to the early 12th century, when Greenland's first bishop was appointed. Wandering the foundations, excavated in 1926, you'll get to see a bit of history firsthand as you learn about this interesting relic of the Viking period. Together with four other historic farming communities, Igaliku is part of the newly established UNESCO World Heritage Site Kujataa, which was established in 2017.

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Days 8–13

Exploring West Greenland

Boasting spectacular glaciers, mountainous landscapes, and vibrant communities, the west coast of Greenland will leave you awestruck. Heading north, each day we hope to take Zodiac excursions from the ship to explore local bays, channels and landing sites, discovering some of the quaint communities dotting the islands and fjords in the region and cruising in some of Greenland's most picturesque places.

The west coast is home to Nuuk, the charming Greenlandic capital. You'll have time to wander the streets of the historic Old Nuuk neighborhood and see the Hans Egede Church and Hans Egede statue near the waterfront, both named after the missionary who founded the settlement. History buffs will want to visit the national museum to view the famous Greenlandic mummies, found under a rock outcrop in 1972 by two brothers who were ptarmigan hunting.

Sisimiut is another interesting place to go ashore. You'll have time to wander the town's historic area, where several 18th-century colonial buildings still stand, including Greenland's oldest surviving church. Your expedition will also look to arrange a traditional kayak demonstration. 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 transport.

Another beautiful locale, and one of west Greenland's highlights is the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home to the world's most productive glacier in the northern hemisphere, Jakobshavn Glacier or Sermeq Kujalleq in Greenlandic, this is a great place to enjoy a cruise through the icebergs for a unique perspective not afforded by land. Venturing ashore in the nearby town, Ilulissat (which means "iceberg"), rewards with its own spectacle: enormous bergs floating out to Disko Bay. A hike from the town to the icefjord will allow you to view this unforgettable river of ice from the rocky shore. Given that in the past, it has been known for having more sled dogs than people, it's not surprising that Ilulissat is the birthplace of the first European to traverse the Northwest Passage by dogsled, explorer Knud Rasmussen.

Surrounded by sea and mountains, the fishing community of Itilleq (meaning "crossing place") is situated in a scenic hollow on a small island, about a mile (2 km) above the Arctic Circle. Explore traditional wooden houses painted in a rainbow of colors, chat with the locals and join a customary football (soccer) match between visitors and residents, and you'll be experiencing Itilleq's famous friendly vibe in no time.

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

- Arrive in Reykjavik and check in to your hotel
- Explore Reykjavik on your own

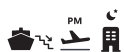
You may arrive in Reykjavik at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary and make your way to the included hotel. Use your free time to independently explore this fascinating city known for its stunning modern architecture, contemporary music and Viking history.



Day 2 Embark In Reykjavik

- Your luggage will be collected in the lobby in the morning
- Rendezvous back at the hotel for transfer to the ship around 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, 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 after breakfast
- You may have time to explore Nuuk
- Charter flight to Reykjavik, where you will spend the night

Disembark in Nuuk

Your voyage is scheduled to end in Nuuk where you will disembark after breakfast. Disembarkation takes about an hour, after which you may have time to explore Nuuk. Otherwise, you will be transferred to the airport for the return charter flight to Reykjavik. Upon arrival in Reykjavik, there will be a group transfer to your included post-expedition hotel.



Final Day

- Head to the airport independently the following day after breakfast
- 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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