

Ellesmere Island & North Greenland Cruise Itinerary

[Link: Ellesmere Island & North Greenland Cruise](#)

Tour Overview

At the edge of the map, where sea ice drifts beneath luminous skies, lies a place where natural beauty and human history converge. On Ellesmere Island and North Greenland: Journey to the Top of the World, you'll travel farther north than on any other Adventure Canada voyage.

Here, at the southern entry to the polar sea, Kane Basin, Smith Sound, and the Nares Strait unfold in a world of drifting ice and layered histories. Beginning in Qausuittuq (Resolute), sail through Tallurutiup Imanga, a thriving Arctic sanctuary where whales and seabirds flourish. Cross into Greenland to visit the Inughuit community of Qaanaaq, navigate the powerful channels between Greenland and Ellesmere Island, and step ashore on Tartupaluk (Hans Island)—a place of shared care and enduring Inuit connection.

Along the way, walk the sweeping tundra of Devon Island, reflect at Beechey Island, and experience the stillness of landscapes few have ever witnessed. For the curious traveller, this is a rare opportunity to experience the High Arctic where geography, culture, and story meet, revealing the heart of the North—profound, humbling, and alive.

Itinerary

Day 1: Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU



Beneath the lingering glow of the Arctic summer sun, Qausuittuq, “the place with no dawn,” welcomes you to the High Arctic. Set amid gravel flats and rolling moraine, this community carries stories of adaptation and renewal, from relocation in 1953 to its role today as a gateway for Arctic research and travel. Take time to orient yourself to the land and its stories before embarking aboard the Ocean Nova. The North awaits.

Days 2-3: Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound)



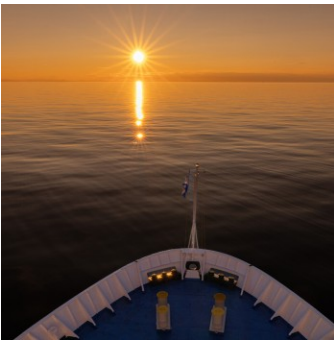
Enter Tallurutiup Imanga, a thriving marine sanctuary where whales, walrus, seals, and seabirds gather among towering cliffs, deep fjords, and endless horizons. Step ashore on Devon Island, where glaciers meet the sea and archaeological traces reflect centuries of Inuit use and knowledge of this land.

Day 4: Qaanaaq, Greenland



Set against a backdrop of mountains and drifting sea ice, Qaanaaq is one of the world's northernmost towns and a centre of Inughuit culture. Here, ancient skills and modern life flow together in rhythm with the sea ice. Traditions such as dog-sledding and hunting remain vital parts of community identity, reflecting deep connections to place. Meeting the people of Qaanaaq offers a glimpse of extraordinary adaptation and continuity—life shaped, still, by ice, animals, and seasons.

Days 5-6: Kane Basin



Sail into Kane Basin, where the shores of Ellesmere Island and Greenland almost meet. Towering glaciers, drifting sea ice, and Arctic light set the stage for an unforgettable journey through one of the North's most dramatic waterways. For generations, Inuit navigated these passages with exceptional skill, later followed by explorers heading toward the Pole. Over these two days, you'll feel the spirit of exploration alive in the shifting light and every drifting floe.

Day 7: Tartupaluk (Hans Island)



Set foot on Tartupaluk—a place few will ever visit. Perched in the middle of the Nares Strait between Canada and Greenland, this small, rocky island has long been a crossroads for Inuit, who travelled these waters freely for generations. In modern times, it became the focus of a good-natured yet symbolically potent territorial dispute between Canada and Denmark. In 2022, a historic agreement resolved the issue, establishing shared stewardship between Canada and Greenland and affirming Inuit mobility rights. Standing on Tartupaluk, with Greenland to one side and Canada to the other, you'll feel the quiet power of shared care for the North—and the enduring movement of Inuit across these waters.

Days 8-9: Smith Sound

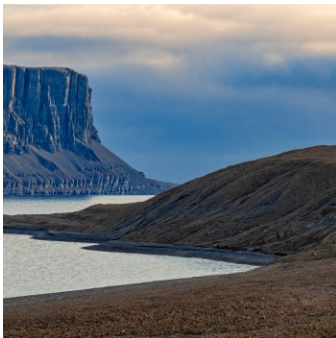
Venture through Smith Sound, the dramatic channel linking Kane Basin to Baffin Bay and the southern entrance to Sarvarjuaq/Pikialasorsuaq (The North Water Polynya) — “The Great Upwelling.” Surrounded by shifting sea ice, this vast recurring area of open water is the largest Arctic polynya and the most biologically productive region north of the Arctic Circle. Its nutrient-rich waters breathe life into the Arctic, drawing whales, seabirds, and seals.

Day 10: Ajuittuq (Grise Fjord), NU



Set amid stark mountains and sweeping tundra, Ajuittuq, “the place that never thaws”, is Canada’s northernmost community. Here, stories of relocation and adaptation shape daily life. Walking with local hosts, you’ll hear how knowledge of land, sea, and seasons continues to sustain the community—a living testament to strength and ingenuity at the top of the world.

Day 11: Devon Island



Vast and elemental, Devon Island reveals a world shaped by ice and time. Here, broad valleys and exposed rock tell of ancient forces, while bursts of Arctic wildflowers bring unexpected colour to the tundra. Along the shore, traces of Inuit presence remind us that even in the quietest landscapes, human stories endure. Immense views, striking geological formations, and profound silence combine to make this one of the most atmospheric stops of the journey.

Day 12: Beechey Island



Come ashore on Beechey Island, where Arctic history feels close and tangible. This windswept National Historic Site holds the graves of three Franklin expedition members and another who died in the search that followed. Here, Inuit knowledge has been essential in revealing the fate of the lost ships. Along the shoreline, the stark landscape invites reflection on the intertwined narratives of exploration, survival, and knowledge that still shape our relationship with the North.

Day 13: Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU,

Disembark in Qausuittuq and board your charter flight to Ottawa. As the Arctic stretches out beneath you, reflect on the light, stories, and relationships that have shaped this journey—connections that continue long after the voyage ends.

What to Expect

Our small ship cruising programs allow you to experience the best of the natural world, while enjoying the comforts of our friendly floating hotel. The ship generally makes crossing between islands at night, so every morning you awake to new vistas and discoveries. Every day we offer a combination of interesting shore excursions and fun shipboard activities. You can choose which elements of the program you want to participate in.

This is a general natural history and cultural expedition rather than a dedicated birding tour. Travellers can look forward to a mix of wildlife viewing, cultural experiences, and time to appreciate the region's incredible scenery — with opportunities for birding included along the way.

This expedition cruise necessitates passengers to be in reasonably good health. Zodiac cruises and transfer times can be lengthy. You must be able to climb stairs between decks on the ship, as well as the external gangway stairs to transfer between the zodiac and ship.

Some of our shore landings will be 'wet', requiring waterproof boots. Once you have left the zodiac, you'll find our shore excursions accommodate both those who wish to enjoy a gentle stroll and those who prefer more active hikes. The excursion may involve walking over uneven or sandy terrain in variable weather conditions. Our onboard specialists will join us on these shore excursions to provide interpretation and narration to these wonderful landscapes and experiences.

Each evening we will gather in the lounge to recount the day's events and share memorable stories. Our onboard musician will provide some lively entertainment during happy hour and the expedition leader will outline the following day's schedule. Our resource staff of naturalists, historians, and other guest speakers will give informative talks at various times throughout the voyage.

Meals in the ship's dining room are a great opportunity to meet new friends and recount the day's adventures. Special diets can be accommodated with advance notice. Safety is also a top priority with Eagle-Eye Tours - our team has extensive experience in the field, and all of our Voyages are run in conjunction with operators with the highest safety standards.

When the ship is underway, it is a wonderful time to join a naturalist on deck, take photos of the stunning scenery, or get caught up on some reading in the library.

Weather, ice, government regulations, and community requests may necessitate changes to the planned itineraries and/or the cancellation of certain shore excursions and enhancements. Published itineraries are examples only and we reserve the right to change or modify the itinerary and landing sites at any time prior or during an expedition. Changes will be communicated at your expedition orientation or during your onboard expedition briefings.

We know that everyone travels for different reasons. Over the years, however, we have found one common element among the guest who choose to travel with us - a thirst of knowledge and authentic experience. Knowing this drives us to ensure the highest quality learning experience on our trips, by taking time to carefully design each trip we offer.

What's Included

Tour Price Includes

- Passage aboard the Ocean Nova
- 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
- All shipboard meals
- Wi-Fi access (basic service included)

Tour Price Does Not Include

- Commercial and charter flights
 - Program enhancements/optional excursions
 - Gratuities
 - Personal expenses
 - Mandatory medical evacuation insurance
 - Additional expenses in the event of delays or itinerary changes
 - Possible fuel surcharges and administrative fees
 - Pre- and post-trip hotel accommodation
 - Premium internet access available at an additional cost
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