

Heart of the Arctic Cruise Itinerary

[Link: Heart of the Arctic Cruise](#)

Tour Overview

South Greenland's stunning coast. The communities of south Baffin. The islands of Ungava Bay. People, wildlife and landscape are the true Heart of the Arctic!

Visit three distinct Arctic regions on this voyage. Explore the deep fjords and vibrant communities of Greenland, including the world's smallest capital, Nuuk. Cross the Davis Strait in the wake of the explorers, searching for marine life and seabirds.

South Baffin Island's Inuit art-making communities are famous throughout the world. Meet the artists. Pick up a carving, a print, or a tapestry. Nunavik, the Arctic coast of Quebec, offers outstanding archeology and wildlife.

Plentiful sea ice means great opportunities for wildlife viewing from the ship or board a Zodiac—or board a Zodiac to seek whales, bears, and caribou. Keep your binoculars ready for thick-billed murre, guillemots, dovekies, and more.

Itinerary

Day 1: Kangerlussuaq, Greenland



Begin your journey by sailing out of Kangerlussuaq Fjord (Søndre Strømfjord), a 190-kilometre-long fjord surrounded by mountains and glaciers. Cross the Arctic Circle on your way and spend time on deck watching for aurora borealis. Kangerlussuaq, the settlement at the head of the fjord, is a former US Air Force base. After your charter flight from Toronto, ON, you'll transfer to the ship by Zodiac.

Day 2: Kangerlussuaq Fjord (Evighedsfjorden)



Kangerlussuaq means “the rather big fjord” in Greenlandic, while the Danish name Evighedsfjorden translates to “the fjord of eternity,” underscoring its vastness and seemingly never-ending nature. See why Kangerlussuaq Fjord lives up to its name and marvel at this complex coastal waterway that includes calving glaciers, sheer bird cliffs, and streams cascading against a towering mountain backdrop. Explore this sublime glacial landscape by ship and by Zodiac. The waters here are relatively warm, due to the West Greenland Current and the subarctic location.

Day 3: Nuuk



Enjoy the chance to explore Nuuk, the capital of Greenland and the world’s northernmost capital! Nuuk, meaning, “the headland,” sits at the mouth of a gigantic fjord system. Established as the first Greenlandic town in 1728, Nuuk remains the bustling centre of the country today. While here, we may catch sight of humpback whales in the fjord, reindeer roaming the land, and birds soaring overhead. The town itself is home to the University of Greenland, a cathedral dating back to 1849, and Greenland’s National Museum. We’ll enjoy a guided orientation of this bustling metropolis and the opportunity to visit the National Museum where the world-famous Qilakitsoq mummies rest. You’ll also have time to explore the city at your own leisure.

Day 4: At Sea — Davis Strait



Deepen your understanding of the environment, cultures, and history of the region as we sail across the Davis Strait towards Canada. Get the privileged opportunity to engage with and learn from Inuit in their homeland. Enjoy workshops and presentations, watch a documentary, and get out on deck! Try your hand at athletic feats during an interactive cultural performance of Inuit games. Through shared experiences and interactions, develop a deep appreciation for the culture and gain a connection to the stunning landscapes we traverse. Keep your binoculars ready to spot whales and seabirds who follow in our wake.

Day 5-6: Ungava Bay



Pay a visit to uninhabited Akpatok Island, the biggest island in Ungava Bay at over nine hundred square kilometres. It’s named for the akpait (thick-billed murres) that nest on ledges of the lofty cliffs and is home to Canada’s largest colony of breeding pairs. Take a Zodiac cruise to scout the shorelines and any outlying ice, keeping your eyes peeled for polar bears, walrus, and other marine life. Large and shallow, Ungava Bay is a rich ecosystem and home to a variety of wildlife, including an endangered beluga population.

Day 7: Ungava Peninsula, QC



Explore an area of treeless tundra along the Ungava Peninsula of Nunavik. Delve into its geological wonders, immerse yourself in its rich flora and fauna, and connect with Inuit cultural educators who will guide you through their homeland, leaving a lasting impression. Enjoy great hiking and a Zodiac cruise with our expedition team, who will provide insightful interpretation every step of the way. As you explore this magnificent landscape, keep an eye out for wildlife and listen to Inuit stories that will deepen your connection to the land, leaving you with a lasting sense of fulfillment and renewed appreciation for nature's wonders.

Day 8: Salluit

Journey to Salluit, the second northernmost community in Nunavik. With a population of approximately 1,500, this vibrant community offers a unique chance to connect with Inuit culture in the heart of the Canadian Arctic. Explore local craftsmanship with the opportunity to purchase community-made products such as carvings, jewelry, mittens, and more. Experience the warm hospitality of the locals as we gather in the community hall, where you'll learn traditions and contemporary ways of life. Take in the stunning surroundings with a scenic hike, exploring the rugged terrain and gaining a deeper understanding of the land and its people.

Day 9: Kinngait (Cape Dorset)



Meet the artists and visit the studios that make Kinngait proud—plus, have the opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind pieces of art! Have a chance to talk with the old and new generations of outstanding artists, carvers, and printmakers who continue to make Kinngait a proud centre for fine art. Kinngait was ground zero for the Inuit art market when, in 1959, the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative was established—the oldest professional Inuit printmaking studio in Canada.

Day 10-11: Hudson Strait



Join the expedition team out on deck while navigating the icy, fast-moving waters of the Hudson Strait. Search for breathtaking Arctic wildlife—polar bears, walruses, whales, seals, and seabirds—to capture the perfect photograph. Enjoy hearing from Inuit about the region's wildlife and stunning landscapes as we seek the creatures that inhabit this area. We'll make the most of every opportunity to explore, whether on foot or by embarking on a Zodiac cruise, amidst breathtaking backdrops.

Day 12-13: Frobisher Bay

Sail through this beautiful bay named for bygone explorer Martin Frobisher and stay on the lookout for wildlife. Our geologists will have you raving about rocks! Expect compelling scenery and soak up the Arctic splendour.

Day 14: Iqaluit, NU, Canada

Transfer by Zodiac through Iqaluit harbour for your charter flight back home. Iqaluit, at the head of Frobisher Bay, is Nunavut's capital. A population of nearly 8,000 calls the city home. Local attractions include the territorial Legislature, igloo-inspired St. Jude's Cathedral, art shops, and more. As your journey comes to a close, carry with you the lasting impression of the Arctic's beauty and the richness of its cultures, forever etched in your memories.

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 days events and share memorable stories. Our onboard musician will provide some lively entertainment during happy hour and the expedition leader will outline the following days'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 Victory
- 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
- Complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks are served with dinner
- 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
 - Kayak program
 - Premium internet access available at an additional cost
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