

# High Arctic Expedition Cruise Itinerary

[Link: High Arctic Expedition Cruise](#)

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## Tour Overview

A century ago, A.Y. Jackson and Dr. Frederick Banting journeyed north aboard the *Beothic*, following supply routes along the coastlines of Greenland, Baffin Island, and Ellesmere Island. For both men—one a celebrated painter, the other a renowned scientist with an artist's heart—the Arctic's luminous skies, shifting ice, and sculpted landscapes proved transformative. Their sketches and canvases captured a vision of the North that would profoundly influence Canadian art and identity. In the years that followed, Lawren Harris made his own Arctic journeys, further cementing the North as a powerful muse for artists of the era.

This expedition invites you to experience those same northern environments—sailing through fjords where glaciers calve into silent waters and distant mountains gleam beneath the endless summer light. You'll stand in places that once stirred Banting, Jackson, and Harris, witnessing firsthand the light and scale that inspired a movement and shaped an enduring artistic legacy.

In partnership with the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, steward of the Group of Seven's legacy, this voyage contributes to new research into those early Arctic expeditions and their impact. On board, John Geoghegan, curator at the McMichael, will lead illustrated talks, field observations, and conversations that connect art, story, and place. Together, you'll explore how the North has shaped Canada's imagination—and how artists and travellers can engage it today with respect, curiosity, and care.

As you travel, you'll also meet Inuit artists and community members whose creative traditions have flourished here for millennia. Their voices reveal the Arctic not as a blank canvas but as a living homeland—where art and culture express deep, continuous relationships with land, sea, and light. Their perspectives enrich and expand the Group of Seven's legacy, grounding this journey in connection rather than commemoration.

Through this collaboration between Adventure Canada and the McMichael, the voyage becomes a shared exploration of how art, story, and stewardship intertwine in the North. To journey here is to join an ongoing dialogue between landscape and imagination, and to see the Arctic not as remote or discovered, but as radiant, inhabited, and profoundly alive.

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## Itinerary

## Day 1: Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU



Arrive by charter flight from Ottawa and step into Qausuittuq, set on gravel flats and moraine beneath the glow of continuous summer light. The community's history of relocation in 1953 intertwines with its present role as a hub for Arctic research and travel. As you prepare to embark aboard the Ocean Nova, take time to orient yourself to the stories and landscapes that shape this place.

## Day 2: Beechey Island



Come ashore on Beechey Island, where Arctic history feels near enough to touch. This windswept National Historic Site holds the graves of Franklin's men and echoes of Inuit knowledge that helped uncover their fate. Here, Inuit knowledge has been central to uncovering the fate of Franklin's lost ships, reshaping how this history is understood. As you walk the shoreline, the stark beauty invites reflection on exploration, endurance, and cultural memory—threads that still weave through this storied place.

## Days 3: Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound) & Devon Island



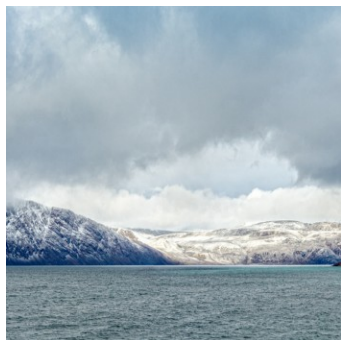
Sail through Tallurutiup Imanga, one of Canada's largest marine protected areas, alive with whales, seals, and seabirds. Beneath towering cliffs and drifting ice, the sea glimmers with shifting light. Step ashore on Devon Island, the world's largest uninhabited island, where glaciers meet the sea and tundra unfolds in broad, glacial valleys. Here, light and silence create their own compositions, inviting stillness, reflection, and a deep sense of the Arctic's living beauty.

## Day 4: Ajuittuq (Grise Fjord)



Set amid stark mountains and sweeping tundra, Ajuittuq, "the place that never thaws," is Canada's northernmost community. Here, residents share powerful stories of their families' 1953 relocation from northern Québec and Mittimatalik—stories of resilience and adaptation that continue to shape life here. Walking the tundra with local hosts, you'll learn how deep knowledge of land, sea, and season sustain this community of enduring strength, ingenuity, and culture that define life at the top of the world.

## Days 5: Ellesmere Island

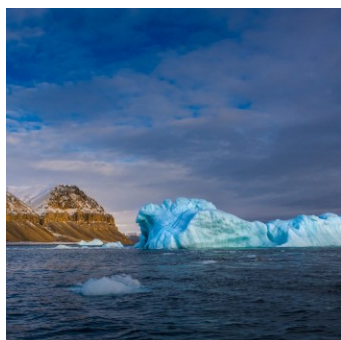


Explore the rugged coastline of Ellesmere, Canada's most northerly island. Towering mountains, vast ice caps, and deep fjords define this northern wilderness. The austere beauty recalls Lawren Harris's Arctic visions—landscapes of pure form and luminous stillness.

## Day 6: Kane Basin

Sail into Kane Basin, where Ellesmere Island and Greenland nearly meet. Glaciers tower, sea ice drifts, and the shifting Arctic light transforms every moment. For generations, Inuit navigated these passages with skill and insight—long before explorers heading toward the Pole followed in their wake.

## Day 7: Alexandria Fjord



Framed by steep glacial cliffs and mirrored waters, Alexandria Fjord reveals a softer side of the High Arctic. In late summer, tundra mosses and wildflowers lend muted colour to the valley beneath sheltering peaks. Here, the stillness feels sacred—as though the land itself was holding its breath.

## Day 8: 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, knowledge of the land, sea ice, and animals continues to shape daily life, alongside modern influences. Traditions such as dog-sledding and hunting remain vital to community identity, reflecting deep connections to place. Meeting residents offers a rare opportunity to experience a way of life defined by continuity, adaptation, and enduring northern relationships.

## Day 9: Kap York



Step ashore at Kap York, where meteorite fragments once provided iron for tools. You'll walk shores where geology, history, and human ingenuity intersect. Feel the stark forms and elemental contrasts of the landscape and recall the Group of Seven's Arctic canvases, where every line and shadow carried story and spirit.

## Day 10: At Sea



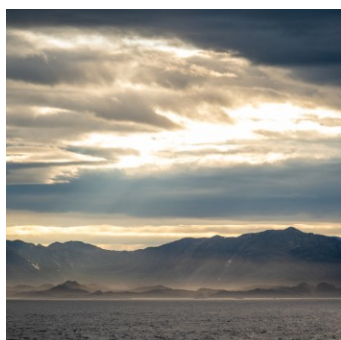
Spend a day at sea as the ship sails south along Greenland's rugged coast. Attend lectures, workshops, and cultural presentations that bring Arctic history, art, and ecology into sharper focus. From the deck, watch for whales surfacing among icebergs and seabirds soaring overhead, each fleeting moment a study in movement and light.

## Day 11: Upernavik



Nestled amongst a maze of islands, Upernavik is a town where past and present meet on the edge of the Arctic. Visit Greenland's oldest museum, founded in 1959, with exhibits housed in historic buildings that share stories of Inuit life and colonial history. This is also where a young Knud Rasmussen—later known for his Thule Expeditions—spent part of his youth learning the skills and traditions that shaped his future. As you wander among brightly painted houses and gaze over a sea strewn with ice, you'll feel how deeply place and story intertwine here.

## Day 12: West Greenland



Sail among towering glaciers and drifting bergs, each one a shifting sculpture in white and blue. Fjords echo with the sound of calving ice, and mountains rise sheer above waters crowded with floes. The scale and geometry here—immense, elemental, ever-changing—recall the stark forms the Group of Seven once sought to capture in paint.

### Day 13: Qeqertarsuaq



Visit Qeqertarsuaq on Disko Island, a place shaped by volcanic forces and known for striking geological contrasts. Black sand beaches meet basalt cliffs, while icebergs drift past offshore. Hike to a waterfall that cascades down from the high tundra plateau, carving bright paths through dark rock. The juxtapositions here—fiery geology against icy seas, flowing water against frozen forms—echo the Group of Seven’s fascination with elemental contrasts.

### Day 14: Sisimiut Coast



Cruise along the dramatic Sisimiut coast, where mountains rise sharply from the sea and small settlements cling to the shoreline. This region reflects Greenland’s seafaring traditions, with communities deeply tied to land and water. As you sail, the shifting light across jagged peaks creates endless new scenes—each one a masterpiece of Arctic colour and form.

### Day 15: Nuuk, Greenland



Your voyage concludes in Nuuk, Greenland’s vibrant capital. Explore its lively streets and visit museums that celebrate Inuit art and history. Here, traditional knowledge and modern life come together in creative conversation. Like the artists who once looked north for inspiration, you’ll return home with your vision reshaped by northern light and the enduring power of curiosity.

## 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.

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## 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

