Baffin Island and Greenland Explorer

EXPERIENCE TWO UNIQUE LOCATIONS IN THE ARCTIC ON THIS EXCITING JOURNEY

This outstanding voyage explores the stunning fjords and soaring peaks of Baffin Island before crossing the Davis Strait to witness the glaciated landscapes and colourful fishing villages of western Greenland.

We commence our expedition in Iqaluit and explore the south east corner of the Baffin island’s Monumental Island and the small hamlet of Pangnirtung. Throughout our journey we are constantly on the lookout for wildlife - including a variety of bird and marine life and of course, the icon of the North - the elusive polar bear who roams the ice floe edge. The Inuit communities of both Canada and Greenland are home to rich and unique cultures that have survived in this harsh landscape for centuries. Visits to these small towns and villages are a highlight for many and provide a fascinating glimpse into the daily life of the people who call this remote wilderness their home.

Every day we venture off the ship to explore in our zodiac boats, enjoy guided hikes to places of outstanding natural beauty, and observe and photograph the wildlife, landscape and the delicate Arctic flora. In Greenland, we experience the ice-choked Jacobshavn Iceford at Ilulissat – a natural wonder of the Arctic, visit several pretty Greenlandic towns and cruise along one of the longest fjords in the world – Sondre Stromfjord. One final highlight awaits - a visit to the very edge of the Greenland icecap - the second largest ice sheet on the planet, after Antarctica. We conclude in Kangerlussuaq where our Arctic adventure comes to an end.

Expedition Highlights

› Spectacular glacial landscapes and colourful Greenlandic villages
› Marvel at Ilulissat icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and wonder of the world
› Wildlife observation on shore, on zodiac cruises and from the ship
› Cultural interaction and understanding through visits to remote Inuit communities
**DAY 1 / OTTAWA TO IQALUIT, BAFFIN ISLAND**

We depart Ottawa this morning on our scheduled flight to Iqaluit, the provincial capital of Nunavut, situated on the south-eastern coast of Baffin Island. Upon arrival we enjoy a walking tour of this historic settlement before boarding our expedition ship, RCGS Resolute, in the afternoon. After settling into our cabins and exploring the ship, we meet our expedition team and fellow passengers. Excitement is in the air as we enjoy a welcome cocktail and cast off to explore one of the most remote regions on Earth.

**DAY 2 / MONUMENTAL ISLAND, FROBISHER BAY**

Located in the Davis Strait, the rocky dome of Monumental Island can be clearly seen as we approach. We travel by zodiac to explore the rocky shoreline and hope to encounter polar bears in this vicinity. In good weather a complete circumnavigation of the island is possible, and we should see our first large icebergs as they drift south towards Labrador and Newfoundland on the currents of the Davis Strait. Walruses have also been encountered in this area, so we keep a close look out on the shoreline for this iconic species. Over the next few days, and throughout the voyage, our onboard experts educate and entertain us with a series of presentations about Inuit culture and traditions, as well as the environment, wildlife and history of Baffin Island.

**DAY 3 / PANGNIRTUNG**

Nestled in the heart of Cumberland Sound and the western gateway to Auyuittuq National Park, the village of Pangnirtung is beautifully situated between the mountains and the sea. This remote community is a well-known centre for traditional and contemporary arts and crafts – including carvings, prints and colourful textiles. In addition, the Angmarlik Visitor Centre has a wonderful interpretive display featuring the lifestyle and history of the Thule and of the modern Inuit.

**DAY 4 / CAPE MERCY**

Marking the northern headland of Cumberland Sound are the dramatic cliffs of Cape Mercy. As the Baffin Bay middle ice recedes throughout the summer, the stretch of Baffin coast from Cape Mercy to Cape Dyer is a great place to find polar bears coming ashore. We explore this region planning to hike the shoreline ridges, paddling the bays and zodiac cruising through the ice on the lookout for Arctic wildlife.

**DAY 5 / SUNSHINE FJORD**

Sunshine Fjord straddles the Arctic Circle at 66 degrees, 33 minutes north of latitude. Depending on the weather, we might cruise across the Circle on the ship, cross it in the zodiac boats or the more active option maybe to cross the circle on foot! Whichever way, it’s a thrill to be above the Arctic Circle at last. Sunshine Fjord offers terrific hiking opportunities and we have a few great routes in mind. You may wish to take the extended hike, gaining elevation and offering wonderful views of our surroundings. Or choose to take the less strenuous option along the shoreline. For the sea kayakers, the sheltered waters of the fjord provide great conditions for paddling.

**DAY 6 / DAVIS STRAIT**

Ice conditions along the Baffin coastline will dictate our navigation today. This is a fascinating transition zone to explore due to the rich and varied wildlife species we expect to encounter along the edges of the ice. We keep our eyes peeled for bearded, hooded and ringed seals and walruses. Not surprisingly, polar bears are often found in this vicinity, with such a rich abundance of food sources in close proximity, these are rich hunting grounds. It’s also not uncommon to see bowhead whales cruising among the ice floes hoping to view the wildlife. Eventually we push out into the broad expanse of the Davis Strait making our way towards Greenland. From this point onwards, huge icebergs will be present, making for incredible photographic subjects in the soft Arctic twilight.

**YOUR DAY-BY-DAY EXPEDITION ITINERARY**

- Zodiac excursions
- Onshore hiking options
- Wildlife observation
- Photographer-in-Residence
- Sea kayaking available
- Whale watching
- Inuit community visits
- Educational presentations
- Active Cruising & Wellness

**IMPORTANT VOYAGE LOGISTICS**

This trip commences in Ottawa - Canada’s elegant capital city. We recommend you arrive in Ottawa at least one day prior to the scheduled voyage departure date. This gives you a buffer in the event of any unexpected travel delays between home and trip departure time. From Ottawa we fly north to Iqaluit and after a tour of the town, we transfer to the ship for embarkation via zodiac.

At the conclusion of the trip, we fly from Kangerlussuaq (Greenland) back to Ottawa on a charter flight. Upon arrival in Ottawa, a transfer is provided from the airport to a central downtown location. This flight arrives in the early evening and we advise staying the night in Otttaw and making your onward travel plans for the following day.

Full joining instructions are provided in your final travel documentation. If you have questions before this time, please ask us.
DAY 7 / QEQERTARSUAQ (DISKO ISLAND)

Qeqertarsuaq is situated at the head of Disko Bay. The Inuit name for this location translates literally, as ‘large island’. After the main landmass of Greenland, this is the territory’s second largest island – and one of the 10 largest islands on Earth. This is a place of great historic and geological interest. Eric the Red, the 9th century Norse Viking, is believed to have visited here using the location as a base for hunting, fishing and exploration. Mineral deposits containing native iron and hot springs are another feature of the area. We explore the southern coast and visit the island’s principal settlement of Qeqertarsuaq. Home to a small, hardy community. There is time to wander the town, stopping to chat to the locals and soaking up the atmosphere.

DAY 8 / ILULISSAT AND THE JACOBSHAVN ICEFJORD

If one word could sum up today’s experience it would be ‘ice’. Even our expedition team members, with years spent exploring both the Arctic and Antarctica, will take a moment to reflect on the awesome ice formations found here. Truly one of the wonders of the world, the Jacobshavn Icefjord – a UNESCO World Heritage site - projects gigantic icebergs out into Disko Bay. The glacier that creates these stunning monoliths advances at over 40 metres per day, creating an estimated 50 cubic kilometres of ice annually! Our approach to Ilulissat is always dependent on the amount of ice in and around the mouth of the fjord. A cruise by zodiac along the face of the massed icebergs is a memorable experience which for many, will be a highlight of the trip. There’s also a great hike through the town to a viewpoint, high above the ice field. This place will take your breathe away.

DAY 9 / SISIMIUT

We will explore the fjord behind the town of Sisimiut before going ashore for further exploration. Characterised by colourful local houses, the town features a towering granite peak as a backdrop. We hope to meet a few of the traditional Greenlandic kayakers and to see a demonstration of ‘kayak rolling’ by one of the former Greenland kayak champions. The town’s church and a small museum are other points of interest. The restored historic houses and old Greenlandic fishing boats make for great photographic subjects.

DAY 10 / KANGERLUSSUAQ AND SONDRE STROMFJORD

Today we sail into one of the longest fjords on the planet. Overlooking the fjord sits the town of Kangerlussuaq – a key outpost on the west coast of Greenland. The waters change colour the further we venture into the fjord, from deep blue, to grey and eventually silt-laden waters surround the ship. This water flows straight off the huge Greenland ice cap, into rivers and eventually the fjord. Depending on our arrival time, we may visit the small town or check out the surrounding tundra, looking for muskox and birds of prey. Tonight our chefs have prepared a special farewell dinner attended by the Captain of the ship. It’s a wonderful time to celebrate and reflect on a remarkable journey through the heart of the Arctic.

DAY 11 / KANGERLUSSUAQ DISEMBARKATION – RETURN FLIGHT TO OTTAWA (MONDAY, 19 AUGUST 2019)

This morning we find ourselves anchored off Greenland. We say goodbye to our crew, make our way ashore in zodiacs and are then transferred to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ottawa. On arrival in Ottawa our journey comes to an end. A transfer is provided to a downtown location.

ABOUT OUR ITINERARY:
Small ship expedition cruising can sometimes be unpredictable. Specific sites visited will depend on prevailing weather and sea conditions at the time of sailing. The above itinerary should be read as a ‘guide only’ and may change. The ship’s Captain in conjunction with the Expedition Leader continually review the sailing plan throughout the voyage, making adjustments to the itinerary along the way to take advantage of optimal weather and sea conditions or to maximise our encounters with wildlife. Years of experience spent exploring these waterways mean we have plenty of outstanding landing sites and zodiac cruising locations to consider, even when the weather conditions may not be ideal. A flexible approach is something we encourage you to bring to the ship.
YOUR EXPEDITION INCLUDES:

- Comprehensive pre-voyage information package including details to help you prepare for your trip in Canada’s High Arctic
- Transfers to the ship on embarkation day and from the ship to the airport or local hotel on disembarkation
- Shipboard accommodation in your selected cabin category with daily housekeeping. Cabins feature outside views with windows or portholes that open on each deck
- High quality, eco friendly, Canadian made natural amenities in every cabin
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners on board throughout your voyage with daily afternoon tea
- 24-hour tea, coffee, hot chocolate in bar lounge plus in-cabin tea, coffee, hot chocolate replenished daily
- Experienced Expedition Leader and professional expedition team of marine biologists, naturalists, historians, adventure guides and photographers
- Daily off-ship excursions by zodiac boat breaking into small groups for shore landings
- Guided hikes and walks on shore of various durations for guests of all abilities
- Visits to wildlife colonies, historic sites, places of outstanding natural beauty and community visits
- Educational presentations and talks by polar experts in their field (ie. marine biologists, naturalists, historians etc). Onboard or on shore
- Resident photography guide available to assist all guests
- Access to computers in the multimedia lab for image downloads, file back up and management
- An emergency trained medical physician onboard every voyage
- Dedicated hospitality team including Hotel Manager, four chefs, professional bar staff and Adventure Concierge staff
- Onboard sauna, plunge pool, jacuzzi and fitness centre including personal trainer and massage options (charge applies for massage and spa treatments)
- Access to well stocked library full of polar reference books
- Optional Sea Kayaking program ($US695)
- End of voyage video, photos and take home USB
- Port fees and all permits to access visited areas

The right gear for your trip – included

When you travel with One Ocean Expeditions, you will have the use of an expedition gear package free of charge. Containing around $US900 worth of essential equipment, this kit includes a quality waterproof/windproof jacket and bib-pants plus insulated rubber boots designed for extended walking. We also include a set of binoculars and a Nordic trekking pole for use when on shore. A waterproof backpack completes your package. This kit saves you buying expensive clothing and equipment you may only ever use once. It also eliminates the need to carry such cumbersome gear to the ship (total weight around 8kg/17lbs).

The Expedition does not include:

- Any international or local airfare unless otherwise specified in the voyage itinerary
- Visa and passport expenses
- Pre or post-cruise hotel accommodation unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)
- Pre or post-cruise transfers unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)
- Personal expenses on board such as alcoholic beverages, bar charges or laundry expenses
- Telecommunication charges (ie. email, satellite phone)
- Baggage, cancellation or medical travel insurance related expenses (comprehensive travel insurance is mandatory on all One Ocean Expeditions trips)
- A voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and ship crew (suggested amount – $US12-15 per day)
BEFORE YOU BOOK – IMPORTANT VOYAGE DETAILS

**FLIGHTS TO JOIN YOUR ARCTIC CRUISE**
Flights are required to get to (and from) the ship embarkation locations in the Arctic. These flights are in addition to the voyage price. This flight package must be booked in conjunction with your cruise. Flights are either on scheduled airlines (ie. Ottawa to Iqaluit) or are specially arranged charter flights operating into very remote Arctic locations such as Resolute, Cambridge Bay or Kangerlussuaq. If you have questions about these flights, please discuss these with your booking agent at the time of confirming your voyage.

**PASSPORTS AND VISAS**
Most nationalities will be required to have an Electronic Travel Authorization (known as an eTA) to enter Canada (except US citizens). This is easily obtained online prior to travel and a fee of $CAD7.00 is payable at the time you lodge your application. The eTA is valid for a period of five years from date of issue. Speak to your booking agent for more information or contact your local Canadian consular authorities for further details.

**COMPREHENSIVE PRE-VOYAGE INFORMATION**
Upon receipt of your deposit and booking forms, a detailed booklet will be sent to you providing additional information to help you prepare for your voyage. This resource is full of useful facts and covers practicalities such as suggested clothing, life on board the ship, wildlife, geography and history as well as details about the activities available throughout your voyage. Information regarding passports and visas, budgeting, as well as travel insurance requirements are also found in this helpful document.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**
On all One Ocean Expeditions’ voyages, you must have comprehensive travel insurance. Your booking agent can recommend a policy designed to cover participants on these voyages. Your policy must provide coverage for your medical costs in case of hospitalization, emergency travel and repatriation. Please check the terms of your policy carefully, particularly with regard to limits of cover. Also ensure you are familiar with the procedure for making claims. Once you have paid your deposit or full payment, certain fees will apply if you have to cancel your holiday (see the cancellation provisions in our booking terms and conditions). For this reason you should take out travel insurance at the time of paying your deposit, which should then protect you in such a situation. You will be required to send us travel insurance policy details prior to your voyage.

**SEA KAYAKING**
The sea kayaking program is directed at any passenger with an adventurous spirit and some prior paddling experience. This option MUST be reserved at the time of booking and attracts an additional charge of $US695 per participant. You can not book sea kayaking on board the ship. You will need to complete a special questionnaire outlining your previous kayaking experience. Ask your agent, or our office for a copy of this document if you are interested in joining the sea kayaking program.

**THE ONE CLUB – EXPEDITION ALUMNI**
Come as a passenger, leave as a friend. Once you have experienced one voyage with us, it’s likely you will want to experience another. Your commitment to travel with us is rewarded with our commitment to you, our valued guest. As members of the One Club Expedition Alumni, your loyalty is rewarded with a range of great travel benefits when you return for your next voyage — no matter the destination. Ask your booking agent for details.

**IMPORTANT:** The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, some of the information may become out of date. Please keep this in mind and check with us if you want to be sure about anything. The document was correct at time of printing. If you have any queries, please contact your voyage booking agent or our office. We are here to help you.
OUR CANADIAN STORY. PART OF YOUR EXPERIENCE.

A true partner in Canada’s North
Social and environmental responsibility is something we take seriously. We are committed to supporting the economic sustainability and unique cultures of northern communities. We employ Inuit guides and traditional artisans on our voyages to share with you their fantastic knowledge, history, rich cultural traditions and talents. For many guests, this deep insight into northern life is the highlight of their voyage.

World Leading - the World Over
For several years One Ocean Expeditions and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society have maintained a collaborative relationship grounded in geographical education, exploration, science, social and economic community development, Canadian national identity and experiential travel. We are proud to be the exclusive marine travel partner of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and affiliates.

The right team = exceptional service
You will come to appreciate the dedication of our expedition team when onboard the ship. The highest staff to guest ratio in the industry (1:4) allows you to experience the broadest range of activities possible, catering to all interests and abilities. We are committed to providing exceptional service and are renowned for our flexible, yet professional approach and an ability to ‘make things happen’.

INTERESTED IN THIS EXPERIENCE?

When choosing to travel with One Ocean Expeditions we ensure your experience from start to finish is straightforward and well organized.

Start by customizing your journey and mapping out the trip ahead.

If this sounds like the right trip for you, please discuss your ideas and plans with your preferred booking agent. They will reserve a cabin for you on your chosen voyage. This provides time to book flights to the embarkation points of this voyage and to plan other pre or post voyage travel requirements. Please remember that you will require comprehensive travel insurance to join our voyages. This is best arranged at the time of booking. Following confirmation of your reservation, you will need to complete a detailed One Ocean Expeditions Booking Package plus other pre voyage documentation to accompany your deposit. At this point your voyage of discovery is underway.

Take advantage of our experience, which spans decades of expedition travel in the Polar Regions. Should you have any questions, we are here to help at any time.

YOUR NOTES: