

# CANADIAN ARCTIC: 2020

## TRIP NOTES



# Classic Northwest Passage & Greenland - Eastbound



30 AUG – 11 SEP 2020



12 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS



STARTS CAMBRIDGE BAY

## CELEBRATE CANADA'S ARCTIC CULTURE, HISTORY, WILDERNESS AND WILDLIFE.

This iconic voyage explores Canada's remote Northwest Passage and stunning fjords of the Baffin Island coastline before crossing Baffin Bay to Greenland where we marvel at the beauty of the gigantic icebergs calving off the Greenland icecap.

We follow in the footsteps of the early Arctic explorers such as Franklin, Amundsen and Larsen, exploring the archipelago of islands and channels that create Canada's High Arctic region. This is the home of the polar bear, muskox, caribou and walrus as we journey through the wild Canadian North aboard our celebrated ice-rated expedition ship.

Wildlife is a major draw card of our expedition, but there is plenty of historical interest and the story of the ill-fated expedition by Sir John Franklin nearly 170 years ago is central to our voyage. Franklin made his last heroic foray into the Arctic in 1845 with two ships and 129 men, never to be heard from again. The fate of the expedition remained a mystery – until September 2014 – when one of the vessels, HMS *Erebus*, was discovered in a remarkable state of preservation in the frigid waters of the Victoria Strait.

The find is undoubtedly one of the great archaeological discoveries of the last 100 years and has been likened to the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb. This is small ship expedition cruising at its best.



## Expedition Highlights

- > Outstanding wildlife observation on shore, on Zodiac cruises and from the ship
- > Historic locations of early Arctic exploration
  - > Cultural interaction and understanding through visits to remote Inuit communities
  - > Spectacular glacial landscapes and colourful Greenlandic villages

## ON THIS TRIP

-  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 Edmonton - Alberta's provincial capital city. We recommend you arrive in Edmonton 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 Edmonton we fly to Cambridge Bay in Nunavut, via a charter flight. We transfer to the ship for embarkation via Zodiac.

At the conclusion of the trip, we fly from Kangerlussuaq in Greenland, back to Ottawa via 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 Ottawa 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.



## YOUR DAY-BY-DAY EXPEDITION ITINERARY

### DAY 1 / EDMONTON, ALBERTA TO CAMBRIDGE BAY, NUNAVUT (SUNDAY, 30 AUGUST 2020)

We depart Edmonton this morning on our special charter flight to Cambridge Bay, a centre for hunting, trapping and fishing. Upon arrival, we enjoy a walking tour of the town and board our expedition ship in the afternoon. After settling in to 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, bound for the fabled Northwest Passage.

### DAY 2 / VICTORY POINT, KING WILLIAM ISLAND

As we chart a course into the Northwest Passage, our onboard presentation series begins, and the legend of Sir John Franklin and his 'lost expedition' is beginning to unravel. The mystery of what happened to Franklin was partially solved in September 2014, when a joint Parks Canada and Royal Canadian Geographical Society expedition, found the long lost Franklin shipwreck, HMS *Erebus* in the Victoria Strait. One Ocean Expeditions played a pivotal role in the search by carrying underwater search equipment on our ship as well as scientists, historians, researchers, dignitaries and sponsors of this history-defining mission. We aim to visit Victory Point, travelling very near the actual location of the wreck of HMS *Erebus*, all the while learning about the quest for exploration that eventually opened up the Arctic. Just two years later, in 2016, the wreck of Franklin's second ship, HMS *Terror* was located less than fifty miles from HMS *Erebus* - so ending one of marine archaeologies' most enduring mysteries. Yet the discovery of the two ships leaves us with many unanswered questions as to the fate of Franklin and his men. The story continues to unravel.

### DAY 3 / CONINGHAM BAY

This morning we arrive at Coningham Bay on the shore of Prince of Wales Island. Here, in the heart of the Northwest Passage we hope to encounter one of the most remarkable wildlife sites in the Arctic. This is a known hotspot for polar bears who come here to feast on beluga whales, often caught

in the rocky shallows at the entrance to the bay during low tide. It is not unusual to find the shoreline littered with whale skeletons – and very healthy looking polar bears!

### DAY 4 / BELLOT STRAIT AND FORT ROSS

Today we transit the narrow passage of Bellot Strait – a channel separating northerly Somerset Island from continental North America. The aim is to enter at slack tide if possible, in order to avoid a current that roars through the passage at more than seven knots during the peak flow. The mixing of waters in this strait provides an abundant food source for marine mammals and we keep our eyes peeled for harp seals, bearded seals and even polar bears. The skill of the Captain, Officers and capabilities of the ship becomes apparent during this exciting day of Arctic navigation. The historic site of Fort Ross, located at the southern end of Somerset Island, is a former Hudson's Bay Company fur trading outpost. Fascinating archaeological sites nearby tell a story of more than a thousand years of habitation by the Inuit and their predecessors.

### DAY 5 / BEECHEY ISLAND AND PORT LEOPOLD

Beechey Island holds great historic importance on our journey through the Northwest Passage. It is here that Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition spent its last 'comfortable' winter in 1845 before disappearing into the icy vastness, sparking an incredible series of search expeditions that lasted almost three decades. A trip ashore at Beechey Island to visit the grave markers on a remote windswept beach, gives one pause to wonder at the bravery (or foolhardiness) of these pioneering explorers, as they sought a way through the barren, frozen landscape. This is a thrilling location for history buffs and for many it will be the defining moment of our expedition.

### DAY 6 / LANCASTER SOUND AND DUNDAS HARBOUR

We are now at almost 75° degrees north of latitude. Cruising the coastline of Devon Island, we are in the waters of Lancaster Sound – a rich, bio-diverse region often referred to as the wildlife 'super highway' of the Arctic. These massive volumes of water from Baffin Bay to the east, Beaufort Sea to the west, and from the archipelago of islands to the north, combine to make



a rich cocktail of nutrients supporting an abundance of Arctic wildlife. We plan on visiting the old Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) outpost at Dundas Harbour, situated on the southern shores of Devon Island.

#### DAY 7 / MITTIMATALIK (POND INLET)

We sight the wild north coast of Baffin Island and navigate through Navy Board Inlet. The vast landscapes of Sirmilik National Park surround us as we approach the remote Inuit community of Mittimatalik. We are welcomed ashore and a highlight will be a visit to the Natinnak Centre, where a fascinating cultural exhibit showcases aspects of daily life, culture and history of the people of the North. Inuit carvings, jewellery and other traditional craft is on display and purchasing such items from the local artisans is a great way to support the community.

#### DAY 8 / GIBBS FJORD

This morning we enter the spectacular Gibbs Fjord with towering cliffs all around us. Our expedition ship will seem dwarfed by the giant peaks and snowy glaciers as we cruise slowly along the dark waters. One recent guest was heard to comment that Gibbs Fjord 'was like something out of Lord of the Rings' – and we think you'll agree!

#### DAY 9 / ISABELLA BAY

Isabella Bay (Niginaniq) is an important summer habitat and feeding area for endangered bowhead whales. These remarkable marine mammals are able to break sea ice with the crown of their head. The area also includes a shallow shelf at the entrance to the bay that provides protection for bowheads from predatory orca whales. Polar bears, ringed seals, Canada geese, snow geese and narwhal are also found in and around the area.

#### DAY 10 / BAFFIN BAY

Leaving the rugged coastline of Baffin Island, our crossing of Baffin Bay allows us time to slow down and reflect on the beauty and experiences we have shared. Our team of onboard experts will continue to educate us on the history and wildlife of the region while our naturalists keep watch looking for fulmars and dovekies, pilot whales and perhaps even orca.

As we approach Greenland, we also increase our likelihood of spotting some of the big baleen whales like the fin and sei whales.

#### DAY 11 / ILULISSAT, GREENLAND AND THE JACOBSHAVN ICEFJORD

For many, today is a highlight of the voyage. Truly one of the wonders of the world, the Jacobshavn Icefjord – a UNESCO World Heritage site - spews gigantic tabular icebergs out into Disko Bay. The glacier that creates these stunning monoliths advances at over 40 metres per day, creating around 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. Our Captain and Officers are skilled ice navigators and our ship has one of the highest ice ratings of any vessel exploring Arctic waters.

#### DAY 12 / SISIMIUT, GREENLAND

We will explore the fjord behind the town of Sisimiut before going ashore to explore this beautiful location in the afternoon. Characterized by colourful local houses, the town features towering granite peaks as a backdrop. We hope to meet a few of the traditional Greenlandic kayakers and to see a demonstration of 'Eskimo rolling' by one of the former Greenland kayak champions. A small museum is another interesting diversion.

#### DAY 13 / KANGERLUSSUAQ, GREENLAND (FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2020)

Our journey through the Arctic is all but complete as we disembark the ship and make our way to the airport. A charter flight returns us to Canada's capital city of Ottawa. On arrival we bid farewell to our fellow passengers and our voyage comes to an end. A transfer is provided from the airport to a central location downtown.

**ABOUT OUR ITINERARY:** Polar exploration can be unpredictable. Specific sites visited will depend on prevailing weather and ice 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 ice conditions or to maximize our encounters with wildlife. Decades of experience spent exploring these waterways mean we have a large number of outstanding landing sites and Zodiac cruising locations to consider, even when the weather conditions may not be ideal or when heavy ice may hinder our a planned route. 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 onboard 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 onshore
- ✓ 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, chefs, professional bar tenders 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 slideshow 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 onshore. 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 onboard 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)

# THE RIGHT SHIP = THE BEST EXPERIENCE



RCGS *Resolute* offers exceptional onboard facilities and provides an ideal platform for expedition cruising in remote locations such as the Canadian Arctic. Outstanding observation areas both inside and from the outer decks allow you to be completely absorbed by the coastal landscapes along the way. Our priority is to craft specially designed itineraries that provide you with maximum time in the pristine locations we visit. The vessel has capacity of just 146 guests and we break into small, special interest groups. There are wonderful hiking options onshore, visits to small coastal communities, historic sites and we enjoy outstanding wilderness areas. Cruising in the Zodiacs photographing the landscapes, or observing coastal marine and bird life is a highlight for many. For the more adventurous, sea kayaking is another memorable experience. To learn more about this exceptional vessel, request a copy of the [Ship Fact Sheet](#) containing detailed technical specifications and additional information about cabins, amenities and inclusions.

## 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 Kangerlusuaaq. If you have questions about these flights, please discuss these with your booking agent at the time of confirming your voyage.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.



### 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 straight forward 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:

Trip Note Updated: 17MAY19 - JM