

# THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE: WEST TO EAST

DETAILED ITINERARY

Jun 03/26



The Northwest Passage is one of the world's greatest voyages. Our fleet of Zodiacs guarantees excitement with every excursion.

The Arctic is calling. Pristine fjords. Looming glaciers. Jagged icebergs. Grand vistas, historic sites, graves, and abandoned outposts. Marine mammals, bears and birds... wonders await. You will find a warm welcome in Nunavut's communities, and Greenland offers geology, geography, and culture with a European flair.

Every day is a new adventure when sailing the Northwest Passage; hiking, photography, birding.

Exploring archaeology and spotting bears.

Visiting villages perched on mighty mountains.

Learning with our experts. Meeting the people who call the Arctic home. And sailing the passage at the top of the world!

This is not an ElderTreks operated tour. As such, participants on this tour are not exclusive ElderTreks clients and it may not adhere to ElderTreks' maximum size restrictions of our tours.

## FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

- 17 Days • Start in Kugluktuk (Coppermine), Canada and finish in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland • All meals on board included
- Travel aboard the Ocean Victory • Experience the extraordinary privilege of journeying through Inuit Nunangat—the ice, water, and lands of Inuit. • Sail the fabled Northwest Passage • Seek polar bears, walrus, seabirds, and other Arctic wildlife in pristine natural environments
- Experience the majesty of the Northern Lights • See the Franklin Expedition graves at Beechey Island • Watch for marine mammals and wildlife in Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound) National Marine Conservation Area • Visit Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord), Canada's northernmost community • Seek your 'furthest north' in Smith Sound • Cruise among icebergs at Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site • Voyage the length of Kangerlussuaq Fjord (Søndre Strømfjord)—190 kilometres long!

## DEPARTURE DATES & PRICE

**Sept 11 – Sep 27, 2026**

<b>Triple Cabin</b>	-	<b>\$18495 USD</b>
<b>Albatross Cabin</b>	-	<b>\$22495 USD</b>
<b>French Cabin</b>	-	<b>\$23995 USD</b>
<b>Balcony Cabin</b>	-	<b>\$25295 USD</b>
<b>Superior Balcony Cabin</b>	-	<b>\$26195 USD</b>
<b>Grand Balcony Cabin</b>	-	<b>\$27695 USD</b>
<b>Solo Cabin</b>	-	<b>\$34195 USD</b>

Does not include charter flight costs - \$2695 USD.

**Activity Level: 1**

**Comfort Level:**

Seas can be rough. Zodiac landings required.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Travel aboard the Ocean Victory.

**ELDERTREKS**



SMALL GROUP  
**EXOTIC ADVENTURES**  
FOR TRAVELERS 50 PLUS



## DAY 1 KUGLUKTUK (COPPERMINE), NUNAVUT

Located at the mouth of the Coppermine River, Kugluktuk is the westernmost community in Nunavut. Known for many years as Coppermine, the community reverted to its original Inuinnaqtun name—meaning “place of moving waters”—on January 1st, 1996. Our charter flight will land in Kugluktuk and we will embark Ocean Victory by Zodiac.

Iqaluktuuttiaq (Cambridge Bay), NU is an alternate embarkation point, and may be used based on sea, ice and weather conditions.

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## DAYS 2-5 KITIKMEOT REGION

Experience the glory of the subarctic tundra in the fall and perhaps discover a geological wonder at Port Epworth. Here, intriguing rock formations known as stromatolites stand as evidence of some of Earth’s earliest life forms. These fossilized structures, created by cyanobacteria billions of years ago, played a crucial role in producing oxygen, forming an essential link in creating Earth’s atmosphere and allowing other life forms to evolve.

Sail onward into the storied waters of the Coronation Gulf, where the legendary Roald Amundsen navigated with his six-man crew to complete the Northwest Passage in 1905. Learn more about



the vital role that Inuit knowledge played in Arctic exploration, including Amundsen's expedition.

Visit an Inuit community in this least populated region of Nunavut and feel the excitement and warm hospitality as you listen to stories of resilience, adaptation, and a deep love for the land.

Join a Zodiac cruise at Conningham Bay, where the stark beauty of the Arctic tells a timeless story of survival and adaptation. Here, the paths of polar bears intersect with the watery journeys of belugas—one the hunter, the other the prey. With luck, you'll witness these majestic creatures in their natural habitat, an unforgettable moment etched onto the stark Arctic landscape.

Each stop along the way feels like stepping into a living museum, where geology, landscape, wildlife, and culture weave together into a story only this iconically northern place can tell.

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### **DAY 6 IKIRAHQAQ (BELLOT STRAIT)**

Discover the famed Ikirahaq (Bellot Strait), a narrow passage separating Somerset Island from the Boothia Peninsula. As we sail through this two-kilometre-wide waterway, get the unique opportunity to reach the northernmost part of mainland North America.

Keep watch for an array of enchanting marine mammals from beluga whales to narwhals and seals.

Delve into the region's fascinating history and learn about Joseph René Bellot, French naval officer and Arctic explorer who joined an 1850s expedition in search for Sir John Franklin, who inspired the strait's namesake.

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### **DAY 7 BEECHEY ISLAND**

In 1845, Sir John Franklin set out from England with HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, attempting to sail through the Northwest Passage. His crew overwintered at Beechey Island where three of his men died.

Numerous search parties later used Beechey as a depot and rendezvous. Amundsen,

Bernier, and Larsen visited Beechey. Thomas Morgan of HMS Investigator was buried there in 1854 alongside Franklin's men. The graves and the ruins of Northumberland House are a haunting memorial.

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### **DAY 8 TALLURUTIUP IMANGA (LANCASTER SOUND)**

We will spend ample time exploring Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound), one of the newest National Marine Conservation Areas in Nunavut. Narwhal, beluga, and bowhead whales transit and feed in this area.

Cruise by ship and Zodiac in search of wildlife with expert biologists and ecologists. Learn more about the crucial role Inuit play in conserving the vibrant biodiversity of these waterways and the enduring connection between the ocean and Inuit.

On the northern border of Tallurutiup Imanga lies Devon Island, the largest uninhabited island on Earth at over 50,000 square kilometres. Flat-topped mountains, glacial valleys, and a substantial ice cap give Devon Island its unique character. We will hike the tundra, cruise a glacier face, and seek wildlife from the ship and onshore.

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### **DAY 9 AUJUITTUQ (GRISE FIORD)**

Aujittuq means 'place that never thaws. 1,150 kilometres above the Arctic Circle, Canada's northernmost "civilian" community originated in the Cold War; in 1953, Inuit were relocated to Aujittuq to boost Canadian sovereignty.

We'll be welcomed into the hamlet, where we will have a chance to meet members of the community, learn about their way of life, and hear their poignant stories.

## DAY 10 SMITH SOUND

Smith Sound, an ancient Inuit travel route, divides Ellesmere Island from Greenland, and served as the main route for explorers and adventurers searching for the North Pole. Adolphus Greely, Sir George Nares and Elisha Kent Kane all travelled these waters with varying degrees of success.

## DAY 11 AT SEA

On this exploration day, we'll be making the most of what the wind, weather and wildlife have to offer. Our expedition staff will scan for polar bears, walrus, whales, seals, and seabirds as we go.

This is an excellent time to enjoy workshops, watch a documentary, or get out on deck. Keep your binoculars ready for minke and humpback whales, as well as the seabirds that are sure to mark our passage.

Indulge in the unique opportunity to learn from Inuit in their homeland, gaining a better understanding of the daily lives of the regions we visit. Enjoy cultural performances and maybe even participate in Inuit games, or sample country food.

Through shared experiences and interactions, develop a deep appreciation for the region's vibrant culture and gain a connection to the stunning landscapes we traverse.

## DAYS 12-13 NORTHWEST GREENLAND

We will explore stunning fjords that line the coast. Glaciers and icebergs abound here. In true expedition style, we will seek opportunities to hike, explore, and view wildlife as conditions allow.

Whether you're setting foot on land, cruising by Zodiac, or out on the ship's deck, you'll have plenty of chances to learn alongside expert geologists, naturalists, and marine biologists. You'll gain an intimate perspective on the abundant flora and fauna you encounter. Take a moment to savour the tranquility and absorb the knowledge and stories

shared by Inuit cultural educators, which will deepen your connection to this breathtaking landscape.

## DAY 14 ILULISSAT

Experience the remarkable beauty of Ilulissat Icefjord, renowned for its enormous icebergs. Ilulissat means "iceberg"—an apt name for this site at the outlet of the Sermeq Kujalleq glacier. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the source of many of the icebergs in the North Atlantic.

Marvel at the sheer grandeur of the towering ice formations as you take a stroll along the boardwalk—truly a sight to behold!

Visit the town, with its museums, charming cafes, craft shops, and bustling fishing harbour. Be sure to make your way to the Ilulissat Icefjord Centre, where you can delve into the fascinating narratives surrounding the ice and gain a deeper appreciation for this awe-inspiring natural wonder.

## DAYS 15-16 SISIMIUT COAST

Explore West Greenland's complex coastal waterways that includes glaciers, islands, and fjords against a towering mountain backdrop, with plentiful opportunities for hiking and Zodiac cruising.

Learn about the Saqqaq, Dorset, Thule, and modern Inuit cultures that have called the Sisimiut region home for the past 4,500 years.

The waters are relatively warm here, due to the West Greenland Current and the subarctic location.

## DAY 17 KANGERLUSSUAQ, GREENLAND

Kangerlussuaq Fjord (Søndre Strømfjord) is one of the longest fjords in the world and boasts 190 kilometres of superb scenery. We end our adventure by sailing up this dramatic fjord.

Kangerlussuaq, the town at its eastern head, is a former U.S. Air Force base. Here we will disembark for our return charter flight to Toronto, ON.



## THE OCEAN VICTORY DETAILS:



Maximum: 186 passengers

Life aboard the Ocean Victory feels like stepping into a welcoming community at sea. Panoramic decks, bright lecture lounges, a cozy library, and excellent outdoor spaces provide natural gathering places—perfect for sharing discoveries, swapping stories, or reflection. Guests also enjoy hands-on workshops that spark creativity and learning. Accommodation includes ninety-three ocean-view cabins, most with private balconies, plus single-occupancy options for independent travellers. Wi-Fi (basic service included) ensures guests stay connected while immersed in the adventure.



Beagle Restaurant aboard the Ocean Victory.



Panorama Restaurant aboard the Ocean Victory.

## CABIN CATEGORIES:

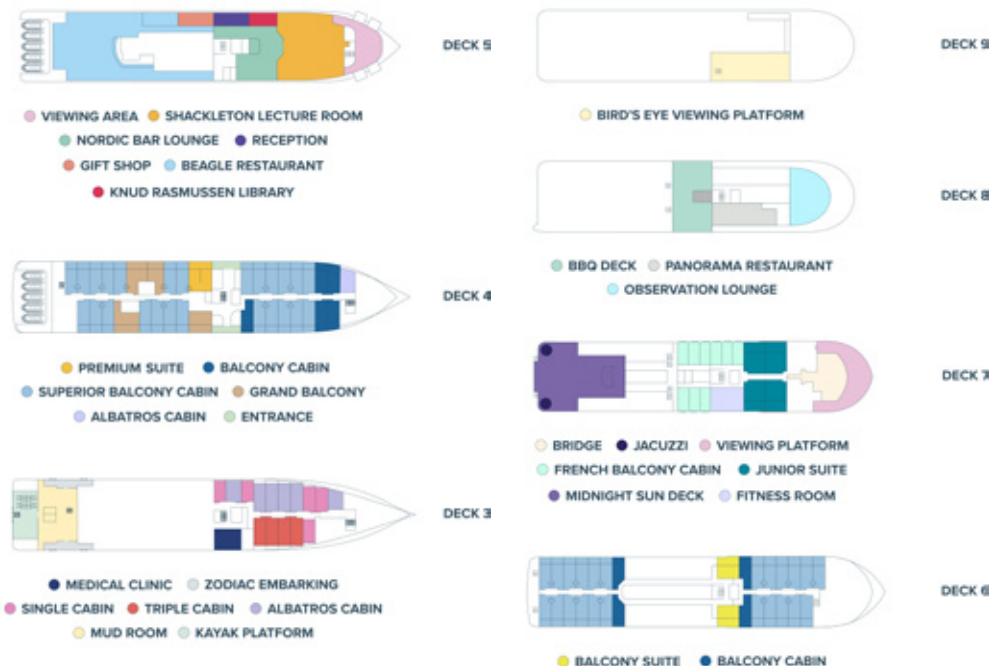
**Albatros Cabin**  
Deck 3

**French Bacony Cabin**  
Deck 7

**Balcony Cabin**  
Deck 4

**Superior Balcony Cabin**  
Deck 4

**Grand Balcony Cabin**  
Deck 5







## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### 1. HOW BIG ARE THE GROUPS?

The Exploris One is a 186 passenger vessel which was specifically built for expedition travel.

### 2. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

From Day 1 to disembarkation, all meals, speciality drinks (including alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks), wifi, lectures, expeditions, entertainment and services of naturalist guides are included. A complimentary expedition jacket is also included.

### 3. WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

International and charter flights, and tips. Personal expenses like telephone calls and laundry are not included and put onto your shipboard account which is payable in USD the night prior to disembarkation.

Gratuities are not included. Automatic gratuity of \$15 USD per guest/per day will be added to shipboard account. This goes into a lump sum and distributes to the entire crew equally.

### 4. ARE THESE “EDUCATIONAL” TOURS?

Yes, in the broadest sense of the word, “educational”. We visit museums and local villages. We also have talks and discussions on many aspects of the history and culture in the areas travelled, but this is only one aspect of what we do. We believe that it is equally educational to meet new people on a non- commercial basis. Sometimes the most “educational” moments are spent having a cold drink with the locals .

### 5. HOW DO WE TRAVEL DURING THE TOUR?

We cruise on our vessel and often use zodiac’s for our adventure excursions.

### 6. WHAT ARE OUR ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?

Accommodation includes ninety-three ocean-view cabins, most with private balconies, plus single-occupancy options for independent travellers. Wi-Fi (basic service included) ensures guests stay connected while immersed in the adventure.

### 7. WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

We travel during the northern summer season. In general, we can experience temperatures between 35-55 F (1-12 C).

### 8. WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE?

A non-refundable deposit of \$3000 USD is due as soon as you decide to go and will reserve your place on the tour. The balance of the land payment is due 150 days before departure. Cancellation charges are applicable and these are outlined in the “Terms & Conditions” section of our brochure.

### 9. IS MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIRED?

Insurance coverage is not included in the cost of your trip. Please note that medical insurance is required for this adventure with a minimum of \$500,000 USD coverage for evacuation insurance, including air ambulance. We strongly recommend cancellation and interruption insurance as well! ElderTreks offers comprehensive travel insurance and we are happy to provide you with a quote if you call our office. If you are purchasing insurance elsewhere, please ensure you provide the details to ElderTreks as soon as possible.

### 10. WHAT MEALS ARE INCLUDED?

All meals are included, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day.

### 11. WHAT SHOULD I TAKE ON THE TOUR?

All meals during the itinerary are included, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day.

## 12. CAN YOU ARRANGE MY FLIGHTS?

We would be happy to take care of your air arrangements. ElderTreks offers personalized flight itineraries, not group flights. Stop over enroute, come in a few days early, or extend your stay. Call us for a customized itinerary.

## 13. WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any further questions about the adventure, please call our office for more details. A Trip Specialist will be happy to answer your questions. A Trip Kit containing further details on the destination will be sent to you once you have booked the trip.



