

THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE: WEST TO EAST

DETAILED ITINERARY

Jan 25/26



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 Nuuk, Greenland and finish in Kugluktuk, Nunavut • 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 • Cross the Arctic Circle, seek polar bears, seabirds, and other Arctic wildlife in pristine natural environments • Cruise among icebergs at Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site • Spend time in one of Canada's largest National Marine Conservation Areas, Tallurutiup Imanga, searching for marine life • Retrace the historic route of European explorers, who for centuries picked their way through ice in hopes of finding a sailing route through the passage • Transit Ikirahaq (Bellot Strait), the narrow and dramatic waterway at the very northern tip of continental North America

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES FROM (Per person)

Aug 25 – Sep 10, 2027

Triple	-	\$18995 USD
Albatross	-	\$22495 USD
French	-	\$23995 USD
Balcony	-	\$25295 USD
Superior Balcony	-	\$26195 USD
Grand Balcony	-	\$27695 USD
Solo Cabin	-	\$35195 USD

Does not include charter flight costs - \$2750 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

Your journey begins at Kugluktuk—the westernmost community in Nunavut—where the Coppermine River meets the open sea. Its Inuinnaqtun name means “place of moving waters,” a fitting departure for a voyage defined by flow and connection.

Explore this welcoming community known for artistry and warmth. Local hosts share stories of life in the western Arctic, where tradition and modern life move together with the rhythm of tide and season. As you embark on your ice-class expedition vessel, the horizon opens before you—an expanse of muted blues and greys threaded with drifting ice. The ship turns east, tracing the first lines of the storied Northwest Passage.

DAYS 2-4 KITIKMEOT REGION

The Kitikmeot Region stretches across the central Arctic, a landscape of tundra, island chains, and shifting sea ice. This is the heart of the Northwest Passage—a place where the stories of Inuit and explorers intertwine across centuries.

Visit a community where you are welcomed as a guest. Hear from Inuit hosts about local history, hunting traditions, and daily life. The scent of tundra moss, the laughter of children, and the steady thrum



of a drum dance create a portrait of life deeply rooted in place. Zodiac excursions explore quiet bays where caribou and muskoxen graze beneath wide skies.

DAY 5 IKIRAHQA (BELLOT STRAIT)

Reach Ikirahqa—known to many as Bellot Strait—a narrow channel where the tides of east and west converge. Threading between Somerset Island and the Boothia Peninsula, it marks the northernmost tip of continental North America.

Granite headlands rise close on either side, streaked with scree, snow, and time. The currents twist and surge beneath the hull, where seals, seabirds, and occasional belugas or narwhals forage for food. For Inuit, Ikirahqa has long been a place of movement and gathering—a reminder that the meeting of waters mirrors the meeting of stories.

DAY 6 BEECHEY ISLAND

At Beechey Island, history lies close to the surface. 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 here, where three of his men died. Later, in 1854, Thomas Morgan of HMS Investigator was buried beside them—a solemn witness to the relentless search for Franklin's lost expedition.

Beechey became a depot and landmark for numerous search parties that followed. Amundsen, Bernier, and Larsen all stopped here, leaving their traces among the ruins of Northumberland House. The landscape is stark and wind-scoured: gravel, ice, and the call of gulls echoing across still water. Inuit oral history preserved what records could not, guiding modern searchers to the resting places of the ships and the men who vanished with them. Standing here, you feel the continuity between ambition and endurance—held quietly in the land's enduring silence.

DAYS 7-8 TALLURUTIUP IMANGA (LANCASTER SOUND) AND DEVON ISLAND

Enter Tallurutiup Imanga, a great inlet where glaciers feed cold, life-rich waters. Designated as one of Canada's largest National Marine Conservation Areas, it is a confluence of nature and culture. Inuit knowledge and stewardship sustain a balance as intricate as the migration of narwhal and bowhead.

Watch for polar bears on the ice, walrus on floes, and seabirds circling overhead. Devon Island rises to the north, vast and uninhabited—a landscape of stone and silence. Hike across tundra valleys where traces of ancient camps speak to the endurance of those who have travelled this coast for generations.

DAY 9 AUJUTTUQ (GRISE FIORD)

Arrive in Ausuittuq, a community established in the 1950s when families were relocated from Inukjuak, Québec, to this high Arctic environment—"the place that never thaws." Surrounded by peaks and glaciers, it is Canada's northernmost community.

Feel the welcome of residents who share stories of family, hunting, and adaptation. Listen to the cadence of Inuktitut and feel a quiet generosity amid the stark beauty of ice and stone. As you walk the shoreline, the balance between isolation and belonging becomes palpable—a living connection between people and the land that sustains them.

DAY 10 SMITH SOUND

Sail into Smith Sound, a broad waterway marking the meeting place of Canada and Greenland—and, historically, the threshold to the North Pole. Icebergs drift south from Greenland's glaciers, glowing with every hue of blue.

For centuries, Inuit hunters have crossed its frozen expanse, while European expeditions sought passage north through its icy corridors. Today, its silence

is punctuated only by wind and the slow fracture of ice. As we continue eastward, the sense of scale deepens—water and sky expanding endlessly, carrying us forward through time and tide.

DAY 11 AT SEA

As we sail from Smith Sound toward northwest Greenland, the day invites relaxation and delight. Out on deck, guests linger over coffee, watching icebergs drift past under shifting light. Seabirds wheel overhead, and the fresh Arctic air feels both bracing and serene.

Inside, conversation and curiosity flow easily—perhaps a talk from the expedition team, a shared story, or quiet reading by the window. Between moments of learning and laughter, there's time simply to enjoy the rhythm of the sea and the pleasure of being carried through one of the North's most beautiful reaches.

DAYS 12-13 NORTHWEST GREENLAND

Crossing into Greenland, the coast reveals a world sculpted by ice. Glaciers descend from the inland cap, feeding fjords that stretch deep into the land. Scattered villages dot the shoreline, their bright homes vivid against the vastness of rock and snow.

Go ashore where conditions allow to explore bays fringed with bergs or hike along tundra scented with Arctic cotton and crowberry. Ice and light combine to create a palette of silvers and aquas. Each moment shows how landscape shapes life—and how people, in turn, shape their bond with it.

DAY 14 ILULISSAT

Arrive at Ilulissat, a name that means “iceberg” in Greenlandic. The Sermeq Kujalleq glacier, among the world's most active, sends vast icebergs into the UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord. From the boardwalk, watch as icy cathedrals drift through

mirrored water, glowing blue beneath shifting light.

Listen to the thunder of calving ice, then the hush that follows. In town, explore a thriving community where Greenlandic culture, art, and daily life flow together with the rhythm of the ice.

DAYS 15-16 ILULISSAT

Sailing south along the west coast, encounter the Sisimiut region—a place of mountain silhouettes, fjords, and enduring story. Colourful houses cling to granite hillsides, reflected in still waters. This is Greenland's second-largest town, marked by fishing boats and the warmth of community.

Go ashore to walk through town and meet local residents. Learn about the blend of ancient and contemporary traditions that define Greenlandic life. Hikers may climb to panoramic viewpoints where sea, ice, and sky converge.

DAY 17 KANGERLUSSUAQ, GREENLAND

Your voyage concludes in Kangerlussuaq, where the vast fjord stretches nearly two hundred kilometres inland. Here, the ice cap appears and vanishes at the horizon—occasional glimpses of white above the fjord, close enough to feel its breath but never in full view.

As you disembark and prepare for your flight south, reflect on a journey completed—the communities visited, the stories shared, and the countless shades of light and ice that shaped the days. The Northwest Passage is not only a route through geography but through knowledge and kinship—a journey that continues long after you leave its waters.



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:

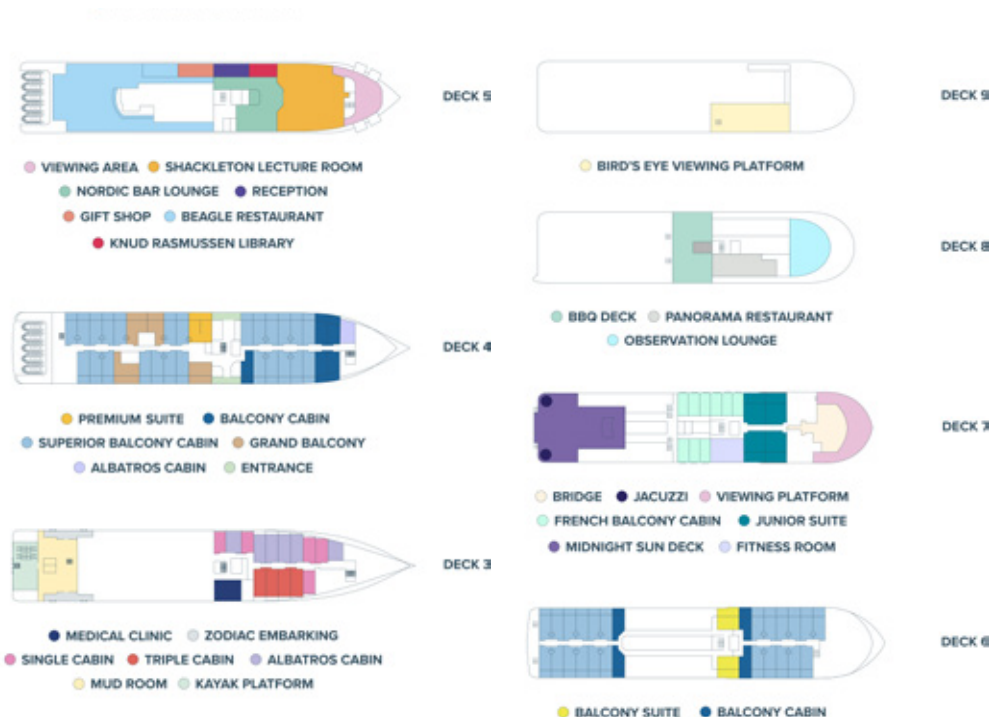
Albatros Cabin
Deck 3

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 Ocean Victory is a 175 passenger vessel which was specifically built for expedition travel.

2. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

From Day 1 to disembarkation, all meals, beer and wine (with dinner), 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. Mandatory Medical Evacuation insurance is not included.

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 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 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.

11. WHAT MEALS ARE INCLUDED?

All meals 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.





