

..... HIGH ARCTIC EXPEDITION

DETAILED ITINERARY

Oct 16/26



Embark on an extraordinary 14-day expedition through Greenland and the Canadian High Arctic, where towering glaciers, magnificent icebergs, dramatic fjords, and remote Inuit communities create an unforgettable Arctic adventure.

Our journey begins in Greenland, where we explore the spectacular western coastline, including the UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord, renowned for its enormous icebergs and breathtaking scenery. Continuing north, we venture into the remote waters of Smith Sound and Kane Basin, where opportunities to encounter whales, seals, and seabirds add to the excitement of exploring one of the world's last great wilderness regions.

Crossing into the Canadian High Arctic, we discover the rugged beauty of Ellesmere Island, visit the remote Inuit community of Grise Fiord, and explore the remarkable landscapes of Devon Island. At historic Beechey Island, we uncover the fascinating story of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated Arctic expedition.

FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

- 14 days • Start in Kangerluuaq, Greenland finish in Resolute, Canada • All meals on board included • Travel aboard the Ocean Nova • Marvel at the towering icebergs and spectacular glaciers of Greenland's UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord. • Explore the dramatic fjords, mountains, and remote wilderness of Ellesmere Island. • Discover Inuit culture and traditions during visits to remote Arctic communities. • Watch for whales, seals, and seabirds in the wildlife-rich waters of the High Arctic. • Visit historic Beechey Island and uncover the story of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition. • Experience breathtaking Arctic landscapes through Zodiac excursions, shore landings, and expert-led presentations.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES FROM (Per person)

Jul 24 - Aug 05, 2028

Aug 09 - Aug 22, 2028

Triple Cabin	-	\$12295 USD
Bunk Bed Twin	-	\$14295 USD
Upper Deck Twin	-	\$15495 USD
Bridge Deck Twin	-	\$16295 USD
Superior Twin	-	\$17295 USD
Upper Deck Single	-	\$23300 USD

Charter flights not included. Approximate cost \$2600 USD

Activity Level: 1

Comfort Level:

Seas can be rough. Wet and dry zodiac landings required.

ACCOMMODATIONS

All travel aboard the Ocean Nova

ELDERTREKS



SMALL GROUP
EXOTIC ADVENTURES
FOR TRAVELERS 50 PLUS

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.

Throughout our voyage, expert presentations, cultural encounters, and artistic perspectives bring the region's natural beauty, history, and Inuit heritage to life. Travelling aboard a comfortable expedition vessel, with opportunities for Zodiac excursions and shore landings, we experience the Arctic's extraordinary scenery and ever-changing landscapes.

This remarkable journey offers a rare opportunity to discover the breathtaking beauty, rich culture, and fascinating history of the Far North.

DAY 1 KANGERLUSSUAQ, GREENLAND

Arrive by charter flight in Kangerlussuaq, whose Kalaallisut name means "big fjord." The community developed around an American airbase established during the Second World War, its sheltered inland setting chosen for comparatively stable flying conditions. From here, transfer by Zodiac to your expedition vessel and prepare to follow the fjord toward the sea.

Kangerlussuaq Fjord carries the journey westward through a landscape shaped by ice and meltwater. Rounded mountains rise above broad glacial valleys, while suspended sediment lends the shallows a milky turquoise colour. As the long waterway opens gradually toward Davis Strait, cross the Arctic Circle and leave the continental interior behind. The transition from land to fjord to open sea marks a fitting beginning to the northern passage ahead.



DAY 2 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, shifting light continually redraws the jagged peaks, revealing new textures, colours, and contours along the coast.

DAY 3 ILULISSAT

Ilulissat means "icebergs," a fitting name for a city beside one of the world's great moving ice systems. At the head of the UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord, Sermeq Kujalleq ranks among the fastest and most active glaciers on Earth. Its immense icebergs travel slowly through the fjord before entering Disko Bay, continually transforming the seascape.

The icefjord has shaped human life here for more than four thousand years. That relationship continues in contemporary Ilulissat, a lively Greenlandic city where fishing boats crowd the harbour and the streets bustle with residents and travellers. Restaurants showcase Greenlandic ingredients, while cafés, shops, and the striking Ilulissat Icefjord Centre reflect the city's growing cultural and creative energy.

Here, deep human history, vibrant city life, and constant environmental change come together at the edge of the ice.

DAY 4 WESTERN 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.

Immense, elemental, and constantly changing, this landscape invites you to consider how something so vast and dynamic can ever be captured in paint, photography, or words.

DAY 5 UPERNAVIK

Greenland's coast breaks apart here into a vast maze of islands, narrow channels, and drifting ice. Upernavik, meaning "the springtime place," rises from this intricate seascape in a bright sweep of colourful houses and a working harbour.

Fishing and hunting remain central to life across the archipelago, connecting Upernavik with the smaller communities scattered along the coast. Its historic quarter forms the world's northernmost open-air museum, preserving the church, trading buildings, boats, and tools of an earlier era. Surrounded by rock, sea, and ice, Upernavik reveals the remarkable character of life along Greenland's northern coast.

DAY 6 AT SEA

Continue north through Melville Bay, following Greenland's coast toward Smith Sound. Icebergs drift through these waters in an ever-changing procession, while distant mountains, seabirds, and the possibility of marine wildlife keep attention fixed beyond the decks.

A day aboard creates time to look more closely at the region unfolding around us. Presentations, workshops, and informal conversations with educators explore the wildlife, geography, history, and living cultures of the High Arctic. Between sessions, the decks and observation spaces invite shared discoveries as the journey presses steadily north.

DAYS 7-8 SMITH SOUND

Venture through Smith Sound, the dramatic channel connecting Baffin Bay with Kane Basin and part of the greater Píkialasorsuaq region. Píkialasorsuaq means “great upwelling” in Kalaallisut and is known in Nunavut as Sarvarjuaq.

Recurring open water within the surrounding sea ice makes this the Arctic’s largest polynya and one of the most biologically productive regions north of the Arctic Circle. Nutrient-rich waters sustain an extraordinary abundance of life, drawing whales, seals, and millions of seabirds to this vital Arctic ecosystem.

DAY 9 KANE BASIN

Sail into Kane Basin, where Ellesmere Island and Greenland nearly meet. Glaciers tower above drifting sea ice, and the shifting Arctic light continually transforms the passage. Long travelled by Inuit, these waters later became a route for expeditions seeking both the lost Franklin expedition and a way to the North Pole. The basin bears the name of American explorer Elisha Kent Kane, who crossed it in 1854 during his search for Franklin.

DAY 10 ELLESMERE ISLAND, NU, CANADA

Explore the rugged coastline of Ellesmere, Canada’s northernmost island. Towering mountains, vast ice caps, and deep fjords define a landscape of extraordinary scale. Here, the High Arctic exceeds the images that first inspired us, revealing a world more intricate, dynamic, and alive than any single representation can capture.

DAY 11 AUSUITTUQ (GRISE FIORD)

Set between the mountains of southern Ellesmere Island and the waters of Jones Sound, Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord) is Canada’s northernmost civilian community. Its Inuktitut name means “the place that never thaws,” a reference to the enduring ice above the community.

Ausuittuq was established through the High Arctic Relocations of 1953 and 1955, when the Canadian government moved Inuit families from Inukjuak and Mittimatalik, in part to reinforce Canadian sovereignty. The hardship and injustice of that history remain part of the community’s story, commemorated by a monument overlooking the shore. Today, family, language, harvesting, and community life give this small and remarkable Inuit hamlet its enduring character.

DAY 12 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 13 BEECHEY ISLAND

Beechey Island holds one of the most tangible chapters in the Franklin mystery. HMS Erebus and HMS Terror spent the winter of 1845–46 here before sailing south and disappearing. The graves of three

crew members, remains of the winter camp, stone cairns, and traces left by later search expeditions still mark its narrow, windswept shore.

Protected as part of Beechey Island Sites National Historic Site, these remains capture the expedition at the threshold of mystery. The island later became a base for the vast search effort that helped map much of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Inuit testimony proved essential to tracing the expedition's final movements and, generations later, locating its lost ships. Beechey Island connects Franklin's failed voyage with its wider legacy, including expanded geographical knowledge, growing colonial ambitions, and an increasingly sustained southern presence in Inuit homelands.

DAY 14 QAU SUITTUQ (RESOLUTE), NU, CANADA

Set among the gravel plains and raised beaches of Cornwallis Island, Qausuittuq occupies a strategic place within the waterways of the Canadian High Arctic. Its Inuktitut name means "place with no dawn," a reference to the long polar night, while the summer season brings light that lingers around the clock.

The modern community began with the Canadian government's High Arctic Relocation of 1953. The Qausuitturmiut who call it home have built a distinct community that now serves as an important centre for northern research, transportation, and expedition travel.

Disembark in Qausuittuq and transfer to the airport for the charter flight to Ottawa. Here, at a historic crossroads of Inuit travel, Arctic exploration, and contemporary northern life, the sea journey ends and the route turns south.



THE OCEAN NOVA DETAILS:



Maximum: 78 passengers

Thanks to the Ocean Nova's intimate group size and our seamless operations, hopping into one of our eight Zodiacs is a breeze—rain, shine, or snow. With the ship's shallow draft and ability to anchor close to shore, you'll spend less time ferrying and more time exploring. Need to head back to the ship mid-excursion? No problem. Simply return to the landing site, and we'll whisk you back in no time. More adventure, less waiting—that's the Ocean Nova way!

CABIN CATEGORIES:

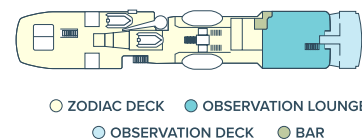
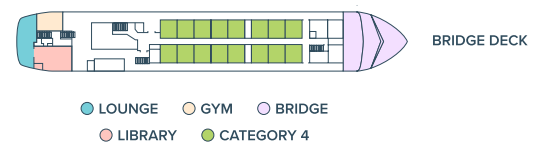
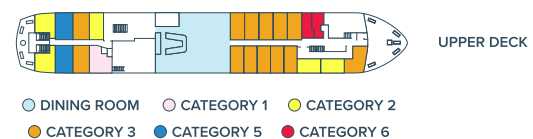
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Triple / Upper Deck
- CABIN CATEGORY 2
Bunk Bed Twin / Upper Deck
- CABIN CATEGORY 3
Upper Deck Twin / Upper Deck
- CABIN CATEGORY 4
Bridge Deck Twin / Bridge Deck
- CABIN CATEGORY 5
Superior Twin / Upper Deck
- CABIN CATEGORY 6
Single / Upper Deck

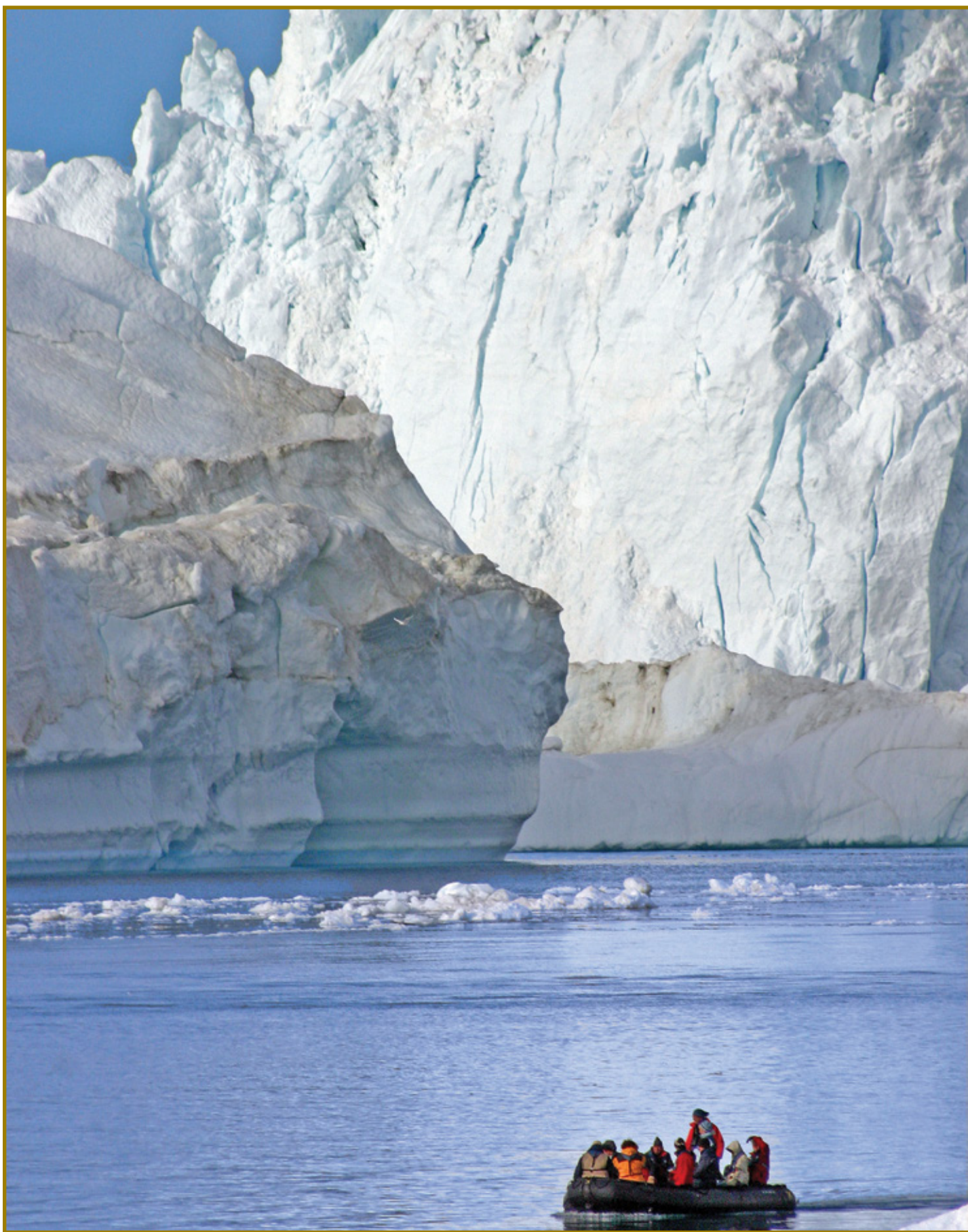


Panorama Lounge aboard the Ocean Nova



Dining aboard the Ocean Nova.









QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. HOW BIG ARE THE GROUPS?

The Ocean Nova is a 75 passenger vessel.

2. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

From Day 1 to disembarkation, all meals, coffee/tea/water, 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, speciality drinks (including alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks) 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 lumpsum 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, national parks and reserves and have talks and discussions on many aspects of history, culture and nature. But this is only a portion of the educational experience. We believe that it is equally educational to meet local people on a non-commercial basis, and even try to learn a few words in the native language. Sometimes the most “educational” moments are wandering through the streets of a village.

5. HOW DO WE TRAVEL DURING THE TOUR?

We cruise on our vessel and often use Zodiacs for our adventure excursions.

6. WHAT ARE OUR ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?

The ship’s design is compact, cozy and charming. It is designed for efficiency, functionality and connection with nature. The ship was custom built for ice-choked waters.

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?

There is a detailed “What to Take” list in our Trip Kit, which we will send to you after you have booked the trip.

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.

