

THE ARCTIC - GLACIERS, FJORDS & INDIGENOUS CULTURES | VENTURE



INTRODUCTION

Embark on an adventure of the Arctic on this expedition cruise, beginning in Reykjavik, Iceland. You will cruise the icy waters of Greenland. You will see a range of dramatic scenery, from sheer cliffs to small islands and quaint villages and you will pass the massive Greenland Ice Sheet and hopefully get the chance to witness a calving glacier. Traverse fjords and sounds, including Prince Christian Sound, which will be a highlight of the voyage. You will have the chance to learn more about the history of the inuit and their culture as part of this voyage with visits to small and remote towns including Sisimiut and the capital of Nuuk.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ACABGFIC
DEPARTURE
26/07/2026
DURATION
13 Days
LOCATIONS
Arctic, Greenland, Iceland


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DAY 1: Arrive Reykjavik

Reykjavík, established by Viking settler Ingólfur Arnarson around 870 C.E, is the location of the first permanent settlement in Iceland. The census of 1703 recorded that Reykjavík had 69 residents and consisted of a farm and a church. The impressive statue of Leif Erikson, in the center of town, reminds all of Iceland's Viking heritage. Its name translates to 'smoky bay', due to the geothermal nature of the surrounding area. Today about 200.000 people live in the Icelandic capital, roughly 60% of the country's population. It has evolved into a sophisticated city. The northernmost national capital in the world is also one of the cleanest, greenest, and safest on Earth. Walking Reykjavik streets one will find rich culture, history, music, shopping and in the late hours vibrant night-life. Colorful rooftops and the elegant spire of Hallgrímskirkja Church dominate Reykjavik's skyline. Known for its arts, Reykjavik hosts a number of internationally recognized festivals, notably the Iceland Air music festival, Reykjavik Arts Festival and the Reykjavik International Film Festival.



DAY 2: At Sea

Make the most of the next day at sea to explore the ship's amenities and connect with your fellow travelers. Enjoy all that the voyage has to offer!



DAY 3: Umivik Bay

On the King Frederick VI Coast of Greenland's southeast quadrant, the semi-circular Umivik Bay is carved out just north of the Denmark Strait. Unlike the sheer cliffs and rugged terrain presented by much of the coastline, the shores inside the bay are smooth and the massive Greenland Ice Sheet comes right down to the shore in undulating slopes. This profile persuaded Fritjof Nansen to select the bay as the starting point of his successful 1888 expedition to cross Greenland over the ice sheet. There are several large islands in the bay, including Uppernattivik Island smack in the middle. There are calving glaciers to survey and a landing is possible here as well.



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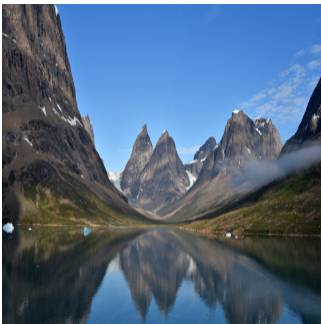
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DAY 4: Skjoldungen Fjord

Imagine a narrow fjord bordered by rugged peaks, vertical rock walls and serpentine rivers of ice plunging into the sea. This is Skjoldungen Fjord, named by Wilhelm August Graah after the honorific title Skjoldungen which, according to Norse mythology, was given to successors of legendary King Skjold to the Danish throne. Numerous tidewater glaciers calve during the summer, releasing large chunks of ice that plunge into the fjord. Above, huge crevasses and free-standing pillars of ice, known as seracs, are silhouetted against a blue Greenlandic sky. Barren of large trees, Skjoldungen Fjord is carpeted in colorful dwarf birch and willow forests that may grow several feet high, as well as a variety of low-growing Arctic wildflowers. This fjord was likely inhabited by Paleo-Eskimo (Inuit) nomadic people as early as 4,000 years ago. Archaeological remains of later historical periods, such as Thule culture graves, have also been found, indicating that Inuit people have lived in the area continuously. Scattered within this stunning scenery are remains of more recent abandoned Inuit dwellings along the fjord’s western shores.



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DAY 5: Prince Christian Sound & Aappilattoq

The transit of the Prince Christian Sound is one of the highlights of cruising in Greenland. The approximately 60-mile sound cuts between the mainland and an archipelago of islands from east to west, under the southern edge of the massive Greenland Ice Sheet, which covers 80 percent of the island. The sound is narrow, sometimes as little as 1500 feet across, and numerous glaciers reach the sea on its shores, calving icebergs into the sound. High, barren and sharply defined peaks tower on both sides. The only indications of humanity to be seen are the Ikerassasuaq weather station (using the Greenlandic name for the sound) where the ship enters, and the small village of Appilattoq, housing approximately 100 people. Animal life is more abundant, with minke, fin and blue whales seen frequently, as well as ringed and bearded seals that haul out on the floating ice. It is a breathtaking display of natural splendor in the severe, rugged vernacular of rock, ice and sea that is unique to the arctic realm. Tiny Aappilattoq is located in the Prince Christian Sound at Greenland’s southern tip, in the municipality of Kullaleq. Its name means ‘red’ in Greenlandic. The sound is enfolded by steep, unglaciated mountains, rising sheer from the water to sharp, shattered peaks. The town’s setting is particularly picturesque, its brightly painted houses scattered across a small peninsula of humped granite domes, under a backdrop of a looming pyramid of stone. The little red town church nestles next to a white-picketed graveyard. The sound itself is dotted with icebergs slowly melting into expressionist sculptures. It is a place where the infrequent visitors routinely fill their camera cards with unforgettable images of Greenland’s spectacular visual splendor.



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DAY 6: Qaqortoq & Hvalsey

Qaqortoq is the largest city in Southern Greenland with 3,300 inhabitants. The town rises steeply above the natural small-boat harbor with its fish, shrimp and fur processing plants. It was founded in 1775 by the Dano-Norwegian trader Anders Olsen, working on behalf of the General Trading Company. Qaqortoq is best known for its open-air art exhibition. The Stone & Man project, designed to transform the town into an outdoor gallery, had the participation of 18 Nordic artists from Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Greenland. Initially 24 stone sculptures were created using the existing rock faces and boulders in the town. Now there are over 40 sculptures celebrating Greenlandic culture. Other points of interest include Mindebrønden, the oldest fountain in Greenland, the Qaqortoq Museum and The Saviors Lutheran Church. Eighteen kilometers northwest of town are the famous remains of the Viking church of Hvalsey. It represents the last written record of the Greenlandic Norse, who attended a wedding there in A.D. 1408. Hvalsey is the most prominent Norse site in Greenland. Twelve miles by Zodiac up the Hvalseyjarfjord from Qaqortoq, the largest community in South Greenland, lies the most prominent Norse archaeological site in Greenland. The so-called Eastern Settlement lasted from the 10th until the mid-15th century. Your expedition team archaeologist can interpret for you the ruins of the great halls and church at Hvalsey that hint of a prospering medieval farmstead. The site evokes an era when the Norse were trading with the indigenous Thule people of the area for furs and ivory, which were a prized commodities in Europe. A wedding held in the church in 1408 comprises the last written record of the Norse adventure in Greenland. Within a few years, Hvalsey and the rest of other Norse communities of Greenland withered as immigrants returned to the more established communities in Iceland and Norway. The site's meadows of wildflowers sloping up from the fjord give a sense of the peaceful community that existed here in that long-ago summer.



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DAY 7: At Sea

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DAY 8: Nuuk

Greenland’s capital Nuuk, is a city of vitality and Greenlandic culture. It’s here that old traditions and modern influences combine to create a diverse population. Nuuk is the home of the University of Greenland with its 650 students and the Greenland National Museum with its extensive historical archives and cultural displays. Also of interest are the Nuuk Art Museum and the Kayak Museum. The Art Museum holds a body of 300 paintings primarily featuring the work of traveling European artists, while the Kayak Museum houses a very impressive collection of sealskin kayaks and traditional hunting artifacts. The modest wooden frame of the Nuuk Cathedral, built in 1849, is a recognizable landmark on Nuuk’s skyline. The site of Nuuk was occupied as far back as 2,200 B.C.E. by ancient pre-Inuit peoples from Canada. It was settled again in the 10th century by Viking explorers. The current city was founded in 1728 by Danish missionary Hans Egede. A statue of Egede stands adjacent to the cathedral.



DAY 9: Camp Kangiusaq

Camp Kangiusaq, set along the dramatic Kangerlussuaq Fjord in western Greenland, is a remote base camp appreciated for its Arctic landscape and access to the Greenland Ice Sheet. Surrounded by rugged mountains and vast glacial fields the camp serves as a staging ground for scientists, explorers, and photographers. Its isolation and proximity to one of Greenland's main airports make it a unique gateway to studying Arctic ecosystems and the impacts of climate change in one of the world’s most pristine and challenging environments.



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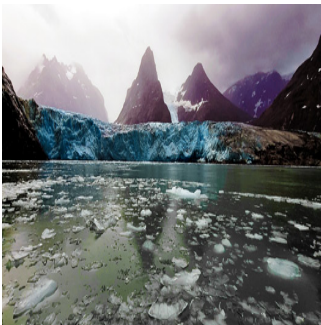
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DAY 10: Evighedsfjorden

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the majestic Evighedsfjorden in Greenland, Seabourn's ultra-luxury cruises offer passengers an unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in the awe-inspiring beauty of the Arctic. Carved by ancient glaciers, this fjord's towering cliffs and crystalline waters create a dramatic setting for unforgettable adventures. As the ship navigates through the icy waters, passengers are treated to breathtaking views of snow-capped peaks, cascading waterfalls, and pristine glaciers. Wildlife enthusiasts can spot Arctic animals such as seals, whales, and seabirds thriving in their natural habitat. Guided excursions allow guests to explore the fjord's hidden coves, hike along rugged coastal trails, and witness the mesmerizing spectacle of calving icebergs.



DAY 11: Sisimiut

Located 24 miles (40 km) north of the Arctic Circle, Sisimiut is “rough, real and remote.” These three words cut to the core of Sisimiut’s reputation as an outdoor adventure-travel hub. It’s the second-largest city in Greenland with 5,600 inhabitants and was founded in 1756 under the leadership of the Danish missionary, Hans Egede. The name is Greenlandic meaning ‘place of fox dens.’ The area has been inhabited for 4,500 years, first by the Inuit peoples of the Saqqaq culture, Dorset culture, and then the Thule people, whose descendants comprise the majority of the current population. One of the most picturesque towns in Greenland, Sisimiut is set in a tranquil fjord perched on bare outcrops of rock. Mount Nasaasaq, 2,572’ (784 m) tall, is the backdrop for the town, where colorful houses of bright red, yellow, green and blue stand out in stark contrast to a landscape of gray and white. The Sisimiut Museum hosts a traditional Greenlandic peat house and the remains of an 18th century kayak.



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DAY 12: Kangerlussuaq

In October, 1941 the United States Army Air Force constructed an airbase at the site of Kangerlussuaq. It served as a refuelling stop for single-engine military aircraft being flown to Britain during World War II. From their last port of call, Goose Bay, Labrador, it was 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) to Kangerlussuaq until they could refuel. Kangerlussuaq fjord ('Big Fjord'), is 170 kilometers (105 miles) long and was often shrouded in fog, providing a serious navigation problem for those aircrews. Today, with the use of modern technology, navigation is no longer an issue. The landscape was ideal for the site of an airport. A large alluvial plain, deposited by the nearby glacial-outflow river, provided a perfectly flat environment for an airport. Kangerlussuaq is the largest commercial airport in Greenland and supports a population of 500. A little known fact, from 1971 to 1987, 33 missiles from various countries, were fired from Kangerlussuaq for upper atmospheric scientific research.



DAY 13: Disembark in Reykjavik

Reykjavík, established by Viking settler Ingólfur Arnarson around 870 C.E, is the location of the first permanent settlement in Iceland. The census of 1703 recorded that Reykjavík had 69 residents and consisted of a farm and a church. The impressive statue of Leif Erikson, in the center of town, reminds all of Iceland’s Viking heritage. Its name translates to ‘smoky bay’, due to the geothermal nature of the surrounding area. Today about 200.000 people live in the Icelandic capital, roughly 60% of the country’s population. It has evolved into a sophisticated city. The northernmost national capital in the world is also one of the cleanest, greenest, and safest on Earth. Walking Reykjavik streets one will find rich culture, history, music, shopping and in the late hours vibrant night-life. Colorful rooftops and the elegant spire of Hallgrímskirkja Church dominate Reykjavik’s skyline. Known for its arts, Reykjavik hosts a number of internationally recognized festivals, notably the Iceland Air music festival, Reykjavik Arts Festival and the Reykjavik International Film Festival.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	INCLUSIONS Accommodation onboard the Venture in booked cabin category Group transfers to/from the airport and to/from the ship* (subject to date/time restrictions*) All meals onboard the Venture including snacks and 24/7 in room dining Complimentary spirits and wine available on board at all times - full open bar including premium beverages & in room minibar Inspiring enrichment program and lectures from the expedition team All applicable shore excursions and zodiac cruising (except paid adventure options with cost) Digital photography workshops Complimentary expedition-grade parka and day pack All port taxes & landing fees EXCLUSIONS International or internal flights unless specified Airport transfers, taxes and excess baggage charges unless specified Meals other than those specified in the pre-departure information Pre or post cruise travel expenses Visa (if applicable) and passport fees Travel insurance (compulsory) Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings Paid adventure options and all personal expenses Miscellaneous extras Laundry and communication charges on board Tipping onboard (optional) - We recommend \$15USD per person per day
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available on request. A Single Supplement may be applied. Subject to availability. Please note 'willing to share' option is not available. Contact us for more details.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share* Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions

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Price Dependent upon

Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

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