ARCTIC QUEST: GREENLAND AND THE CANADIAN HIGH ARCTIC (Kangerlussuaq to Iqaluit)

17 DAYS/15 NIGHTS – NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

This epic voyage is an in-depth exploration of the far reaches of the Arctic, a land where polar bears roam, walruses loll, and hardy Inuit communities maintain their traditional way of life. Aboard National Geographic Explorer, trace the fjords of Greenland and navigate the eastern entrance to Canada’s Northwest Passage.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS
>EXPLORE THE ICE SHEET & SPOT POLAR BEARS, WALRUS, BELUGAS & NARWHALS.
>VISIT TWO UNESCO SITES: THE INUIT VILLAGE OF SERMERMIUT & ILULISSAT ICEFJORD.
>EXPLORE UUMMANNAQ, SITE OF GREENLAND’S IMPRESSIVE MUMMY FIND.

JUL. 27: U.S./OTTAWA, CANADA
Arrive in Ottawa and check into the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel. (D)

JUL. 28: OTTAWA/FLY TO KANGERLUSSUAQ, GREENLAND
Fly by chartered aircraft to Greenland. Embark National Geographic Explorer at the head of Kangerlussuaq Fjord, a picturesque waterway that stretches 100 miles. (B,L,D)

JUL. 29: GREENLAND’S WEST COAST & SISIMIUT
Dozens of deep fjords carve into Greenland’s west coast, many with glaciers fed by the ice cap that covers 80% of the country. Trace this ragged coastline, and search for humpback and minke whales. At Sisimiut, a former whaling port, visit the museum and wander amid a jumble of wooden 18th-century buildings. (B,L,D)

JUL. 30: DISKO BAY & ILULISSAT
Sail into Disko Bay and set out to explore the Ilulissat Glacier, a tongue of the Greenland ice cap. Take an extraordinary cruise among towering icebergs. Explore the historic Inuit fishing village of Sermermiut, and view the Ilulissat Icefjord and its immense, calving glacier. (B,L,D)

JUL. 31: UUMMANNAQ
In 1972, Uummannaq was the site of Greenland’s most remarkable archaeological find when an astounding collection of preserved mummies dating back to 1475 was discovered among the remains of an old Inuit settlement. The mummies were featured on the cover of the February 1985 issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC magazine. (B,L,D)

AUG. 1: AT SEA IN BAFFIN BAY (B,L,D)

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AUG. 2 - 8: EXPLORING THE CANADIAN HIGH ARCTIC
Carved by Ice Age glaciers, Lancaster Sound is the eastern gateway to the Arctic Archipelago. European explorers like William Baffin first ventured here in the 15th century to search for the Northwest Passage. The sound has been a favorite Inuit hunting and fishing location for hundreds of years. Our days here will be spent searching for ringed seals, arctic foxes, walruses, and polar bears, as well as beluga, killer, and bowhead whales. We may even see the elusive narwhal, an arctic whale known for the long, spiraling tooth that projects up to ten feet from its upper jaw. Delve into the region’s human history on visits to vibrant Inuit villages sustained by fishing and artistic traditions, and to archaeological sites of the Thule people. (B,L,D)

AUG. 9: HALL PENINSULA
We spend another day in true expedition style, exploring the unspoiled Hall Peninsula of Baffin Island. Hike the tundra in search of caribou and arctic foxes, or follow our botanist to learn more about the hardy arctic plants. The exposed rocky cliffs of Monumental and Lady Franklin Islands are used as haul-outs by walruses. We’ll cruise the coastline in search of these icons of the Canadian North. (B,L,D)

AUG. 10: SOUTH BAFFIN ISLAND/FROBISHER BAY
The southeastern tip of Baffin Island forms the mouth of the Hudson Strait and is surrounded by tiny islands. Lower Savage and Resolution Islands are often a summer home to polar bears stranded by the retreating pack ice. Navigate the ice floes and rocks in a Zodiac, and spot harbor seals frolicking in the icy waters. Continue into Frobisher Bay — named for the English navigator who came across it on his quest for the Northwest Passage— and sail towards Iqaluit. (B,L,D)

AUG. 11: DISEMBARK IQALUIT, NUNAVUT/FLY TO OTTAWA, CANADA/OVERNIGHT
Disembark in Iqaluit and fly to Ottawa, Canada by chartered aircraft. Overnight in Ottawa at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier, or similar. (B,L,D)

AUG. 12: OTTAWA/FLY HOME
Reverse Itinerary at a Glance

REVERSE ITINERARY on some departures means different start and end points. These departures travel from Iqaluit to Kangerlussuaq, making all the same stops. Before booking flights, please confirm with an Expedition Specialist.

Day 1 U.S./Ottawa, Canada/Overnight Hotel
Day 2 Ottawa/Fly To Iqaluit, Canada/Embark Ship
Day 3 South Baffin Island/Frobisher Bay
Day 4 Hall Peninsula
Day 5-11 Exploring the Canadian High Arctic
Day 12 At Sea in Baffin Bay
Day 13 Uummannaq
Day 14 Disko Bay & Ilulissat
Day 15 Greenland’s West Coast & Sisimiut
Day 16 Kangerlussuaq/Disembark/Fly to Ottawa
Day 17 Ottawa/Home