THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE, ICELAND & GREENLAND

25 DAYS/23 NIGHTS– NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

The Northwest Passage. The historical sea passage of the North American continent, representing centuries of effort to find a route from the Atlantic Ocean through the Arctic archipelago over the top of Canada. One of the world’s greatest maritime challenges, the route is located 500 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Our ultimate ice ship, National Geographic Explorer, navigates from Iceland and southern Greenland on its inaugural voyage through the quintessential Northwest Passage—following nature’s path, dependent on ice and weather conditions.

JUL. 28: U.S./FLY OVERNIGHT TO REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

JUL. 29: REYKJAVIK/EMBARK
Arrive in Reykjavik, the world’s northernmost capital, which lies only a fraction below the Arctic Circle and receives just four hours of sunlight in winter and 22 in summer. Have a guided overview of the Old Town, including Hallgrímskirkja Cathedral with its 210-foot tower, and learn about Nordic culture at the National Museum, with its Viking treasures and artifacts. Embark National Geographic Explorer. (L,D)

JUL. 30: EXPLORE THE WEST COAST OF ICELAND
National Geographic Explorer navigates Iceland’s wild western frontier, sailing past the immense Latrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Iceland and home to a huge population of razorbills. The cliffs are an area once famous for egg collecting; the men were tied to ropes and lowered like spiders down onto the ledges. Continue to Flatey Island, a trading post for many centuries, for walks around the charming little hamlet that grew here. (B,L,D)

JUL. 31: CROSSING THE DENMARK STRAIT
Follow the wake of Eric the Red and Brendan the Navigator as we cross to Greenland. Watch for blue whales. (B,L,D)
AUG. 1: PRINS CHRISTIAN SUND & NANORTALIK, GREENLAND
Prins Christian Sund is a major fjord on the southern coast of Greenland. Surrounded by mountain pinnacles and glaciers, the decks are perfect for viewing this landscape. Anchor off Nanortalik, Greenland’s most southerly town. Go ashore to the picturesque little town by the water’s edge. (B,L,D)

AUG. 2: QAQORTOQ
Inhabited since Norse times, the Scandinavian influence is still apparent in the colorful wooden buildings and town museum, displaying Greenlandic kayaks, hunting equipment, art and crafts. (B,L,D)

AUG. 3: IVITTUUT
Tiny Ivittuut stands at the site of the original Norse Middle Settlement, which included about 20 Viking farms. An abandoned mining town, Ivittuut is the only town in Greenland to have a road leading to another town. The Ivittuut mining operations were a major factor in the American occupation of Greenland during World War II. The name means ‘grassy place’ in Greenlandic, and we’ll have some lovely views and hope to spot herds of muskoxen on the rolling landscape. (B,L,D)

AUG. 4: NUUK
Nuuk is the world’s smallest capital city with 15,000 inhabitants. Visit the National Museum with its famous 15th-century Qilakitsoq mummies, found near Uummannaq, and the subject of a National Geographic cover story. (B,L,D)

AUG. 5 AND 6: 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)

AUG. 7: DISKO BAY & ILULISSAT
Sail into Disko Bay and set out to explore the Ilulissat Glacier, a tongue of the Greenland ice cap and a UNESCO site. 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)

AUG. 8: 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. 9: AT SEA IN BAFFIN BAY (B,L,D)

AUG. 10-19: EXPLORING THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE
Our ultimate ice ship, National Geographic Explorer, navigates through the quintessential Northwest Passage—following nature’s path, dependent on ice and weather conditions. We explore the ice-choked channels and glacier-carved islands that stretch for hundreds of miles—a stunning display of raw geology. We take our cues from nature: following wildlife, stopping for hikes on the tundra, and dropping anchor in a beautiful fjord or an iceberg-strewn bay to kayak or explore by Zodiac. We may encounter ringed seals, arctic foxes, musk oxen, wauruses and polar bears, as well as beluga and bowhead whales, and perhaps even the rare narwhal. We’ll learn about the
Inuit peoples who have hunted and fished here for thousands of years. And we’ll hear heroic stories of the early explorers: Roald Amundsen, John Ross, William Edward Parry, and James Clark Ross among others. (B,L,D)

AUG. 20: KUGLUKTUK/DISEMBARK/ EDMONTON
After breakfast, disembark in Kugluktuk and fly to Edmonton where we overnight at our hotel. (B,L,D)

AUG. 21: EDMONTON/U.S.
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSION
>>Iceland’s Natural Wonders,
4 Days/4 Nights, Pre-voyage

Aboard the 148-guest
National Geographic Explorer

2014 Departure Date: July 28

2014 Cost Per Person Double Occupancy

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Sole Occupancy

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Advance Payment: $3,000

Sample Airfares: New York/Reykjavik, Edmonton/Newark
Economy: $1,750
Business: $2,400

Charter flight: From $590 (Kugluktuk to Edmonton)

Airfares subject to change.

Cost Includes: Accommodations including one hotel night in Edmonton; meals indicated; excursions; services of Lindblad Expeditions’ Leader, Naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks; all port charges and service taxes.

Not Included: Air transportation; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, emails, laundry, voyage DVD etc. Gratuities to ship’s crew at your discretion.