

# EPIC 80°N: EXPLORING GREENLAND, BAFFIN & ELLESMERE ISLANDS

24 Days | Expeditions in: Aug |

Experience unbridled 21st-century exploration, as we venture to new frontiers deep into the far reaches of the ice to Zodiac cruise, kayak, and hike the tundra. Follow in the wake of legendary explorers and hear their dramatic stories as we explore Lancaster Sound, the gateway to the Northwest Passage. Trace the rugged fjords of rarely explored Northwest Greenland to the massive ice cap, spotting arctic wildlife and marveling at hardy Inuit communities. Glide between soaring icebergs at the mouth of Greenland's Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



## DAY 1: U.S./Keflavík, Iceland

Depart U.S. for an overnight flight Keflavík.



## DAY 2: Keflavík/ Reykjavík

Transfer from Keflavík to Reykjavík, located just south of the Arctic Circle. Check-in to the Grand Hotel. Take a guided overview of the old town, including Hallgrímskirkja Cathedral. Or choose to explore the Blue Lagoon and soak in the geothermal waters. (L,D)



## DAY 3: Reykjavík/Kangerlussuaq, Greenland/Embark

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)



## DAY 4: 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. In the morning, we trace this ragged coastline, and search for humpback and minke whales. Later, at Sisimiut, a former whaling port, we visit the museum and wander amid a jumble of wooden 18th-century buildings. (B,L,D)



## DAY 5-11: The Canadian High Arctic

We begin our exploration of the Canadian High Arctic with a visit to the small Inuit community of Pond Inlet, Nunavut. We will explore some of the beautiful bays and inlets along Baffin Island's northern coast and Lancaster Sound. We search for ringed seals, arctic foxes, and polar bears, as well as beluga whales. Perhaps even see the elusive narwhal, known for the long, spiraling tooth that projects up to ten feet. Possible stops to explore Beechey Island and the remains of the Franklin expedition's winter quarters and Lancaster Sound for polar bears on ice. At the entrance to the Northwest Passage, we encounter Devon Island.

Walk with our ship's archaeologist to learn about the Thule people that once inhabited this region and were the ancestors of all modern Inuit. At Dundas Harbor, we hike the tundra and search for wildlife, perhaps including musk oxen. (B,L,D)





### DAY 12-13: Ellesmere Island

Heading ever northward, we make our way up the beautiful and remote east coast of Ellesmere Island, where the *Explorer* first ventured a few seasons ago. Cruise along scenic Smith Bay (a.k.a. Skog Inlet) bordered by a steep wall of mountains, with a glacial ice tongue which pours down the mountains on either side. Be up on the bridge as we search for a patch of "polar bear ice," the mixture of first-year and multi-year sea ice that is the preferred habitat of the ice bears. Our binoculars seek out any small ivory-colored dot on an otherwise white ice surface. We strain to see the dot move. Yes, it is a bear, spotted at a considerable distance. We approach, ever so slowly, stalking the polar bear much as the bear stalks seals on the ice. At the end of the bay we go ashore to hike or kayak in picturesque surroundings. Ice is always present here.



### DAY 14-15: Farther North

On these two days we explore to 80°N and hopefully beyond, if the ice allows. We take full advantage of our "human resources"—our experienced captain, expedition leader and naturalists—as well as our technological resources. We chart where the ice is impenetrable and where there are leads guiding us to exciting discoveries. (B,L,D)



### DAY 16-19: Exploring Northwest Greenland

*Explorer* will be in true expedition mode every turn of the way. Take a Zodiac cruise among grounded icebergs, explore vast colonies of sea birds and walk ashore, perhaps stopping at Cape York to see beautiful, pink feldspar hills and the distant, granite monument memorializing Robert Peary. (B,L,D)



### DAY 20: Qilakitsoq

Today we are back in familiar waters, stopping at Qilakitsoq, where a collection of mummies dating to 1475 was discovered in 1972 and featured on the cover of *National Geographic* magazine's February 1985 issue. (B,L,D)



### DAY 21: Disko Bay & Ilulissat

Sail into Disko Bay and set out to explore a tongue of the Greenland ice cap. Take an extraordinary cruise among towering icebergs of the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Ilulissat Icefjord. Visit the town of Ilulissat and walk to the archaeological site in the Sermermiut Valley. (B,L,D)



### DAY 22: Greenland's West Coast

Our final day aboard will be spent in the beautifully scenic fjords. Take a Zodiac cruise, kayak, or hike across the tundra. Our undersea specialist may launch the ROV to see the marine life inhabiting the fjord floor. (B,L,D)



### DAY 23: Kangerlussuaq/Disembark/

#### Reykjavik, Iceland

Disembark in Kangerlussuaq in the morning followed by a tour and lunch. Fly by private charter to Reykjavik, where we check in to the Grand Hotel. (B,L,D)



### DAY 24: Reykjavik/Keflavik/U.S.

Our grand adventure takes us to Iceland's lively capital city, Reykjavik. Have a guided tour of Reykjanes Peninsula, followed by lunch. Transfer to Keflavik for your flight home. Or you may wish to extend your stay in Iceland for further adventures.

### Important Flight Information

Please confirm arrival and departure dates prior to booking flights.

### Sample Airfares:

Economy: from \$600  
Business: from \$2,300  
Charter( Reyjavik/Kangerlussua q): from \$1,520  
Airfares are subject to change

### Cost Includes:

Two hotel nights in Reykjavik; accommodations; meals indicated; alcoholic beverages (except premium brands); excursions; services of Lindblad Expeditions' Leader, Naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks; entrance fees; all port charges and service taxes; gratuities to ship's crew.

### Cost Not Included:

Air transportation; personal items such as emails, laundry, voyage DVD etc.



### **(1) Travel Protection Plan**

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or lost of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: <http://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/>

### **(2) Cancellation Plan**

Review our cancellation plan:

<http://www.expeditions.com/reservations/cancellation-policy/>

