

BAFFIN ISLAND & GREENLAND

a Martin Charlton 30th Anniversary Adventure

14 days

Created on: 24 Nov, 2024

Day 1 Arrival in Ottawa, Ontario

Arrival in Ottawa - WELCOME TO CANADA!

Overnight in Ottawa.

Included Meal(s): Dinner, if required.

Day 2 Iqaluit, NU, Canada

We depart early this morning for our charter flight to Iqaluit, Canada's coolest arctic city. Upon arrival we will transfer by zodiac through Iqaluit harbour to the Ocean Endeavour in order to commence our adventure!

Iqaluit, at the head of Frobisher Bay, has a population of nearly 8,000. This is the largest city and territorial capital of the Canadian territory of Nunavut. Until 1987 this city was called Frobisher Bay, a name that is still occasionally used. The vibrant community is home to the Iqalumiut, a diverse mix of people from across Nunavut, Canada and around the world. Iqaluit serves as a gateway to all of the Baffin region communities. It is also the gateway to Greenland and points east. Nunavut is the largest, northernmost and newest territory of Canada.

The city of is rich with Inuit culture and has the distinction of being the smallest Canadian capital in terms of population and the only capital that is not connected to other settlements by a highway. Located on an island remote from the Canadian highway system, Iqaluit is generally only accessible by aircraft and, subject to ice conditions, by boat.

The Ocean Endeavour: This is the perfect vessel for expedition cruising. Outfitted with twenty Zodiacs, advanced navigation equipment, multiple lounges, and a top deck observation room, she is purpose-built for passenger experiences in remote environments. The Ocean Endeavour boasts a 1B ice class, enabling her to explore throughout the Arctic summer. Launched in 1982, she has had numerous upgrades, most recently in 2018. At 137 metres in length, the Ocean Endeavour has plenty of interior and exterior space. Ample deck space offers comfortable lounge chairs, a swimming pool, two saunas, and a hot tub. The spacious interior allows for varied workshops and presentations to occur simultaneously. The three lounges aboard the Ocean Endeavour are optimal locations for seminars, events, and conversation. This vessel has been purpose-built for passenger experiences in remote environments.

In true expedition style, we will seek opportunities to hike, explore, and view wildlife as conditions allow.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3 Kitigtung (Lady Franklin Island): Marvel at Incredible Geology

Our journey brings us to the uninhabited and breathtaking Lady Franklin Island, one of the many rugged and wildlife-rich islands dotting the south Baffin Island coast. Located off Baffin Island's Hall Peninsula, here we will explore the coastline by zodiac keeping watch for seabirds, polar bears, and marine life. The island is home to breeding seabirds, ducks and walrus and with a bit of luck it may be possible to see Atlantic puffins and even the rare Sabine's gull.

Lady Franklin Island lies in Davis Strait that separates Baffin Island and Greenland. The island was named by American Arctic explorer Charles Hall while searching for answers to the fate of Sir John Franklin's lost expedition, lost while trying to find the Northwest Passage

Today offers a wonderful introduction to the geology of Nunavut, and you will have the opportunity to examine the rock formations from the sea. The rock here is some of the oldest on Earth, having been formed some 2.5 to 4 billion years ago. With Inuit expedition team members by your side, you'll gain an intimate perspective on the captivating wildlife and geological wonders that cross our path.

Meals On Board: We will enjoy sumptuous meals in the roomy Polaris Restaurant, surrounded by ocean views. Buffet-style breakfasts and lunches include a wide variety of fresh and healthy choices. Globally inspired a la carte suppers offer options to suit every taste, including fish and vegetarian options. Desserts, made fresh daily, are a highlight! Food sensitivities, special diets, and personal choices can be

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accommodated with advance notice.

Early-bird breakfast, afternoon tea, late-night snacks, and treats round out the offerings. And tea, coffee, and cookies are always available!

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4 Southeast Baffin Island: Explore Southeast Baffin Island

Today we will spend time on the nuna—the Inuktitut name for land. Here you will have the opportunity to enjoy a hike that best suits your interest accompanied by a member of the expert expedition team who offer insightful interpretations of the surroundings.

Soak in the full seasonal blooms at the height of Arctic summer as you explore the rolling tundra. A stop here will give you a unique opportunity to connect with nature on a profound level.

The biggest island in Canada (and fifth largest in the world), Baffin Island is a grand wild landscape and the spectacular homeland of the Inuit. The island's immensity and bewildering coastline confused early explorers and concealed its geography until recent times.

Shore Excursions: Wherever possible while on shore excursions, we will break into smaller, guided groups according to interest and physical ability. This may mean one small group going off on a strenuous, two-hour hike on steep terrain, while another explores the area in and around the landing beach, keeping to relatively level terrain and short distances. Generally speaking, once a few people are ready to return to the ship, the Zodiacs are usually available to take you back at the time of your choosing.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5 Panniqtuuq (Pangnirtung): Immerse yourself in Inuit art

Today we will experience the Inuit hamlet of Panniqtuuq (Pangnirtung), nestled on a coastal plain amidst stunning mountains and a winding river valley. Meaning “the place of the bull caribou” in Inuktitut, this charming community is embraced by snow-capped peaks and the ocean.

This community is located just 45km (28mi) south of the Arctic Circle, and the Inuit (and their ancestors, Paleo-Eskimo) have inhabited the area for thousands of years, perhaps up to 4000 years.

Inuit have long used the Pangnirtung area as important hunting and fishing ground and this tradition continues today. Known for abundant sea mammals such as seals and whales, Pangnirtung is also an important player in the Nunavut economy, exporting wild turbot around the world. Contact with European Canadians has been limited to less than the last century. In 1921, the Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post in here, and two years later, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police erected a permanent office.

Here you will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in renowned Inuit art at the internationally known Uqurmiut Inuit Arts Centre. Maybe you will want to step inside the print and weave shop, where talented Inuit artists create beautifully woven tapestries and prints. Pangnirtung is internationally known for its dark green serpentine stone and whale bone used in carvings plus its tapestries and woven accessories such as the 'Pang Hat' This visit will provide you with the opportunity to purchase one of the acclaimed "Pang" hats—colourfully patterned crocheted toques—at the centre's gift shop.

Weather permitting, we do get off the ship at least once and sometimes twice a day. We may visit communities, go exploring in our Zodiacs to look for wildlife, or hike where possibly no one has been before. On shore, when possible, we will break into guided groups depending on interest and physical ability, so you will never be left behind.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 6 Cumberland Peninsula: Experience the Rugged Beauty of the Cumberland Peninsula

Today and tomorrow will be spent exploring the Cumberland Peninsula, a stunning Arctic region in the southeastern part of Baffin Island, and a place steeped in cultural heritage.

Jutting from the southeastern coast of Baffin Island, this peninsula encompasses Cumberland Sound, whose profuse wildlife sustained Inuit and their predecessors for thousands of years. We hope to experience the same natural wonders as we sail through the marine-rich

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waterway.

It was even considered a potential missing link in the early search for the Northwest Passage. While exploring, you'll have the opportunity to delve into the captivating maritime history of the region, gaining a deeper understanding of its past and present significance.

We'll make the most of every opportunity to hike the vast tundra and Zodiac in the ice-strewn waters. Make sure to keep an eye out for the abundant wildlife that calls this region home.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7 Cumberland Peninsula: Experience the Rugged Beauty of the Cumberland Peninsula

Today we continue with our exploration of Cumberland Peninsula.

Sailing aboard this ice-class expedition vessel is engaging and exciting, featuring an unparalleled mix of discovery, learning, and fun. Above all, expedition life means true adaptability; each day features unique programming, and there's something for everyone! There's never a shortage of things to do - from lively talks, to workshops and presentations.

Enjoy the on-board spa, pool, and hot tub; enjoy a therapeutic massage or a quiet sauna after a day out in the Zodiacs. Top it all off with unbeatable gourmet food. Travelling aboard the Ocean Endeavour is an experience like no other: all the comforts of a boutique hotel, at sea in one of the world's most remote environments!

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8 At Sea - Davis Strait: Learn From Inuit in Their Homeland

Deepen your understanding of the environment, cultures, and history of the region as we sail across the Davis Strait towards Greenland. Davis Strait is the entrance to Baffin Bay from the North Atlantic, and it stretches over 950 km across at its greatest width (and never less than 300 km). Some of the greatest depths in the eastern Arctic are reached here (3660 m) in the southern end of the strait. The surface waters are strongly affected by counterclockwise-flowing currents.

At the eastern entrance to the Northwest Passage, the biologically rich waters of Baffin Bay and Davis Strait have supported Indigenous groups for millennia. Located between Canada and Greenland, these waters connect the Arctic Ocean with the Atlantic and stretch over 1.1 million square kilometres. A strong current that runs up the coast of Greenland and back down the steep Baffin Island shoreline sends cold water and ice southward, creating an Arctic climate as far south as Labrador and Newfoundland. In this icy habitat, marine life flourishes.

During our time here we will have the privileged opportunity to engage with and learn from Inuit in their homeland. Enjoy onboard workshops and presentations, watch a documentary, and get out on deck! Perhaps try your hand at athletic feats during an interactive cultural performance of Inuit games.

The spirit of exploration is what draws us to visit places seldom seen, off the beaten trail—even off the map! That means visiting new places as often as possible. It means travelling with experienced experts, and local cultural ambassadors. If the itinerary makes a deviation from the expected route, it's all part of the adventure! Keep your binoculars ready to spot whales and seabirds who follow in our wake.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9 Western Greenland: Hike the Tundra

Welcome to Kalaallit Nunaat, or Greenland! Greenland is officially the world's largest island that is not a continent. Home to 56,000 people, Greenland has its own extensive local government, but it is also part of the Realm of Denmark. The first humans to set foot on Greenland arrived some 4,000-5,000 years ago from the North American continent via Canada, after the sea froze in the narrow strait at Thule in Northern Greenland.

During our time here you will have the opportunity to choose the activity you like best during an expedition landing on Greenland's

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spectacular west coast. Whether you prefer hiking, walking, photography, or sitting contemplatively, you'll be delighted!

Alongside a team of knowledgeable naturalists, marine biologists, and geologists, embrace every opportunity to learn and deepen your connection to the landscapes we explore. Admire the mighty mountains and the tiniest tundra flowers—a stop in this area will offer many outstanding features to pique your interest.

The west Greenland coastline is a rich mixture of fishing communities, many islands and complex coastal waterways. The waters are relatively warm here, due to the West Greenland current and the more southerly location. This makes for lush vegetation.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 10 Western Greenland: Hike the Tundra

Today we continue to explore Western Greenland.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 11 Ilulissat: Take a Cruise Around Towering Icebergs

Today we will experience the remarkable beauty of Ilulissat Icefjord, renowned for its enormous icebergs. Ilulissat translates literally into "iceberg", an apt name for this site at the mouth of the Ilulissat Icefjord—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The icefjord is the outlet of the Sermeq Kujalleq Glacier, source of many of the icebergs in the north Atlantic. Sermeq Kujalleq is one of the fastest and most active glaciers in the world.

Here, we will cruise in Zodiacs to appreciate the icebergs. You will marvel at the sheer grandeur of the towering icebergs from the shore as you walk along the boardwalk in town —truly a sight to behold!

But Ilulissat is not only about icebergs. It is rich in Inuit history, a favourite feeding ground for migrating whales, a paradise for outdoor adventurers both on land and at sea, and a modern and vibrant city. We will visit the town, with its museums, charming cafes, craft shops, and bustling fishing harbour. Be sure to make your way to the Ilulissat Icefjord Centre, where you can delve into the fascinating narratives surrounding the ice and gain a deeper appreciation for this awe-inspiring natural wonder.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 12 Sisimiut Coast: Witness Stunning Glaciers, Islands, and Fjords

Today we explore West Greenland's complex coastal waterways that include glaciers, islands, and fjords against a towering mountain backdrop, with plentiful opportunities for hiking and Zodiac cruising. Greenland is stunning nature and endless landscapes. From our ship you always have a front seat view to the spectacular scenery as you cruise along the coast.

Learn about the Saqqaq, Dorset, Thule, and modern Inuit cultures that have called the Sisimiut region home for the past 4,500 years. The waters are relatively warm here, due to the West Greenland Current and the subarctic location.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 13 Kangerlussuaq, Greenland - Toronto, Canada

Sondre Stromfjord is framed by dramatic, glacial-carved mountains, 40 miles (60 km) north of the Arctic Circle and is one of the longest fjords in the world and boasts 168 kilometres of superb scenery. We end our adventure by sailing up this dramatic fjord as the sun rises to greet us. Sondre Stromfjord is the Danish name for the place the Inuit call Kangerlussuaq which translates as "The long fjord".

Kangerlussuaq, the town at its eastern head, is a former US Air Force base and Greenland's primary flight hub. This comparatively small village of approximately 500 inhabitants was originally established by the Americans during World War 2 under the name Bluie West-8. The airport played a major role as a stopover site for aircraft missions between America and Europe.

Here we will disembark the Ocean Endeavour and transfer to the airport for our evening charter flight to Toronto.

Tonight we enjoy our last dinner at our airport hotel in Toronto before saying our goodbyes!

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 14 Departure

Departure from Toronto.

BON VOYAGE!

Included Meal(s): Breakfast