



NORTHERN CANADA BOUTIQUE DISCOVERY: GREENLAND TO NOVA SCOTIA

Trace a path along the Northwest Passage on our 16-day Northern Canadian Discovery cruise on our boutique expedition ship following part of the legendary ice-filled route that challenged great explorers. As we sail from Greenland through the iceberg capital of the world, gaze in awe at the ice-filled straits and fjords crammed with gargantuan icebergs. The northern Canada coast around Nunavut is a haven for caribou and polar bears, and in Newfoundland we get the chance to hear the stories of the indigenous Inuit people and discover ancient whaling sites. Combining adventure and culture, this epic voyage is something every traveller should experience in their lifetime.



ITINERARY

DAY 1, KANGERLUSSUAQ

At the head of one of the longest fjords in western Greenland, Kangerlussuaq has a history as a World War II airbase. Visit the 60-metre tall face of the Russell Glacier on the edge of the Greenland ice cap to hear and see it crack and break off into the meltwater. Other popular activities include kayaking on the fjords and wildlife tours of the glacial areas that attract muskoxen, reindeer, arctic foxes and gyrfalcons.

DAY 2, AT SEA

As you cruise to your next port of call, spend the day at sea savouring the ship's facilities and learning about your destination's many facets from the knowledgeable onboard experts. Listen to an enriching talk, indulge in a relaxing treatment at the spa, work out in the well-equipped gym, enjoy some down-time in your cabin, share travel reminiscences with newly found friends: the options are numerous.



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DAY 3, QEQTARSUAQ

Qeqertarsuaq is the largest town on Disko Island, the largest island in Greenland, on the west coast and part of Disko Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Lyngmark Glacier rises above the town and the area's lush hills, basalt columns and black sand beaches reflect its volcanic origin. The area is very fertile and home to diverse species not found elsewhere in Greenland. Keep an eye out for its hot springs as we move through floating icebergs and whales.

DAY 4, ILULISSAT

Sailing through the iceberg capital of the world from Disko Bay - or Qeqertarsuaq Tunua - to the Ilulissat Icefjord is one of the cruise highlights. Given UNESCO World Heritage Site status, the Ilulissat Icefjord is a popular tourist destination, and thanks to the productive Sermeq Kujalleq glacier, thousands of gargantuan icebergs calve from the Greenland ice cap into the sea. The city of Ilulissat, formerly Jakobshavn or Jacobshaven, is home to as many sled-dogs as people.

DAY 5, SISIMIUT

Just north of the Arctic Circle and the northernmost city in Greenland, Sisimiut remains ice free in winter and is known as an adventure sports hub. Inhabited for more than 4,500 years by the Inuit, Dorset and then Thule people, dog sled remains a common form of transport and we have a chance to see abandoned settlements but it also has a cool, modern side. Watch out for humpback whales and walrus between Sisimiut and the Thule district in the north.

DAY 6, NUUK (GODTHAB)

Home to more than a third of Greenlanders, the capital of Nuuk can easily deceive you that you're travelling through such a wild

and secluded country. Also known by its Danish name of Godthåb (Good Hope), you'll see the busy old Colonial Harbour with Nuuk Cathedral prominent, colourful wooden houses, avant-garde architecture and a wonderful array of fjords with clear ice waters and an unspoiled mountain backdrop. Look out for whales and on land arctic foxes, arctic hares and reindeer.

DAY 7, AT SEA

Days at sea are the perfect chance to relax, unwind and do whatever takes your fancy. So whether that is going to the gym, visiting the spa, trying to spot a whale from the deck, reading a chapter or two, or simply topping up your tan, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to the green days spent exploring on land.

DAY 8, IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

The native Inuit are an integral part of Iqaluit, a remote community at the head of Frobisher Bay. Once-considered the possible entrance of a Northwest Passage, the bay provides insight into Inuit history and culture including dog-sledding on handmade qamutik sleds led by qimmiiq - North America's oldest and rarest purebred canine. Inuit artworks are showcased at Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum while Inuit history is evident at Crystal II, an ancient Thule Inuit settlement outside of Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park.

DAY 9, LADY FRANKLIN ISLAND

Most known for its huge vertical cliffs of Archean rocks, reputedly the oldest stones in Canada, Lady Franklin Island is an uninhabited isle off Hall Peninsula on Baffin Island. Black guillemots, ptarmigan and gulls all nest in this ice-filled area of the Davis Strait. Lumbering walrus haul out to the south at Monumental Island, which is also a well-known denning site for

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polar bears. Nearby, the Cumberland Sound is home to its own species of beluga whale.

DAY 10, AKPATOK ISLAND, NUNAVUT

With the largest number of breeding thick-billed murres in Canada, Akpatok Island - whose name in Inuktitut means thick-billed murre - is an important birding area. More than half a million pairs make their home on the ledges of the sheer limestone cliffs, while glaucous gulls keep a beady eye out for unprotected chicks and eggs. Seals, walrus and polar bears make up the scene. The brutish act of cannibalism was practiced here as recently as 1900.

DAY 11, TORNGAT MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Staffed completely by Inuit, Torngat Mountains National Park takes its name from the Inuktitut word Tongait, meaning place of spirits. We have a rare chance to follow in the footsteps of Inuit as they share their stories of spirits and traditions in their homeland, where for centuries they have been fishing and hunting polar bears and caribou. This magical land made up of dramatically spectacular mountains and deep fjords nudging up to iceberg-filled waters is only accessible by boat.

DAY 12, AT SEA

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DAY 13, BELLE ISLE STRAITS

Early industrial whaling is in the spotlight at Red Bay and Saddle Island in the Belle Isle Straits. Basque fishermen spotted right whales here in the 16th century, when whale oil was prized as lamp oil and soaps. The conservation site includes industrial buildings, whaling galleons, a 16th-century chalupa whaleboat and an interpretation centre. Belle Isle Straits are the shortest shipping lane from the Great Lakes, and the northern end of the Appalachian Trail lies on Belle Isle.

DAY 14, CORNER BROOK

At the end of a picturesque fjord in the Bay of Islands, made more beautiful by the Blomidon Mountains in full fall colours, Corner Brook is a bustling port city on the west coast of Newfoundland. Above the town, Captain James Cook's monument surveys the land he once charted. This is the gateway to adventure tours - ziplining, fishing, spelunking - in scenic Humber Valley or further north among the sheer cliffs and waterfalls of Gros Morne National Park.

DAY 15, AT SEA

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DAY 16, HALIFAX

Founded as a naval base in 1749, Halifax's seafaring history is well-grounded with the Canadian Museum of Immigration where one million Europeans landed up until 1971. Another reminder is the Noon Gun that has fired from the looming Citadel fortress

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since 1857. When Titanic struck the iceberg at 11:40 pm, April 14, 1912, ships set sail from here. Many victims are buried at Fairview Lawn Cemetery, while the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic displays rescued artefacts.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: VEGA

YOUR SHIP:

Vega

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

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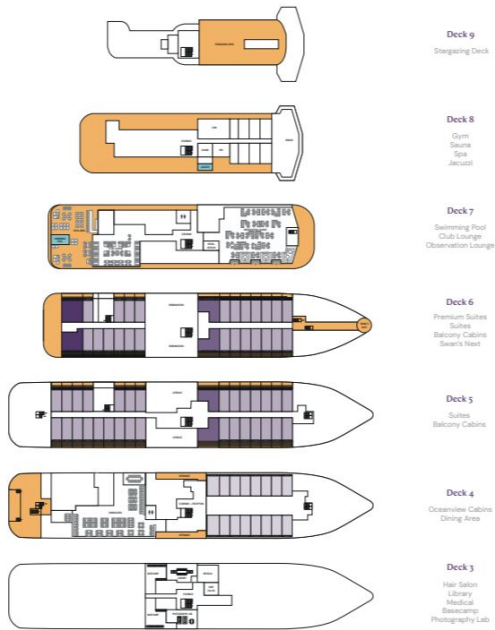
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