Itinerary

26 Day Northwest Passage Expedition – Alaska to Greenland

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

DAY 1: Setting out from Scenic Seattle

The adventure begins in the Emerald City of Seattle, on the Pacific coast of the United States. Arrive early and head to the Seattle Aquarium to see sea otters and a giant Pacific octopus. For incredible views of Puget Sound and the surrounding mountains, take a stroll through the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park, admiring the work of renowned artists. For a feast of the senses, visit the famous Pike Place Market, which has been operating for over a century. This lively farmer's market boasts everything from buskers and bars to salmon-throwing fishmongers. You'll spend the night here in Seattle before your connecting flight to Alaska tomorrow. If you have the time to go farther afield, we recommend booking a Pre-Programme with us and discovering some of the region's natural highlights.
MEALS: Nil

OVERNIGHT: 4 Star Hotel, Seattle

DAY 2: There is No Place Like Nome

Today you'll take an early flight from Seattle to Nome, Alaska, where your state-of-the-art expedition ship awaits to take you on a journey through the famed Northwest Passage and beyond. Prospectors first came to Nome in 1898, and people still hunt for gold here today. You'll see evidence of the Gold Rush era all around, including abandoned dredges, turn-of-the-century steam engines, and old railroad tracks, lending the town a unique and intriguing atmosphere. You'll be in good company as you explore the town, as Wyatt Earp, the famous sheriff, opened a saloon here. Nome was also the end point of three of Roald Amundsen's great polar expeditions. Upon boarding the ship and collecting your complimentary expedition jacket, it's time to check out your cabin, meet the Expedition Team, and explore your new home-from-home. Your adventure has truly begun.
MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Roald Amundsen

DAYS 3-6: Along the Alaskan Coast

Join your Expedition Team for insightful lectures as we journey through the Beaufort Sea towards Amundsen Gulf, the gates to the Northwest Passage on this eastbound transit. Topics might include wildlife, tectonic activity, glaciology, and local history, which will prepare you for the adventures ahead. The highlights of this transit include the Bering Strait, crossing the International Date Line, sailing across the Beaufort Sea, and wildlife watching.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Roald Amundsen

DAYS 7-14: Exploration and Adventure

Our excursions begin on day seven as we enter the Western Canadian Arctic. Over the next eight days, we'll transit through three distinct regions - Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon - and two traditional Inuit Territories - Inuvialuit and Nunavut. During our time here, we anticipate up to five days of shore excursions and four transit days. Excursion stops and local highlights we hope to visit include Herschel Island, Smoking Hills, Ulukhaktok, Coronation Gulf, Cambridge Bay (Iqaluktuuttiaq), and Gjoa Haven (Uqsuqtuuk).
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Roald Amundsen

DAY 15: Into Bellot Strait

The 'Rubicon' of the Canadian Arctic that divides West from East is the infamous Bellot Strait. This narrow body of water separates the northernmost part of mainland North America from Somerset Island, one of the largest islands in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Bellot Strait is approximately 15 nautical miles long and just over half a mile wide at its narrowest point. Our ability to navigate this passage will be determined by ice and weather conditions.
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Roald Amundsen

DAYS 16-20: The Eastern Canadian Arctic

On the eastern shores of Somerset Island, we find ourselves in the Eastern Canadian Arctic. The main waterway of this area is Lancaster Sound (Tallurutiup Imanga), the eastern gates to the Northwest Passage. This chapter of our exploration is likely to be action-packed, with excursions planned on each of the five days we hope to spend in and around this area. Excursion stops and local highlights we hope to share with you include Fort Ross, Prince Leopold Island (Appait), Beechey Island (Iluvilik), Croker Bay, Dundas Harbour, and Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik).
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Roald Amundsen

DAY 21: Crossing Baffin Bay

Leaving Nunavut behind, our expedition cruise continues to Greenland across Baffin Bay. The Expedition Team will continue their onboard lectures on topics such as the wildlife of the Arctic, Inuit culture, and the history of exploration in this region. Why not take part in one of our Citizen Science projects, helping photograph and track whales, or observing the clouds to help scientists study our climate by contributing to the GLOBE Program.
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Roald Amundsen

DAYS 22-24: The Wonders of West Greenland

The final chapter of our journey encompasses the majestic coast of West Greenland. We will begin by sailing into Disko Bay, a haven for whales and seals. Over the next three days, you'll experience some of the most iconic sites in all of Greenland. Our objectives include Ilulissat, which is nestled at the edge of the magnificent Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here you'll find an ever-changing gallery of passing icebergs set against a backdrop of colourful houses. In town, you can visit a multitude of shops selling local crafts, and on the outskirts, walking trails take you along the epic icefjord. Sisimiut is Greenland's second city, situated in a spectacular location just above the Arctic Circle. This area has a history spanning more than 4,500 years, and old traditions are alive and well. Learn more about ancient Saqqaq artifacts in the local museum or stretch your legs on a hike. If you're looking for a special souvenir, pick up a scarf, hat, or mittens made of qiviut, the inner wool of the musk ox that's said to be 10 times warmer than sheep's wool. As we head north, we plan to offer an exploration day in the magical and pristine Evighedsfjord near Maniitsoq. The 'Fjord of Eternity' is fed by an ice cap that carves huge icebergs into its 2,300 ft deep waters. It's surrounded by mist-cloaked mountains with beautiful white ridges, punctuated by crystal blue ice caves. We'll determine on the day what adventures we can take part in.
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Roald Amundsen

DAY 25: Old and New in Nuuk

Today we arrive in Nuuk, Greenland's colourful capital. It has a population of 18,000 and boasts a striking mix of old and new buildings. We'll explore this fascinating city, comparing the old buildings such as Hans Egede House and Nuuk Cathedral with the ultra-modern architecture of the Parliament of Greenland. Your voyage ends with a flight from Nuuk to Reykjavík, and an overnight stay.
MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: 4 Star Hotel, Reykjavík

DAY 26: Cosmopolitan Reykjavík

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and discover the city before connecting to your onward flight home. Packed full of art, culture, and history, Iceland's capital is a delight to explore. Visit Laugavegur, the main shopping street, and head towards the striking Hallgrímskirkja church. Or explore the many galleries and museums dotted around the city. If you have the time, we recommend booking a post-programme with us and discovering some of Iceland's natural highlights.
MEALS: Breakfast