



ALUMNI EXPEDITION

The Northwest Passage 2013

An exclusive charter for the Canadian University Alumni Community
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland
August 24 – September 6, 2013

Explore, discover and dream as we sail in comfort on board our exclusively chartered polar exploration vessel on a voyage through Canada's most historical waterway. This is a unique opportunity to sail to areas of exceptional landscapes and seascapes, make landings at Hudson's Bay and Franklin sites, take in the best polar bear, whale, muskox and walrus viewing, hike the vast tundra, visit remote Nunavut communities and enjoy onboard presentations by Canadian experts on the geography, the history and contemporary reality of the Canadian High Arctic. Our 2013 route will take us from Cambridge Bay through the Northwest Passage and the Davis Strait to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. Our entire voyage will be north of the Arctic Circle.



Some comments on our 2011 Canada's Northwest Passage Expedition

Just wanted to send you a quick note to thank you once again for the very fine eastward-bound trip to the Arctic that I so much enjoyed - a 10.5 out of 10! It really was a "trip of a lifetime" and we send our accolades your very fine Team that contributed to the trip's excellence. MB (Vancouver)

I just want to tell you again how much we loved our cruise.... ouch! expédition in the Great Canadian North. (We) feel that it was a privilege to be part of this unique and just about perfect experience. I am running out of superlatives... PR (Montreal)

The trip itself was beyond words and far, far surpassed any expectations that I had had. I could go on and on about the excellent staff and crew (every one of them!), the many opportunities to go ashore, my Zodiac trip through the Bellot Strait where we actually stood on the most northerly part of N. A., the presentations, the food, the pacing of each day etc. etc AC (Vancouver)



ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Saturday, August 24

Meet in Edmonton

Our journey of discovery begins in Edmonton. We'll meet this evening for a celebratory dinner and introductory presentation on the voyage that awaits. We'll stay overnight in Edmonton this evening so we are ready for our early morning charter flight north.

Sunday, August 25

Fly to Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

Early this morning we set off for the airport. We board our charter flight at 54°34'N and disembark north of the Arctic Circle at Cambridge Bay, on the southern shores of Victoria Island. Cambridge Bay, also known as Ikaluktutiak or "good fishing place" is a centre for hunting, trapping, and fishing. We always enjoy a warm welcome in this community and after exploring the town and meeting with community elders and young people we will transfer to the beach and prepare to embark our Zodiac inflatable boats for the shuttle out to the ship. We'll get acquainted with the *Akademik Ioffe* this evening as we set off for the next 12 nights of our polar expedition.

Monday, August 26

Victory Point, King William Island

Today we delve into the history of this extraordinary part of Canada. Little is known of how the remainders of the Franklin Expedition spent its last months in the frozen Arctic. The vessels, abandoned in the ice of Victoria Strait have left no trace. A lifeboat left abandoned, bits and pieces of copper and iron, cutlery and buttons and a skeleton here and there all tell a story of a desperate race south in search

of rescue, a rescue that never occurred. We will visit Victory Point and continue to reflect on the quest for exploration that opened up the Arctic, while sacrificing some of its bravest explorers.

Tuesday, August 27

Fort Ross and Bellot Strait

If ice conditions permit, we will sail eastward through Bellot Strait. A very narrow waterway separating Boothia Peninsula from Somerset Island, we will pass the northernmost extent of the North American Continental mainland. We will attempt the passage at slack tide, in order to avoid tides of more than seven knots as we cruise this narrow waterway. The mixing of waters in this strait provides an ample food source for marine mammals and we will keep our eyes peeled for harp seals, bearded seals and even polar bears. At the eastern end of Bellot Strait, we will hope to visit Fort Ross, a former Hudson's Bay Company fur trading outpost and ancient archaeological sites nearby tell a story of more than a thousand years of habitation at this site by the Inuit and their predecessors.

Wednesday, August 28

Prince Leopold Island and Beechey Island

As we sail north out of Prince Regent Inlet, we will stop at Prince Leopold Island, a Canadian Migratory Bird Sanctuary and home to hundreds of thousands of thick-billed murres, black guillemots, black-legged kittiwakes and northern fulmars. We will zodiac cruise along the base of the cliffs hoping to catch sight of the later breeders as we come to the tail end of the breeding season. Following our visit to Prince Leopold Island, we sail north across the Barrow Strait / Lancaster Sound to Beechey Island. Beechey Island



holds great importance in our quest to complete the Northwest Passage. It is here that Franklin's ill-fated expedition spent its last "comfortable" winter in 1845 before disappearing into the icy vastness, sparking an incredible series of search expeditions that finished the charting of Canada's northern archipelago. Roald Amundsen stopped at Beechey Island during the first successful complete transit of the Northwest Passage almost sixty years later.

Thursday, August 29

Lancaster Sound and Devon Island

Lancaster Sound is in many ways the wildlife "super-highway" of the Arctic. Here a massive outlet of water from the High Arctic archipelago mixes with a large area of open water creating a mixing of water that is very rich in nutrients. The area is home to a diversity and concentration of wildlife that can be staggering, given the sparseness of the region. Our stops along the shore of Lancaster Sound will be very dependent upon ice conditions and weather.

Friday, August 30

Pond Inlet

We will visit the town of Pond Inlet and make our base at the Natinnak Centre there. A spectacular cultural exhibit at the Natinnak Centre will be the background of a display put on for us by the Elders and youth of Pond Inlet. Inuit carvings, jewellery, and other local craft will be available to purchase from the local artisans here. Take time to meet the children of Pond Inlet and marvel at their athletic abilities as they demonstrate the challenges of the Inuit Games.

Saturday, August 31

Fjords of Northeast Baffin Island

Rising straight out of the water and almost blotting out the sky, the cliffs of these fjords are incredible. We will sail up a few of these fjords, looking for a place to get out and stretch our legs (that does not require a rope and harness). The mouths of these fjord complexes are often rich in wildlife due to the confluence of fresher glacial melt water from the fjords mixing with the seawater of Baffin Bay.

Sunday and Monday, September 1 -2

Baffin Bay

Our crossing of Baffin Bay this late in the season will be easy compared to that of many of the explorers. We will marvel at open ocean views, stunning sunrises and sunsets, icebergs silhouetted against the horizon and sea life. We will encourage as many eyes as possible to be out searching for wildlife, looking for the tell-tale spout of a pilot whale, the ripple of a seal dropping below the surface, the soaring of fulmar or the fins of an orca. As we approach the coast of Greenland, we should start to see the bigger baleen whales, both the humpback and fin whales, as well as the castelar icebergs, for which Greenland is famous.

Tuesday, September 3

Ilulissat and Jacobshavn Icefjord

One of the wonders of the world, the Jacobshavn Icefjord spews massive tabular icebergs out into Disko Bay. Our approach to Ilulissat will be dependent upon the amount of ice in and around the mouth of the icefjord. Ilulissat was the hometown of Knud Rasmussen, one of Greenland's most famous explorers and anthropologists, born here in 1879.



Wednesday, September 4 Sisimiut

We will explore the fjord behind the town of Sisimiut before visiting the town in the afternoon. We will hope to meet a few of the traditional Greenlandic kayakers and perhaps see a demonstration of “Eskimo Rolling” by one of the former champions of the Greenland Kayaking Championships.

Thursday, September 5 Sondre Stromfjord (Kangerlussuaq) and Return Flight

Sondre Stromfjord is one of the world’s longest fjords and cuts into the interior of Greenland. Our charter flight will await us here and we will board the flight for the short flight back to ‘southern’ Canada. This flight from Greenland will see us depart from a former American Airbase (Bluie West Eight and Camp Lloyd), located just miles north of the Arctic Circle. We arrive back in Canada the same day.

Please note:

We put safety first and that means weather, ice, wildlife, or other conditions may require us to modify the itinerary as we go. We consider this half the intrigue of Polar exploring. Specific sites visited will depend on ice and weather conditions experienced and the itinerary will be updated throughout the voyage in order to take advantage of favourable conditions. Arctic exploring is not predictable which is one of the many reasons we think it is so special.

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person based on double occupancy)

Triple Share:	C\$7995
Semi-Private:	C\$9595
Twin Private:	C\$11495
Superior:	C\$12895
Shackleton Suite:	C\$13495
One Ocean Suite:	C\$13995

Tour Cost Includes

- Accommodation for one night pre-expedition in Edmonton
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in selected cabin
- All meals
- All excursions and on board activities
- Fully program of presentations by our Resource Educators
- Port dues and taxes
- Transfers: Hotel/Airport in Edmonton and Ship/Airport in Kangerlussuaq

Not Included

- Charter flights: Edmonton to Cambridge Bay and Kangerlussuaq to Ottawa (approx C\$1850)
- Airfare from your home to Edmonton and from Ottawa to your home
- Items of a personal nature
- Ship board expenses
- Gratuities on board (suggested: US\$10 – 12 per person per day)
- Visa fees, if necessary
- Travel insurance
- Any item not mentioned in “included features”

Group size: Maximum 84 participants

Worldwide Quest

QUESTIONS? Call TOLL-FREE: 1-800-387-1483 or E-MAIL: travel@worldwidequest.com



Payment Details

A non-refundable deposit of \$2000 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A second deposit of \$2000 plus charter airfare is required by February 25, 2013. Final payment is due May 24, 2013.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate

This voyage is suitable for any person who is in reasonable health and who has the capability of getting in and out of Zodiacs with close assistance from competent sailors and expedition crew members. Walking on rocky shores can be challenging at times; however, such walks and hikes are organized into three or four groups, each with different levels of ability.

Single Supplement

If you wish to have guaranteed single accommodation, the single supplement for this trip is 1.5 times the per person cost of twin cabins and 2 times the per person cost for suites. If you are travelling alone and you are willing to share, we will try to match you up with an appropriate roommate. If we can't, the single supplement will apply. This will be collected at 90 days prior to departure.

Sea Kayaking

If you have had some previous experience, you can sign up for a kayaking experience through some of the world's most beautiful polar scenery. The price of approx. US\$750 per person for this great optional activity includes your guide, kayaks, paddles, life jackets, dry suits and an accompanying safety kayak and zodiac. This sea kayaking option is subject to availability and should be booked early. You cannot book this activity once onboard. Please ask us for further information.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for this Expedition Cruise. Please make sure that it is valid for six months after the date of your return home.

PARTICIPATING CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

Concordia University
 McMaster University
 McGill University
 Queen's University
 University of Alberta
 University of British Columbia
 University of Ottawa
 University of Toronto
 University of Western Ontario



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Our Resource Educators

A team of educators drawn from the Canadian university community and experts in the field will be on board to make presentations related to the history, geography, wildlife and contemporary issues relating to our exploration themes. Our program includes participation from the communities of Cambridge Bay, Pond Inlet and Sisimiut.

Our Vessel

Designed for polar research, the M/V Akademik Ioffe is modern, comfortable, safe and ice-strengthened. She is an expedition vessel, not a deluxe cruise ship. She is ideally designed for polar exploration. From small group sessions to briefings for all passengers, there are public spaces onboard the ship ideally suited for each and every need. A separate bar and lounge, as well as a library provide ideal places to sit and relax or catch up on some reading. Enjoy wonderful meals prepared for you by our culinary team in our dining room, which can host all passengers in a single seating. Other facilities include the theatre style presentation room, gift-shop, fitness room, massage room, sauna and plunge pool. Please refer to our separate flyer Ship Details for more information.

Cabin Categories onboard Ship

Triple Share

Located on Deck 3 these cabins have two bunk beds and one sofa bed. Facilities are shared. There is a washbasin with cold/hot water in the cabin, a writing desk/chair, in-room clock radio with ipod connector kit, and ample storage space. All cabins have a porthole.

Twin Semi-Private

Located on Deck 4 these cabins have one lower berth and one sofa bed, a writing desk and ample storage. Facilities are semi-private (one bathroom between two cabins). All cabins have a window which opens.

Twin Private

These cabins are located on Deck 4 and 5. All cabins have two lower berths, a writing desk/chair and ample storage. Facilities are private and all cabins have a window.

Superior

Located on Deck 6 these cabins have two lower berths, a sofa, a writing desk/chair and ample storage. Facilities are private and all cabins have a window.

Shackleton Suite

These cabins are located on Deck 4 and 5. All cabins have one double berth, one sofa bed, separate sleeping quarters, a writing desk/chair, TV/DVD Player, iPod Dock Alarm Clock. Facilities are private and all cabins have windows, which can be opened. Upgraded amenities are included.

One Ocean Suite

Located on Deck 5 this cabin has a double berth, one sofa bed and separate sleeping quarters, upgraded bedding, a writing desk/chair, TV/DVD Player, iPod Dock Alarm Clock and iPod Speaker System for main room. Facilities are private and have a bathtub. This cabin has spectacular windows overlooking the bow, which can be opened. Upgraded amenities are included.



Flights

Charter flights will be arranged from Edmonton to Cambridge Bay and from Kangerlussuaq to Ottawa at a price of approximately C\$1850 per person.

Flights from your home to Edmonton and from Ottawa to your home are not included and must be arranged separately. Worldwide Quest would be pleased to arrange your flights. Please contact our office for suggested routing and a quote on airfare. If you are making your own flight arrangements, please verify your schedule with your consultant to ensure that your schedule fits the program prior to confirming your arrangements.

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable. The price of your Alumni Expedition is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Travel Insurance

As all payments are non-refundable, we urge you to ensure that you have adequate insurance coverage should an unexpected event beyond your control require you to cancel or interrupt your tour or travel arrangements or should the tour not be operable as per our terms and conditions. Medical coverage with emergency evacuation insurance is mandatory on all our tours. We will offer you RBC insurance coverage. Should you decline this coverage, you must sign a waiver and provide details of your own coverage.

Payment

We accept payments by VISA and MasterCard. We would also like to let you know that we offer a 1% discount when the balance of payment is paid by cheque. Please let us know if you would like to take advantage of this discount.

Pre Departure Information

Prior to departure we will send you detailed Pre-Departure Information including information on health and travel documents, a suggested packing list and a suggested reading list.

Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).