

Greenland - Greenland: Disko Bay & Beyond | Ocean Albatros

Trip Code
ACABDBU
Departure



Introduction

Embark on an unforgettable 8-day Greenland cruise aboard the Ocean Albatros, where you'll explore remote towns in southwest Greenland, half encased in Polar sea ice. Discover the rich Inuit culture and modern life through daily shore excursions. Take in the stunning landscapes of fjords, glaciers, and colourful fishing villages. Witness the dramatic Eqip Sermia glacier and visit Uummannaq, a historic village within the Arctic Circle and sail through the breathtaking Kangerlussuaq Fjord.

From Price Listed **DOES NOT Include the Mandatory Flight Transfer Package** between Copenhagen - Kangerlussuaq - Copenhagen. Discount only applies to cabin cost; No Discount applies to Mandatory Flight Transfer Package

Itinerary

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22/08/2026, 29/08/2026, 05/09/2026, 12/09/2026

Duration

8 Days

Locations

Greenland

On the first day of our expedition, we

board our flights bound for Kangerlussuaq

on the west coast of Greenland. Situated at

the head of a 160km long fjord of the same

name, Kangerlussuaq is Greenland's only

inland town, and was established as

Søndrestrom Air Base/Bluie West-8 by

American troops in 1941. Existing largely to

service the airport, the town of

Kangerlussuaq itself retains a strong 'Cold

War' feeling, hinting at its extensive

American military use before it was signed

over to the Greenlandic Government in

1992. Today Kangerlussuaq is Greenland's

largest air hub, with flights arriving daily

from Denmark and around the country. It's

stable climate and lack of fog makes it ideal

as an airport, but it exhibits some of the

most varied temperatures in the country,

commonly registering the highest summer

and lowest winter temperatures due to its

inland location. Upon arrival in

Kangerlussuaq, you will be transported to

the small port located west of the airport,

where your expedition vessel awaits at

anchor. Zodiacs will transfer us the short

distance to the ship, where you will be

checked in to your stateroom. After the

mandatory safety drill, enjoy dinner and a

glass of champagne as we set sail a course

for adventure through the 160-kilometre

Kangerlussuaq fjord.



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After breakfast, you will arrive in the

colourful city of Sisimiut. With around 5,400

people, it is Greenland's second largest

city and one of the most interesting to

explore. Paleo-Inuit people have lived

around Sisimiut on and off since 2,500 BC,

arriving in waves of migration from Arctic

Canada. Remnants of turf huts and tent

camp from this time can be found

throughout the vast back country which

surrounds Sisimiut, including on Tele

Island, a short pleasant walk from the

harbour. In 1756, Count Johan Ludvig

Holstein established a colony here and

called it "Holsteinsborg". The oldest part of

Sisimiut features town houses from this era,

and the oldest dates back to 1756. One of

the most culturally significant buildings is

the Blue Church, built in 1775, now a

landmark in the city's historical museum

district, arguably the best preserved in

Greenland, and the perfect place to discover

the Greenland of old. Nowadays, Sisimiut is

an important hub of education and industry,

and local factories process the bulk of fish

caught in the country (Greenland's largest

export). The fish processing plant in the

harbour is one of the largest in Greenland,

and among the most modern in the world.

Just beyond the harbour sits the

headquarters of KNI, the government-

operated company which resupplies the

many small settlements throughout

Greenland - a vital service in a country with

so many remote communities. The busy city

centre of Sisimiut offers a glimpse of what

daily life is like in 21st-century Greenland,

where seal hunts and smartphones collide.

Take a refreshing stroll around Spedjesø

and take in an exhibition at the city's

cultural centre Taseralik, explore the

region's fascinating heritage at the city

museum, or visit the Artists Workshop,

where savvy shoppers can purchase

traditional artworks direct from the artist.

As evening falls, we will leave Sisimiut and

set a course for the iceberg studded waters

of Disko Bay (Qeqertarsuup Tunua) as you

sail for Qeqertarsuaq.



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Nestled below Disko Island's 1,000-metre mountains, we pull into port in a beautifully natural harbour. The place was only named Godhavn ("Good Harbour") in Danish, while its Greenlandic name "Qeqertarsuaq" simply means "The Big Island". For most of Greenland's modern history, Godhavn was the political and economic capital of North Greenland (while Godthåb, now Nuuk, served this role in Southern Greenland). Its importance was due to the vast economic activity generated by whaling in Disko Bay, the preeminent Arctic industry since the 16th Century. As the whaling industry collapsed in the early 1900s, Godhavn lost its political status as all government functions moved south to Godthåb/Nuuk, and the town was forced to reinvent itself, changing its name to Qeqertarsuaq in 1979. Today, hunting and fishing are the main industries in Qeqertarsuaq, while tourism is becoming increasingly important. Ferries arrive in the town daily in summer from around Disko Bay, while in winter, access is only by helicopter from nearby Ilulissat.

Qeqertarsuaq's sweeping red-and-black basalt mountains are radically different to the rolling granite hills which characterize much of Greenland, and provide a much richer soil. Despite being situated well above the Arctic Circle, this rich volcanic soil and the area's mild microclimate make it much more green and lush compared to the rest of the country. Locals from all over Disko Bay come to the island in summer to hunt and collect angelica, herbs and mushrooms, and the stunning rock formations and black sand beaches attract visitors from all over the world. The town itself is typically Greenlandic, with quaint multicoloured homes, a splendid museum, and the unique octagonal church nicknamed 'God's Inkpot' (built in the Norwegian stave style). With excellent hiking opportunities, friendly locals, and a fascinating place in regional history, Qeqertarsuaq has a lot to offer. On the afternoon of our day on Disko Island, we will reposition our vessel slightly to the east and launch our fleet of Zodiacs to explore the coast of Kuannit. Kuannit means 'Angelica' in Greenlandic, referring to the herb which grows abundantly on the rich south-facing slopes of the island. This stretch of coastline is one of Greenland's best kept secrets; with lush greenery dripping with water from mountain springs, spectacularly weird basalt rock formations riddled with caves and waterfalls, and plenty of sapphire-blue icebergs, this section of coast is one of the most spectacular in the Arctic. From Kuannit, we will set a northerly course towards Uummannaq.





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The small city of Uummannaq sits perched precariously at the foot of a massive mountain. Like the rest of the area, here the mountain reaches vertically out of the icy depths, punching 1170m into the clear blue sky. Uummannaq mountain (translated from Greenlandic as "heart shaped") is a true Greenlandic icon, and is a mecca for climbers who visit from all over the world. The city itself occupies a small area of flatter ground at the foot of the mountain, founded by Danish colonists in 1763 - some of the original buildings from this era can still be visited in the harbour-front area. More recently, Uummannaq has become famous in Scandinavia as the home of Santa Claus - the small turf house belonging to the festive hero himself can be reached via a pleasant (if challenging) 2-3h hike out of town. As for many towns in Greenland however, the Inuit history of the area reaches back much further. At some point around the year 1600, a group of Inuit women and children died in the area (possibly in a boating accident). They were lovingly laid to rest in a rocky cairn under a cliff on the mainland overlooking Uummannaq at a site called Qilakitsoq, protected from the rain and snow, but exposed to the dry Arctic wind which mummified their bodies. They were rediscovered in 1972 by two brothers from Uummannaq (possibly on the advice of elders in Uummannaq, who had preserved rumours of the site for centuries). The mummies were taken to Denmark for analysis before being returned to Greenland, where today they rest in the National Museum in Nuuk. The small museum in Uummannaq did not have the facilities to house such an important find, but several artefacts such as clothing from the archaeological site (as well as a plethora of finds from before, during and after the Qilakitsoq period) are displayed, along with a cabinet of curiosities from the city's brief mining boom. Uummannaq itself is a lively little town. Expect to see enterprising locals selling handicrafts in the grassy town square, while others sell their catch in the local fish market - always a fascinating sight. Watch fishermen bait their long lines as they head out in search of halibut, or load up with provisions for hunting trips deep into the vast fjordlands outside town. Ensure you are on the ship's outer decks during our sail-out from Uummannaq - the deep clear blue iceberg-studded waters of the fjord and the dramatic vertical mountains around the city offer some of the best views in Greenland. With a calm microclimate and round-the-clock summer sunshine, not for nothing is this staggeringly beautiful area nicknamed the Greenlandic Riviera!



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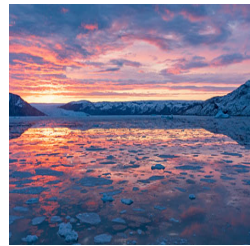
Duration

DAY 5: Eqip Sermia Glacier

8 Days

Locations

Inannaq, we return to the heart of Disko Bay setting sail towards Eqip Sermia. Eqip Sermia (a typically descriptive Greenlandic name meaning 'the Glacier at the End of the Fjord') is a relatively small glacier compared to many in Greenland, although it is still a truly vast river of ice, flowing directly from the Greenland Ice Sheet. It is also one of the most active, and ice tumbles off the vast glacier-front almost constantly. Watching the vast cataracts of ice fall into the ocean is a sight which has to be seen to be believed, and the comfortable viewing decks of your ship offer the best possible platform to do so... Perhaps with a specially crafted cocktail in hand! If conditions allow, we will launch our fleet of Zodiacs to approach this vast river of ice, and hopefully experience the roar of the glacier's frequent calvings at sea level (from a safe distance of course)! From Eqip Sermia, we will reposition slightly southwards during the evening towards Ilulissat, the largest city in Disko Bay and the Iceberg Capital of the World.



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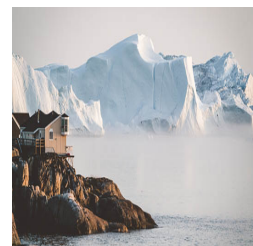
Duration

8 Days

Locations

Greenland

This is it. This is why visitors from all over the world come to Greenland. Translated from Kalaallit simply as 'icebergs', Ilulissat is rightly known the world over as the 'Iceberg Capital of the World'. Surely no other city on Earth occupies such a spectacular natural setting. Situated within a short walk of the harbour lies Ilulissat Icefjord, Greenland's most famous site. Choked with city-sized icebergs so closely packed one could almost walk across to the other side, Ilulissat Icefjord stretches 70 km from its outlet in Disko Bay near the city of Ilulissat back to the Sermeq Kujalleq glacier. This is the single largest glacier on Earth outside Antarctica, draining 13% of the Greenland Ice Sheet, and producing 10% of all the ice in the Northern Hemisphere (enough water to supply the annual needs of the entire United States). These mind-blowing statistics, together with the indescribably beautiful scenery, have secured the Ilulissat Icefjord designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While archaeological finds detail the long Inuit habitation of the area, the modern town has steadily flourished in the 280 years since its establishment; legendary Arctic explorer, Knud Rasmussen was born in Ilulissat, and his childhood home now houses the city museum. Today, Ilulissat is Greenland's third largest town, with more than 4,500 inhabitants, and is undoubtedly Greenland's tourism capital, with more hotel rooms than even Nuuk. The city offers excellent amenities to visitors, with fresh locally caught seafood served in the city's cafes and restaurants, and excellent shopping - look out especially for the Artist's Workshop above the harbour, where you can buy handmade artworks direct from the artist. The city typically experiences dry sunny weather throughout the summer, and there are a variety of well-marked hiking routes around the Icefjord, with options to suit all abilities. During the visit you will have the opportunity to join a boat trip with a local captain to the Icefjord (optional excursion - charge applies). The journey takes about two and a half hours and is considered the best way to experience the magic of Ilulissat Icefjord up close. If a hike or a trip by boat does not present enough excitement, there is also the opportunity to join a flightseeing excursion in fixed-wing aircraft over the Icefjord (*optional excursion - charge applies). *Please note: the boat and flight excursions to the Icefjord are not included in the general tour price. Contact us for further details.



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The settlement of Itilleq, which translates

roughly as "the Crossing Place from the

Locations at the foothills of the

mountains and fjords which line central

Greenland's backcountry. Situated just

north of the Arctic Circle, Itilleq is one of

the many tiny villages dotting the coast of

Greenland. The settlement is situated in the

heart of the Aassivisuit-Nipisat UNESCO

World Heritage Site, which was inscribed

due to its ancient Inuit hunting heritage,

documenting the entire habitation history of

Greenland. While the turf houses and hide

tents have been replaced by colourful

modern houses, the lifestyle here has

changes little since the Inuit first arrived in

Greenland. The local highways are the

water and the ice, and the sea and tundra

continue to nourish the locals, as they has

for thousands of years. Arctic char, reindeer

and muskoxen are typical catches, and are

all plentiful in the area. Despite this ancient

heritage, locals in Itilleq are still firmly in

the modern world, with smartphones,

speedy Wifi and satellite TV. However, the

people of Itilleq remain justly proud of their

ancient heritage, and continue to move their

culture forward in a modern fast paced

world. Locals are pleased to show off their

picturesque town, and visitors are greeted

with typical warm Greenlandic hospitality.

After departing Itilleq, we will head slightly

south and enter the 160km-long

Kangerlussuaq Fjord.



DAY 8: Kangerlussuaq & Disembark

During the night, we will sail up the 160-

kilometer/100 mile Kangerlussuaq Fjord.

After breakfast aboard the ship, we will bid

a fond farewell to the ship's crew,

Expedition Team and fellow travellers

before shuttling ashore by Zodiac. Due to

Kangerlussuaq's military history and

present-day role as an important air travel

hub, Kangerlussuaq remains fairly isolated

from Greenland's rich cultural traditions, in

comparison to other regions. While you still

find cultural experiences when visiting

Kangerlussuaq, the most impressive

attraction is the surrounding nature, which

is just beckoning to be explored. The town

itself was largely constructed by the

American military in the 1950s, and this

small airport town has retained something

of its Cold War atmosphere. Your Arctic

adventure and time in Greenland concludes

as we board the flight from Kangerlussuaq

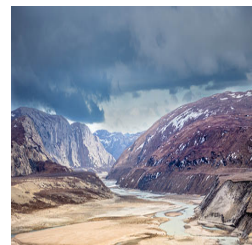
back to the southern world. Return by flight

from Kangerlussuaq to Copenhagen. Please

note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change

depending on weather conditions, ice

conditions and other factors.



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Locations & Details

Greenland

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

INCLUSIONS

Cabin accommodation on board vessel

All meals whilst on board

Dinner Drinks Package

Free coffee, tea, and afternoon snacks on the ship

Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition crew

All scheduled landings, nature hikes and excursions by zodiac as per itinerary*

Outer Expedition Parka

Taxes, tariffs, and landing fees

Welcome and Farewell cocktail parties

Special photo workshop

Digital visual journal link after the voyage, including voyage log, gallery, species list, and more

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

Mandatory Transfer Package: Flights between Copenhagen - Kangerlussaq - Copenhagen and Group Transfer between Kangerlussaq Airport and the vessel. A cost of \$1300 USD p/p (approx \$2000 AUD p/p) **is payable on top of the cost of the published cruise rate in your chosen cabin.**

Paid optional excursions and activities not mentioned in the itinerary

International Flights (except ones mentioned above)

Meals not on board the ship

Beverages (other than coffee and tea and dinner-drink package)

All items of a personal nature

Customary gratuities for staff/crew

Any pre or post cruise accommodation/extensions not mentioned in itinerary

Travel insurance

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request, a supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please [Contact Us](#) for more information.

Prices are based on per person, and may be based on quad/triple/twin share.

Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.

Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.

Notes

Note: Mandatory Return Flights & Transfer Package NOT Included in the "From Price" between Copenhagen - Kangerlussaq - Copenhagen. A cost of \$1300 USD p/p (approx \$2000 AUD p/p) **is payable on top of the cost of the published cruise rate in your chosen cabin.** No Discount applies to Mandatory Flight Transfer Package

Price Dependent upon

Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.

Sustainability