

The Arctic - In the Heart of the Northwest Passage 2027 | L'Austral

Trip Code
ACPOASNW
Departure



Introduction

Embark on a 20-day expedition cruise aboard L'Austral, exploring Baffin Bay and the historic Northwest Passage. Departing from Kangerlussuaq, you'll first visit Greenland's western coast, marveling at Disko Bay's UNESCO World Heritage icebergs and vibrant settlements. This leg offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in Inuit culture.

Sailing towards Nunavut in Northern Canada, you'll trace the Franklin expedition's route, stopping at Beechey Island and Fury Beach. The journey includes majestic fjords, ice floes, and the chance to spot polar bears and beluga whales. You'll also visit an Inuit settlement in Arctic Bay, forming special connections. This voyage, enriched by naturalists on board, promises unforgettable moments, blending arctic history, stunning landscapes, and wildlife discovery.

Itinerary

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Departure

28/08/2027

DAY 1: Fly to Kangerlussuaq & Embarkation

Duration

20 Days you will fly from Paris to

Kangerlussuaq. Our team of experts will be

wanting to assist you with embarkation.

Canadian Arctic & Greenland

From 1941 to 1992, the town of

Kangerlussuaq in Greenland was home to

an American military base. Nowadays,

thanks to its international airport, it has

become a transit point for travellers seeking

adventure in the Far North. Located to the

north of the Arctic Circle, this town is the

starting point of magnificent discoveries

surrounded by unspoiled nature. Indeed,

just a few dozen kilometres from there it is

possible to get close to the Greenland ice

sheet, the largest body of ice in the

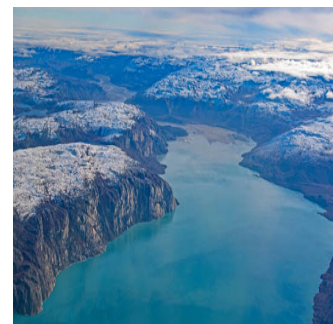
Northern Hemisphere. From

Kangerlussuaq, admire also the superb

landscapes of tundra in autumnal colours,

where Arctic hares, musk oxen, Arctic foxes,

reindeer, falcons and eagles live.



DAY 2: Sisimiut

During your cruise, we invite you to

discover Sisimiut, founded in 1756 and the

second largest town in Greenland. This

small town is typical of Greenland, boasting

bewitching panoramas: here and there,

colourful stilt houses dot the undulating

landscape, and the small fishing port stands

as the gateway to an icy realm. As for the

town centre, it is home to a number of

historic buildings, a small church and a

museum which retraces the history of the

Inuit people, as well as many craft shops.

When your ship drops anchor here, you will

set out to meet the locals in a typically

arctic atmosphere.



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Locations

Canada, Arctic & Greenland

Dogs

Kitissuarsuit

Kitissuarsuit (Dog's Island)

Kitissuarsuit

Kitissuarsuit

Kitissuarsuit

Kitissuarsuit

Kitissuarsuit

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Kitissuarsuit

The Dutch were the first to come and hunt whales on this island they called "isle of Dogs" - Kitissuarsuit in Greenlandic. Indeed, when they arrived there in the summertime, the inhabitants had left the island, leaving behind their dogs, and moved to the neighbouring fjords for a season of fishing. Kitissuarsuit is considered to be the larder of the small town of Aasiaat, which is further away from the fishing areas, and the villagers still live self-sufficiently thanks to the marine resources, while trying to keep their age-old traditions alive.



DAY 4: Disko Bay

To the east of Baffin Bay, discover Disko Bay, scattered with countless icebergs produced by the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From your ship, admire the majestic ballet of these ice giants as they slowly drift across the dark waters. This site is a natural marvel of Greenland, and is also renowned as an observation point for the region's many humpback whales. The encounters with wild fauna and stunning landscapes in the heart of this spectacular and fragile nature will be pure moments of wonder for you.



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During your journey at sea, make the most

of the many services and activities on board.

Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in

the spa or stay in shape in the fitness

centre. Depending on the season, let

yourself be tempted by the swimming pool

or a spot of sunbathing. This journey

without a port of call will also be an

opportunity to enjoy the conferences or

shows proposed on board, depending on the

activities offered, or to do some shopping in

the boutique or to meet the PONANT

photographers in their dedicated space. As

for lovers of the open sea, they will be able

to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the

spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky

enough to observe marine species. A truly

enchanted interlude, combining comfort,

rest and entertainment.



DAY 6: Pond Inlet, Nunavut

On Baffin Island, located in northern

Canada at the mouth of the famous

NorthWest Passage, there is a small Inuit

settlement at the very bounds of infinity. To

get there, cross the Arctic Circle, the

imaginary line that separates man from

lands of mystery and wonder. It's not so

much the way of life that sets Pond Inlet's

inhabitants apart, so much as the setting.

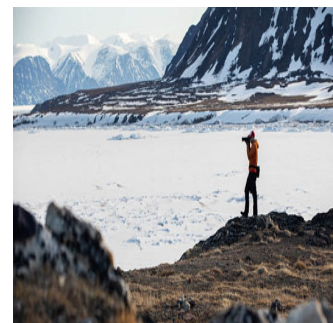
Snow-capped mountains, fjords and glaciers

combine in a dazzling natural environment

that fills space and expands time. Some

discoveries change you forever: this is one

of them.



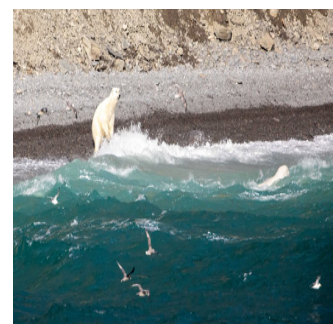
DAY 7: Queen Harbour, Nunavut

Today, you will visit Queen Harbour on

Devon Island. More information about the

destination will be provided by your

destination specialist.



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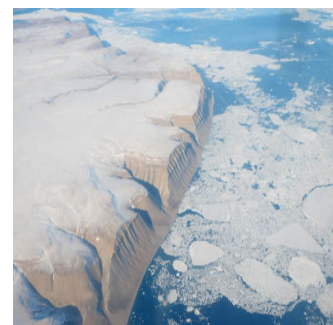
Duration

20 Days Dundas Harbour, Nunavut

Locations

Canadian Arctic & Greenland

On the southern coast of Devon Island, Dundas Harbour, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police post in the early 20th century, keeps watch over the entrance to the Northwest Passage. This site has been frequented for centuries by the Inuit, who call it Talluruti - or "woman's chin with tattoos on it" in Inuktitut - in reference to the lines of the landscape which are reminiscent of their traditional tattoos. Its hills, covered in taiga reflecting greens, browns and golds, are edged by the deep navy waters of a bay dotted with white and turquoise ice floe glistening in the sunlight.



DAY 9: Port Leopold

The Canadian Arctic Circle is home to one of the planet's best preserved natural sanctuaries: Somerset Island. This immaculate northern desert is renowned for its phenomenal landscapes, its midnight sun and its huge tundra, where musk oxen roam. Covering 24,786 square kilometres (15,400 square miles), it is the Arctic archipelago's ninth-largest island. Vegetation is rare except in some hollows and lowlands, where Peary caribou are common.



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DAY 10: Fort Ross & Bellot Strait

Duration

20 Days

Discover Fort Ross, the last trading post located by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Constructed in 1837, it was used as a fur

and whaling trading post at the same time.

Fort Ross, located on a small island at the entrance to the Bellot Strait, is still home to

this former store as well as the house for

the manager and staff. The interior of these

two buildings has been damaged over time

and by the presence of polar bears. After a

short walk towards the summits of the

island, you will be able to enjoy a

brehtaking panoramic view over the Bellot

Strait and surrounding area. A key stage in

the North West Passage, the Bellot Strait,

crossed by strong currents, promises you an

unforgettable sailing experience. The

entrance to the strait is dominated by the

Ross Cairn. The buildings of Fort Ross also

stand not far from here. Separating

Somerset Island from the Boothia Peninsula,

this 2-km-wide strait was discovered in

1852 by Captain William Kennedy of the

Royal Navy, and the Frenchman Joseph-

René Bellot, during an expedition in search

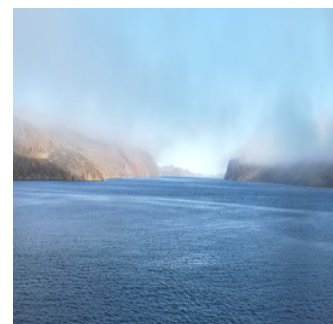
of Sir John Franklin. Discover a magnificent

décor covered in snow, fragmented by large

ice floes. As you sail between them, your

ship will perhaps be accompanied by a few

polar bears.



DAY 11: Cunningham Bay

At the heart of the legendary Northwest

Passage, discover the sheltered Coningham

Bay in the south-east of Prince of Wales

Island, during an exceptionnal sailing. The

surrounding waters, rich in nutrients

brought in by the tides and currents, are

home to cetaceans including beluga whales.

The polar bear, lord of the Arctic, has also

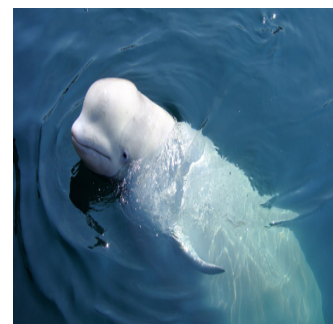
established its realm on this hunting ground

where food tends to be abundant. When

conditions are favourable, extraordinary

encounters with the wildlife are possible in

these isolated lands.



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Duration

DAY 12: Prescott Island

20 Days

Location

Prescott Island is located between Somerset
Canadian Arctic & Greenland
Island and Prince of Wales Island, in the
heart of Peel Sound, and its shorelines

provide a perfect playground for belugas.

However, the opportunity to observe and

listen to these 'sea canaries" is not the only

reason to scan the horizon: here, between

the icebergs and the dramatic landscapes,

you may also be able to spot polar bears, as

well as summon up memories of Sir John

Franklin, who was the first to cross Peel

Sound in 1846 during his expedition in

search of the Northwest Passage, followed

in 1903 by Roald Amundsen, who was the

first to find a route through that passage!



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DAY 13: Beechey Island & Devon Island

Duration

20 Days

Location: Beechey Bay, will call to mind some of the

most important moments of Franklin's

expedition. Sir John set off in 1845 in search

of the mythical Northwest Passage and was

forced to take shelter in Erebus Harbour for

two long years, while he waited for the ice

floes to recede and allow him a way

through. It is a spectacular location; seeing

the three wooden grave markers, bleached

by the sun (indicating the burial places of at

least three of Captain Franklin's men) and

visiting the memorial that has been erected

in memory of Franklin and his men can only

reinforce the hushed sense of reverence. If

the surrounding wilderness impresses us,

the ochre and yellows of the rocky desert

soften the landscape. Located in Baffin Bay,

Devon Island is part of the Canadian Arctic

Archipelago. Anchored on the Arctic

Cordillera, its rocky surface, similar to that

of Mars, is of great interest to scientists.

Robert Bylot and William Baffin were the

first Europeans to sight Devon Island in

1616 but it would be mapped two centuries

later by the British sailor William E. Parry,

who named it after the eponymous English

region. Around 1920, the Hudson's Bay

Company set up a fur-trading outpost there,

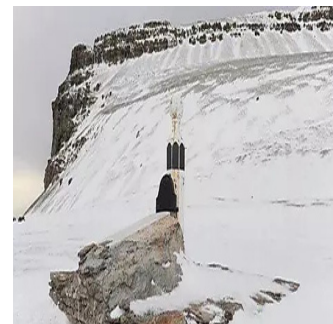
until the departure of the Inuits in 1936. A

new attempt to populate it was made at the

beginning of the 1950s. Only a few

buildings in ruins, vestiges of that time,

remain today.



DAY 14: Arctic Bay, Nunavut

Arctic Harbor is on the small island of

Aulitiving, barely 15 km long and 5 km

wide, at the entrance to Isabella Bay. A

major whale hunting site, this small natural

harbour still has remnants from those times,

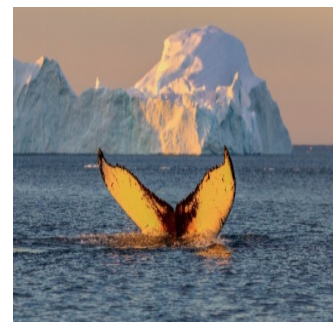
notably some whaler graves. This port of

call will be the opportunity to go for a lovely

hike in the heart of the Arctic tundra, and

perhaps to reach the highest point of the

island, located at an altitude of 410 metres.



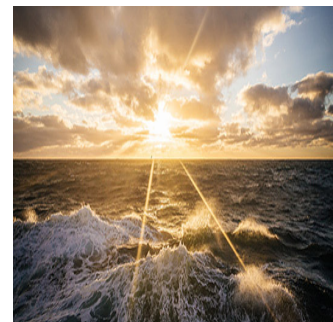
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DAY 15: At Sea

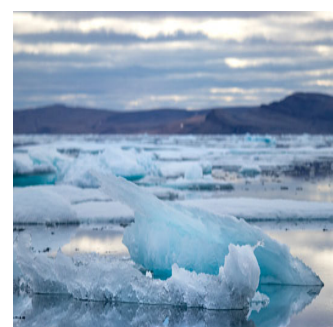
Locations
Canadian Arctic & Greenland

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.



DAY 16: North Arm Fjord

The ship makes its way deeper into the fjord, leaving you free to admire the spectacular geological formations that plunge abruptly into the emerald-green waters of Baffin Bay. When the temperature rises and the ice begins to melt, Nunavut becomes one of the best places in the world to observe the wildlife of the Arctic. Be on the lookout for polar bears, which hide away amongst the scree to seek out the freshness of the permafrost. On the water's surface, you could get the chance to glimpse the tusk of a narwhal, or perhaps the silhouette of an orca or a bowhead whale. And in the sky, it is not uncommon to see a colony of arctic fulmars with their impressive wingspan gliding near the ship.



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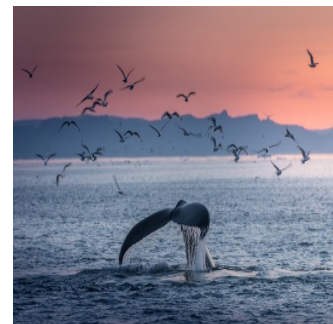
Departure

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DAY 17: Koy Arm Fjord

Duration

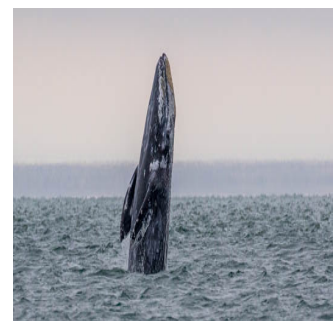
20 Days

The east coast of Baffin Island is a real location of fjords. Among them, in the Canadian Arctic & Greenland north, is the spectacular Koy Arm fjord. As you sail these parts, you'll be dazzled by the immense cliffs that are sometimes over 1,000 metres high. This is a paradise for base jumping (parachute jumping from the top of the cliffs). During your stop here, you will have the opportunity to hike at the feet of these mountains and within the glacial valleys. Keep your eyes open when you get back on your boat: you'll probably get the chance to observe marine mammals, such as whales, orcas and even narwhals.



DAY 18: At Sea

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.



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DAY 19: Evighedsfjorden

Duration

20 Days
Your ship glides slowly along the water

Locations: the west coast of Greenland, to

Canadian Arctic & Greenland
Enter Evighedsfjorden, just a few kilometres

south of Kangerlussuaq. Evighedsfjorden

means "the fjord of Eternity", and for good

reason: just when you think you've reached

the end of this stretch of sea measuring

over 100 kilometres in length, it seems to go

on forever, as though to bring even more

pleasure to those sailing in it. The

spectacular scenery ranges from glaciers to

tundra with an abundant flora, and jagged

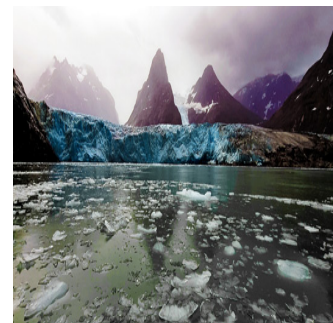
cliffs where numerous bird species have

taken up residence. Take the time to

observe the white-tailed eagles and the

colonies of seagulls and black-legged

kittiwakes flying overhead in the area.



DAY 20: Disembark in Kangerlussuaq

Bid farewell to your guides and fellow expedition members before disembarking in

Kangerlussuaq. From 1941 to 1992, the

town of Kangerlussuaq in Greenland was

home to an American military base.

Nowadays, thanks to its international

airport, it has become a transit point for

travellers seeking adventure in the Far

North. Located to the north of the Arctic

Circle, this town is the starting point of

magnificent discoveries surrounded by

unspoiled nature. Indeed, just a few dozen

kilometres from there it is possible to get

close to the Greenland ice sheet, the largest

body of ice in the Northern Hemisphere.

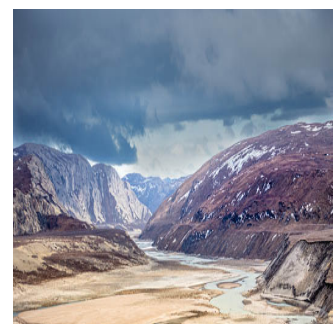
From Kangerlussuaq, admire also the

superb landscapes of tundra in autumnal

colours, where Arctic hares, musk oxen,

Arctic foxes, reindeer, falcons and eagles

live.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Cabin on board a ship

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Locations
Canadian Arctic & Greenland



INCLUSIONS

Cabin accommodation on board ship
All meals whilst on board
Charter flight Paris/Kangerlussuaq on Embarkation Day
Charter flight Kangerlussuaq/Paris on Disembarkation Day
Transfers to/from airport to vessel
Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition crew
Unlimited Open bar & included Mini bar
Free WiFi on board

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

International flights
Pre and post land arrangements and accommodation in Paris
Any optional activities not mentioned in itinerary
Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)
Travel Insurance
Any Personal Expenses
Optional tipping/gratuities
2 (Light Adventure)
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 vary from twin share cabins.
Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.
All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Difficulty Rating

Single Surcharge

Notes

Price Dependent upon

Sustainability

Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.*
Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.