

The Arctic - Expedition to the Edge Ice Sheet 2026 | L'Austral

Trip Code
ACPOETE
Departure



Introduction

This Arctic voyage begins in Reykjavík before sailing west toward the wild coastline of Greenland, where dramatic fjords, remote settlements and immense ice landscapes shape the journey. After a day at sea to settle into ship life, the adventure begins along Greenland's east coast with visits to places like Tasiilaq and scenic cruising through fjords filled with drifting icebergs and towering mountain backdrops.

As the voyage continues south and then north along the coast, each stop offers a different glimpse of life in the Arctic. Wander small villages with colourful houses, visit Viking ruins set among green valleys and sail through narrow waterways framed by glaciers and waterfalls. Further north, the scale of Greenland becomes even more striking, with iceberg filled bays, powerful glaciers and opportunities to spot whales and Arctic wildlife. The journey finishes in Kangerlussuaq, leaving you with a vivid sense of the Far North's raw beauty, quiet communities and ever changing polar landscapes.

Itinerary

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14 Days

Iceland's capital stretches along the edge of

a vast bay in the west of the country.

Greenland ~~Perth~~ "Pearl of Reykjavík", a museum

located on 'Oskjuhlíð hill, offers a

panoramic view of the lush, green

landscapes. A little further, one can easily

spot the signpost showing the way to the

evangelical Hallgrímskirkja church, and to

the historical centre where one can stroll

along the Skólavörðustígur and the

Laugavegur, two lively streets with

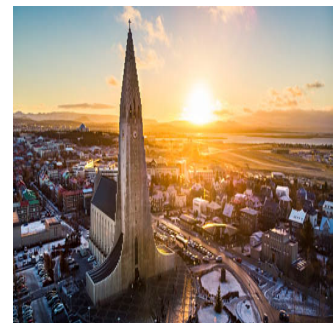
charming small shops. For some relaxation

just outside of the city, visitors have the

opportunity to visit the Reykjanes peninsula

and its famous thermal lagoons of the Blue

Lagoon.



DAY 3: 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

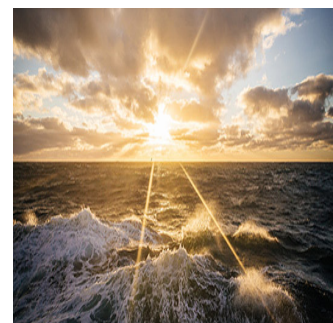
to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the

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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Tasiilaq & Sermilik Fjord

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In Tasiilaq, on Ammassalik Island, follow in
the wake of Captain Jean-Baptiste Charcot's
famous ship, the Pourquoi Pas ?, which set
off with its crew in 1935 to discover this

small island of primitive and wild beauty
that remained unexplored until the end of
the 19th century. Along with

Ittoqqortoormiit, a village with 500
inhabitants located at the entrance of the
Scoresby Sound, the village of Tasiilaq and
its surroundings, 800 kilometres (500 miles)
further north, are the only inhabited areas
on the east coast of Greenland. The name of

this island is a reference to the capelin, a
small flamboyant silver-coloured fish whose
presence in the thousands announces to
inhabitants the return of spring. A

surprising discovery in a spectacular
setting. You will be captivated by the
spectacular scenery of the Sermilik Fjord,
the largest in the south-east of Greenland.

To the north, above the glacial valleys, the
Schweitzerland Alps and their peaks that
rise to an altitude of more than 3,000
metres (10,000 feet) stretch out in the
distance, while in the south, where it opens
onto the Irminger Sea, heavy erosion has
carved the landscape. Three main glaciers
calve a multitude of dazzling icebergs that
drift serenely along the indigo waters of this
majestic fjord. It owes its name to the Inuit
word Sermilik, which generally refers to a
fjord into which a glacier flows. It was
mapped in 1884 by the Danish explorer
Gustav Holm and his crew, while they
wintered in the Ammassalik region.



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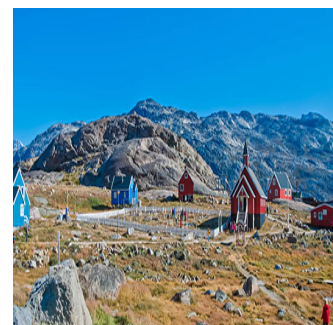
Discover Skjoldungen Island on the south-east coast of Greenland. This uninhabited island boasts magnificent landscapes that are sure to dazzle you. The island is surrounded by a stunning fjord, a distinctive feature of which is its double entrance: it forms a bend before joining the sea on the other side.

Mountains, glacial valleys, rocky outcrops, tundra and willow forests make up the beautiful scenery which you will be able to admire more closely when you land here. At this port of call, surrounded by wild and pristine nature, it is quite common to see bearded seals, orcas, but also birds such as the common redpoll, the northern wheatear, or the common raven.



DAY 6: Aappilattoq

Aappilattoq (Augpilatok), is a small Inuit village of around one hundred inhabitants, whose name means "sea anemone" in Greenlandic. Located in a mountainous region inaccessible by road, its picturesque, colourful houses stretch out to the southern tip of Greenland, on the banks of the spectacular Prince Christian Sound. Some one hundred kilometres long, the sound connects the Labrador Sea to the Irminger Sea, meandering through stunning landscapes such as majestic glaciers, craggy peaks, and rocky cliffs with waterfalls fed by the ice sheet. This region was uninhabited in the 19th century. The village was created in the 1920s and the main activities revolve around hunting, fishing and livestock farming.



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Around you, a grassy meadow filled with flowers stretches out, dotted with imposing granite rocks. A few semi-wild sheep and horses greet you; they are the only inhabitants of this place surrounded by beautiful mountains. You are in Hvalsø, in the heart of the fertile lands in Greenland's south. During the 10th century, this site was colonised by the Vikings, who established a large community here. When your ship calls at these lands brimming with history, you will see the ruins of a church whose remains are still very well preserved. It was most likely built in the 14th century. It has lost its timber roof, but its four stone walls continue to stand proudly as a moving relic of a long-gone era. From your ship, discover the town of Narsaq. You will be dazzled by the beauty of the surrounding icebergs – large masses of ice in different shapes and shifting colours. Dominated by lush mountains, this small town is typical of Greenland and is located in the heart of a wonderful natural landscape. The multicoloured house facades and the glaciers with their myriad shades of blue offer a magical setting, conducive to wonderment.



DAY 8: Ikka Fjord

As you sail through the majestic Ikka Fjord in south-west Greenland, you will discover over 10,000 years of underwater geology, for mysterious columns up to 20 metres high, formed several millennia ago, rise up from the seabed. Their material, ikaite, gives the fjord its name. Truly magical! You glide over calm, clear waters amidst breathtaking mountains in the endlessly wild, huge area of Greenland.



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When Erik Le Rouge, the exiled Norse chief,

landed on the coast of Nuuk, he found a

Greenland welcoming land dotted with

fjords. He settled there with a group of his

former countrymen, and the Norse

remained the principal inhabitants until,

over a period of 500 years, their population

declined and gave way to the Inuit. Nuuk is

situated at the mouth of one of the largest

networks of fjords in the world, where the

waters never freeze. The town spreads

gently out towards the Davis Strait and

enjoys an historic center that is particularly

rich in national heritage. The vivid reds,

blues, greens and yellows of the houses are

a lively contrast to the somber waters of

Greenland and serve to lift the spirits of the

locals during the Winter months.



DAY 10: 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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The most beautiful place in the Arctic' is

Location: Paul-Émile Victor described Greenland,

Greenland great icebergs and of towering ice

formations calved by the giant glaciers of

the polar ice cap. The Egi Glacier is one of

the region's most impressive sights. Here,

the silence is broken only by the roaring and

cracking of the ice. It is impossible to know

if one is shivering from cold or from the

sheer thrill of being here... Imagine the vast

outline of a glacier, its translucent crystals

glowing with an ice-blue fire in the sunlight.

Paul-Émile Victor's shelter cannot be

overlooked; it was from here that the

French Polar Expeditions' anthropological

and geographic explorations set off in the

1950s.



DAY 12: 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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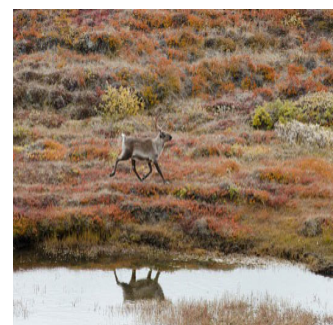
It is a tiny island lying within the Arctic Circle, 45 km south of Sisimiut. Home to barely 100 people, they mainly earn a living from fishing and hunting in their typical Greenlandic village, whose bright colours evoke those of their traditional clothing.

During your visit, you will maybe have the pleasure of playing a game of football with them, enjoying a "kaffemik" (a coffee break) or a moment of contemplation when the gentle light of the midnight sun dapples the horizon.



DAY 14: Kangerlussuaq and Fly to Paris

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. *Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation Cabin on board a ship

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INCLUSIONS

Cabin accommodation on board ship
All meals whilst on board
Charter flight Kangerlussuaq/Paris on Disembarkation Day
Transfers from vessel to airport
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

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 vary from twin share cabins.

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

Notes

All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.*

Price Dependent upon Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

Sustainability