

DETAILS

Non-technical project proposal description

English: Project Title: Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions – Ocean Nova
Project Summary
Who: Adventure Canada is a proud Canadian-owned expedition cruise operator with over 30 years of Arctic experience. Our expeditions are guided by highly trained and certified staff, including Nunavummiut Beneficiaries and Inuit from across Inuit Nunangat, who bring cultural knowledge and lived experience to our programs.
What: The project involves seasonal, small-ship expedition cruises in the Canadian Arctic aboard the Ocean Nova. Originally designed as a Greenlandic ferry, Ocean Nova is a sturdy, ice-strengthened vessel well-suited for responsible Arctic travel. Each voyage carries up to 74 guests and 13 staff. Guests travel ashore using Zodiacs, with a maximum of 8 boats in the water at any time (10 passengers per Mark V Zodiac). Zodiac cruises are the primary method for wildlife observation. Onshore visits are conducted in small, guided groups (max. 25 guests) to limit impact and ensure safety. Activities include wildlife observation, guided hikes, cultural exchanges in Nunavut communities, and onboard educational programming led by Inuit Nunavummiut. Prior to landings, guests receive mandatory briefings on conservation, bear safety, local guidelines, and respect for the land. During landings, trained staff—including armed bear monitors where necessary—supervise all guest activities.
Why: The project's purpose is to educate and inspire Adventure Canada guests about Arctic wildlife, ecosystems, and Inuit cultural heritage. By fostering cross-cultural understanding and encouraging conservation-minded travel, the project contributes to sustainable tourism development in Nunavut. Adventure Canada's approach emphasizes minimal environmental disturbance, close engagement with HTOs and community boards, and direct economic and cultural benefits to the communities we visit.
Where: Operations will occur in Nunavut's Qikiqtani region, in South and Southeast Baffin Island area, in consultation with affected communities and Inuit organizations. Visits may take place near protected areas such as seabird colonies or marine mammal habitats, always under applicable territorial, federal, and Inuit guidelines. All itineraries are planned in partnership with local stakeholders to ensure cultural sensitivity and community readiness.
When: The proposed expeditions will operate seasonally between July and October 2026. Each voyage follows a fixed itinerary within this window. No permanent infrastructure will be constructed, and all activities are temporary, reversible, and conducted within existing permit frameworks.
Commitments to Regulation and Best Practice: Adventure Canada will obtain and comply with all required permits, including Inuit Owned Land access, Canadian Wildlife Service guidelines for seabird colonies, and federal whale-watching regulations. As a member of AECO, we adhere to its operational guidelines for expedition cruising in the Arctic. We also follow community-specific recommendations from Hunters and Trappers Organizations and local boards. Sustainability practices include:
• Careful wildlife viewing protocols.
• Fuel efficiency and waste reduction efforts.
• Ongoing engagement with Inuit communities to incorporate local knowledge, create opportunities, and ensure operations respect sovereignty and local priorities. We have been active participants in the Nunavut regulatory regime for the past 30 years and will continue to exceed requirements wherever possible. For more information on our Arctic expeditions, see: www.adventurecanada.com/trips/arctic-expedition-cruises.

French: Titre du projet : Expéditions Adventure Canada 2026 – Ocean Nova
Résumé du projet
Qui : Adventure Canada est un opérateur canadien de croisières-expéditions, fier de son indépendance, avec plus de 30 ans d'expérience dans l'Arctique. Nos expéditions sont encadrées par un personnel hautement qualifié et certifié, comprenant des Bénéficiaires nunavummiut et des Inuits de l'ensemble de l'Inuit Nunangat, qui apportent à nos programmes leur savoir culturel et leur vécu.
Quoi : Le projet consiste en des croisières-expéditions saisonnières à bord de petits navires dans l'Arctique canadien, à bord de l'Ocean Nova. Conçu à l'origine comme traversier groenlandais, l'Ocean Nova est un navire robuste, renforcé pour la glace, parfaitement adapté aux voyages responsables en Arctique. Chaque expédition accueille jusqu'à 74 passagers et 13 membres d'équipage. Les passagers débarquent grâce aux Zodiacs, avec un maximum de 8 embarcations à la fois (10 passagers par Zodiac Mark V). Les excursions en Zodiac constituent le principal moyen d'observer la faune. Les visites terrestres sont effectuées en petits groupes guidés (maximum 25 passagers), afin de réduire l'impact et d'assurer la sécurité. Les activités comprennent l'observation de la faune, des randonnées guidées, des échanges culturels dans les communautés du Nunavut et des programmes éducatifs à bord animés par des Nunavummiut inuits. Avant les débarquements, les passagers reçoivent des séances d'information obligatoires sur la conservation, la sécurité face aux ours, les directives locales et le respect du territoire. Pendant les débarquements, les activités des passagers sont supervisées par du personnel formé

Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
Iqaluit	Tourism Activities	Municipal	We have partnered with Iqaluit for vessel turnarounds numerous times throughout last three decades.	NA	NA
Kimmirut	Tourism Activities	Municipal	We have a long-standing partnership with Kimmirut and visit the community approx. once per year.	NA	NA
Kinngait	Tourism Activities	Municipal	We have a longstanding partnership with Kinngait and we visit the community approximately once per year.	NA	NA
Pangnirtung	Tourism Activities	Municipal	We visited Pangnirtung in 2025 and had a very successful visit. We plan to visit again approx. once per year for next few years to continue growing our partnership with the community.	NA	NA
Sir Charles Francis Hall Bay	Tourism Activities	Crown	This site is sometimes visited by expedition vessels. We will zodiac cruise.	NA	Closes to Iqaluit - approx 70nm
Butterfly Bay	Tourism Activities	Crown	This is a site frequently visited by expedition vessels.	NA	Pangnirtung is approx 200nm north
Lady Franklin Island	Tourism Activities	Crown	offer zodiac cruises here when weather/ice/wildlife conditions permit	NA	200nm to Pangnirtung
Kerketen Island	Tourism Activities	Crown	This is a territorial park with developed tourism infrastructure for the old Cumberland Sound main commercial whaling site.	Territorial Park	30nm to Pangnirtung
Hoare Bay	Tourism Activities	Crown	Expedition vessels often visit this site	NA	Pangnirtung is approx. 200nm away
Resolution	Tourism	Crown	Frequent landing site	NA	180nm from

Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Cape Dorset	Kristiina Alariaq	Manager, Huit Huit Tours Ltd.	2025-09-08
Pond Inlet	Anita Evic	EDO, Hamlet Office	2025-09-08
Iqaluit	Louis-Phillip Poitier	Inukpak Outfitting	2025-09-08
Kimmirut	Nigel Audla	EDO, Hamlet Office	2025-09-08

Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

Transboundary
South Baffin

Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth	Archaeology and Paleontology Research Permit, Class I	Not Yet Applied		
Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment	Wildlife Observation Licence	Not Yet Applied		
Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment	Nunavut Territorial Parks Firearm Permit	Not Yet Applied		
Canadian Wildlife Service	Migratory Bird Sanctuary permit under the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations	Not Yet Applied		
Transport Canada	Equivalency Certificate	Not Yet Applied		
Qikiqtani Inuit Association	Land Use Licence I	Not Yet Applied		
Government of Nunavut, Community Services	Nunavut Tourism Outfitter's Licence	Not Yet Applied		
Parks Canada	Auyittuq Visitor's Permit	Active		
Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment	Nunavut Territorial Parks Vistiation Permits	Not Yet Applied		

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Water	Cruise ship and Zodiacs	

Project accomodation types

Other,

Material Use

Equipment to be used (including drills, pumps, aircraft, vehicles, etc)

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
Ocean Nova cruise vessel	1	73meters x 11 meters	ocean going cruise vessel that accommodates and transports passengers, crew and staff
zodiac mk5	8	5.85m	To transport passengers to shore or used for wildlife/scenery observation, touring and photography from the water, safety support for kayakers
sea kayaks	10	5.5m	light use, touring and photography from the water

Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Gasoline	fuel	1	199	199	Cubic Meters	marine gas oil
Gasoline	fuel	2	2	4	Cubic Meters	gasoline for zodiacs

Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
36	HOH Vattenteknik reverse osmosis machine	while sailing in open water

Waste

Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Tourism Activities	Combustible wastes	TBA	inciterated on board once every two weeks where permitted	NA
Marine Based Activities	Greywater	tba	at sea 12 nm in open water, not in any protected areas	na
Tourism Activities	Other, Sludge oil	1.1 m3	at reception facilities in Greenland, not disposed of in Nunavut	NA
Tourism Activities	Sewage (human waste)	3 m3 collection tank	heavily treated. only discharged in open water more than 12 miles from shore	NA

Environmental Impacts:

The proposed ship's cruise, and zodiac cruise may have the potential risk of an oil spill. Please see the uploaded Oil Spill Prevention certification and SOPEP plan. The mitigation measures put in place to ensure no environmental impact occurs are as follows: the vessel will stay at a minimum of 500 meters away from bird and whale sanctuaries and maintain a sailing speed no faster than required for safe navigation; a reduction in ships equipment to reduce noise; Zodiac cruise will be no closer that 100 meters in distance wildlife, and engine will remain in idle whenever possible to reduce noise; a trained guide will be onboard and in zodiacs observing for any disturbance indicators. Captain, Expedition Leader, and crew will be aware of all regulatory and community requirements while in the area; passengers will be educated on proper wildlife viewing behaviors, sensitive site visits, and respect for the land. Dangerous wildlife encounters are also mitigated by active polar bear monitoring by crew and staff. The area will be scouted before zodiac cruise for wildlife in area. Firearms will only be used for emergency situations. If the site is on land, polar bear monitors will go out first to scout and set a safe perimeter. Once clear, staff will come ashore and then passengers. Bear monitors will stay in set locations for duration of visit and will be the last to leave a site. If a bear is spotted, landing site evacuation will commence.

Additional Information

SECTION A1: Project Info

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

SECTION B1: Project Info

SECTION B2: Exploration Activity

SECTION B3: Geosciences

SECTION B4: Drilling

SECTION B5: Stripping

SECTION B6: Underground Activity

SECTION B7: Waste Rock

SECTION B8: Stockpiles

SECTION B9: Mine Development

SECTION B10: Geology

SECTION B11: Mine

SECTION B12: Mill

SECTION C1: Pits

SECTION D1: Facility

SECTION D2: Facility Construction

SECTION D3: Facility Operation

SECTION D4: Vessel Use

SECTION E1: Offshore Survey

SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey

SECTION E3: Vessel Use

SECTION F1: Site Cleanup

SECTION G1: Well Authorization

SECTION G2: Onland Exploration

SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration

SECTION G4: Rig

SECTION H1: Vessel Use

Ocean Nova, Expedition vessel educating 74 guests about Nunavut. Vessel details listed elsewhere in application. There area approximately 13 expedition team and 30 crew. Sailing schedule provided on map tab. Will call into Iqaluit (trip turnaround), Kinngait, Kimmirut and Pangnirtung for community visits. Waste captured on other application pages. Fresh water and potable water described on another application page. Waste Management, Emerg Responses and SOPEP plan provided in uploaded documents. Arctic Pollution Prevention Certificate is provided. Ice breaking will not be required. We will not transit into the outer land fast ice zone. Will also be in Nunavik Marine region and we are getting applicable permits from NMRPC, NMRIRB and Makkivik Corporation.

SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea

SECTION I1: Municipal Development

Description of Existing Environment: Physical Environment

Nunavut is predominantly marine and coastal environments featuring fjords, islands, cliffs, and tundra. Seasonal ice is a significant factor, though ice forecasting in Hudson Strait predicts minimal to no ice during the time of our operation. There may be ice in Davis Strait for the latter portion of our operation. Weather conditions in the strait can change rapidly. The terrain along the south coast of Baffin Island is minimally charted with a high tidal swings – our plan is to visit Kimmirut and Kinngait following existing charted channels.

Description of Existing Environment: Biological Environment

Marine waters host various mammal species including seals (ringed, bearded, harp, hooded), walrus, and several whale species (beluga, bowhead, minke, humpback, orca). Fish species are important for the ecosystem and local harvesting. The terrestrial environment is characterized by Arctic tundra vegetation, supporting species like Arctic fox, caribou (though herd presence varies by location and season), and smaller mammals. We operate on a leave no trace principle and will respectfully and legally interface with the environment.

Description of Existing Environment: Socio-economic Environment

Inuit have a deep cultural, spiritual, and economic connection to the land and marine environment. Traditional harvesting (hunting, fishing, trapping) remains a vital part of life, culture, and the local economy. When visiting Kimmirut and Kinngait, respectively, we pay landing fees per guest, pay for guides, subsidize artists, host community feasts, and operate on the principle of introducing significant economic benefits to the community in the time window of our visit. We work closely with the municipal office and community organizers to ensure that we visit respectfully (we would never visit a community if not welcomed).

Miscellaneous Project Information

Identification of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

We employ prescribed safe distances from wildlife, such as birds on cliffs and marine mammals in water, on ice, or land, will be strictly maintained according to existing Nunavut regulations and guidelines, any relevant Qiqiktani Inuit Association Guidelines, AECO guidelines, and Canadian regulations like the Marine Mammal Regulations, Canadian Wildlife Services regulations, etc. This includes slowing vessel and Zodiac speeds in the vicinity of wildlife and avoiding the encirclement of animals. Noise will be minimized, with no use of horns or loud PA systems near sensitive wildlife areas. Trained expedition staff and Inuit guides will be onboard to spot wildlife and advise on appropriate procedures. If animals show signs of disturbance, the approach will cease, and distance will be increased.

Cumulative Effects

We carefully manage our operations and minimize our visits to once per year in this region. We operate on sustainable and regenerative principles and work with communities as willing partners. We transmit significant economic benefits to Kimmirut and Kinngait each year.

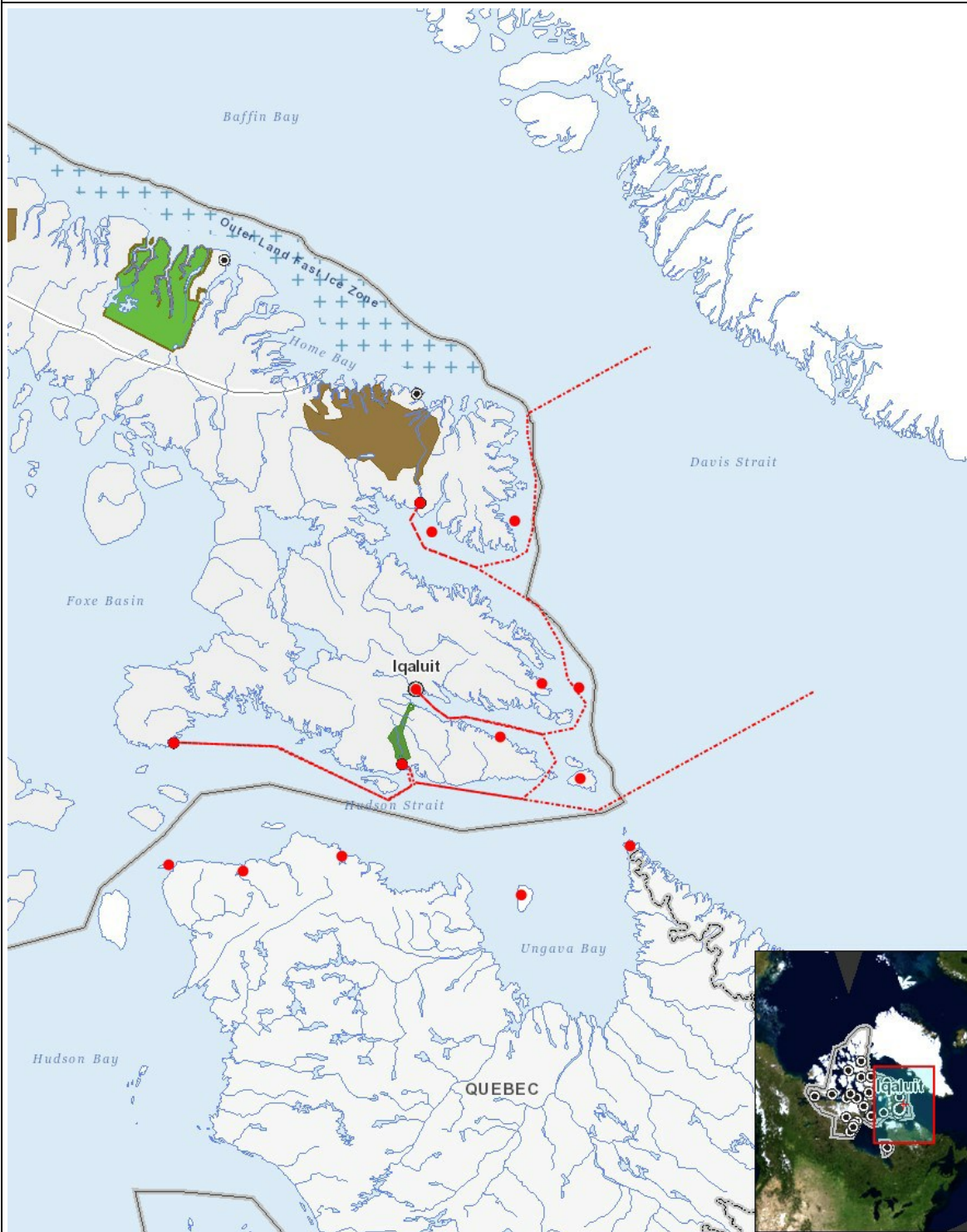
Impacts

Identification of Environmental Impacts

	PHYSICAL	Designated environmental areas	Ground stability	Permafrost	Hydrology / Limnology	Water quality	Climate conditions	Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes	Surface and bedrock geology	Sediment and soil quality	Tidal processes and bathymetry	Air quality	Noise levels	BIOLOGICAL	Vegetation	Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns	Birds, including habitat and migration patterns	Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning	Wildlife protected areas	SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Archaeological and cultural historic sites	Employment	Community wellness	Community infrastructure	Human health
Construction																									
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operation																									
Tourism Activities	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	M		M	M	M	M	M		P	P	P	-	-
Decommissioning																									
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(P = Positive, N = Negative and non-mitigatable, M = Negative and mitigatable, U = Unknown)

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 1 | polyline | Heart of the Arctic itinerary approximate routing and community visits |
| 2 | polyline | Baffin to Greenland itinerary approximate routing and community visits |
| 3 | point | Iqaluit |
| 4 | point | Kimmirut |
| 5 | point | Kinngait |
| 6 | point | Pangnirtung |
| 7 | point | Killiniq |
| 8 | point | Akpaktok |
| 9 | point | Salluit |
| 10 | point | Wolstenhome |

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| 11 point | Resolution Island |
| 12 point | Sir Charles Francis Hall Bay |
| 13 point | Douglas Harbour |
| 14 point | Butterfly Bay |
| 15 point | Lady Franklin Island |
| 16 point | Kerketen Island |
| 17 point | Hoare Bay |