

# Northwest Passage: Franklin's Legend

For centuries, fortune-seekers risked their lives to find the Northwest Passage, the fabled sea route running between Europe and Asia. It was considered the greatest geographical challenge of the last three centuries, according to the New York Times of November 25, 1852.

During this 18-day active adventure, you'll cruise through the heart of the Northwest Passage. You will experience first-hand islands, waterways and wilds that still yield a gratifying sense of achievement for all those who make the voyage, including Beechey Island, made famous by explorers such as Roald Amundsen and Sir John Franklin.

## EXPEDITION IN BRIEF:

- Highlights of Greenland and the Canadian Arctic
- Iconic arctic wildlife: musk ox, caribou, polar bears, arctic fox and more
- Colorful Greenlandic villages and traditional Inuit handicrafts
- Ilulissat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the most productive ice fjord in the Northern Hemisphere

**DID YOU KNOW?** *The passage was first successfully navigated by Roald Amundsen, aboard his vessel Gjøa. He entered the passage through Baffin Bay in 1903; passing by way of Franklin's route, south of Victoria Island, he completed the passage in 1906.*

# Adventure Options

Booking an Adventure Option on your *Sea Adventurer* expedition is a great way to enhance your polar experience. These options are all subject to availability and fill up quickly, so be sure to book yours early.

## KAYAKING

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Imagine gliding along the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers! Our kayaking adventures are the best way to feel at one with the sea. Taken in small groups of 10 people, multiple times per voyage, kayaking adventures are only conducted during calm weather conditions. We recommend you have some prior kayaking experience, including the capability to do a wet exit.

*More information about Adventure Options, including necessary experience, physical requirements and cost available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser.*

## INCLUDED OPTIONS

## HIKING

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Hiking is a great way to appreciate the immense windswept landscapes of the Arctic. The tundra comes alive during the brief arctic summer, with bursts of color from shrubs and plants that eke out a living in this polar environment. You'll find each hike is different - exploring communities, shorelines or glaciated landscapes, often on the lookout for wildlife. Hiking participation is optional and your Expedition Team will advise you of what levels of activity you can expect prior to each excursion.

# Itinerary

## DAY 1 *Copenhagen, Denmark*

Enjoy an included night in Copenhagen and meet your fellow travelers.

## DAY 2 *Kangerlussuaq, Greenland*

Just 60 km (37 miles) north of the Arctic Circle, Kangerlussuaq sits at the head of one of the longest fjords in Greenland. Musk ox and arctic foxes inhabit the tundra-covered plain that surrounds the town. We will arrive by way of our group charter flight and then transfer to the Sea Adventurer. Tonight, enjoy views of the fjord as the evening turns to twilight.

## DAY 3 *Itilleq and Sisimiut*

As we head north, the ship will reach the village of Itilleq, a typical Greenlandic village. Situated on a hollow, Itilleq is on an island without any fresh water. The village has approximately 130 inhabitants and offers charming views of colorful native houses along the tundra.

In Sisimiut, we will be treated to a traditional kayaking demonstration. Kayak is an Inuit word the English borrowed to describe a small vessel propelled by paddles, seating one or two people. There will be time to



Actual itinerary may vary based on conditions and voyage length.

explore the town where 18th century buildings from Greenland's colonial period still stand. Take the time to wander through the historic area by passing under the arch formed by two giant bowhead whale bones.

## DAY 4 *Ilulissat*

Ilulissat Kangerlua is Greenlandic for the Iceberg Fjord. The glacier at the head of the fjord is the most productive in the Northern Hemisphere. The icebergs it calves float down the

fjord to enter Baffin Bay. As the ship approaches Ilulissat, have your cameras ready to take photos of young icebergs. The journey of these 'bergs' will end years later, somewhere off the coast of Newfoundland. So significant is Ilulissat Fjord that UNESCO has designated the area a World Heritage Site. Listen to the growling of the icebergs as we cruise the fjord in Zodiacs. We'll offer a hike along the lovely boardwalk down to a stunning viewpoint of the bay, or a helicopter ride to the foot of the glacier. If you have a little time left, enjoy a



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local microbrew at a pub, or shop for local handicrafts.

### DAY 5 *Eqip Sermia*

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You'll visit one of the best-run small villages in Greenland, Saqqaq. Several anthropologists have published books on the village's original inhabitants and their hunting methods. The town gave the ancient people their name Saqqaq. We then sail to the beautiful glacier Eqip Sermia, tracing the massive glacier front for some distance.

### DAY 6 *Uummannaq*

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You'll want to be out on deck as the ship approaches Uummannaq regardless of the time of day. The vista is simply breathtaking. The heart-shaped mountain that gave the town its name dominates the view.

Uummannaq was founded as a Danish colony in 1758 on the Nuussuaq mainland, but in 1763 it was moved to the nearby island, as seal hunting was more plentiful there. On your walk through the town, you'll visit the historic oil warehouse built in 1860. Look for the peat hut, behind the warehouse, which was still in use up until a few years ago.

In the afternoon we'll visit Qilaqitsoq where five Greenland mummies were discovered in 1972. Four women and a child are thought to have drowned and remain buried in a dry and cool cave for the last 600-700 years. The mummified remains are kept in Nuuk, the capital of Greenland.

### DAY 7 *Baffin Bay*

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Baffin Bay is technically a sea not a bay; it is an extension of the Arctic Ocean, the massive body of water that separates Canada from Greenland. As the ship sails westward, travelers should be on the lookout for icebergs and seabirds gliding on the wing, and whales in the water below.

### DAY 8 *Pond Inlet, Nunavut, Canada*

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Arriving in the Canadian Arctic, the people of Pond Inlet or Mittimatalik—as it has been called by the Inuit for thousands of years—will welcome us to their town and the Artist's Co-operative. In addition to the internationally renowned art they produce, the people of "Pond" earn their living fishing for arctic char. We will have time to take photos, explore the hamlet and hike the nearby tundra to a local Thule site before returning back to the *Sea Adventurer*.

### DAY 9 *Devon Island*

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In the Maxwell Bay region of Devon Island, you will go for hikes and cruise in Zodiacs as you visit a Thule site, where the ancestors of the Inuit lived. Watch for wildlife at Dundas Harbour as walrus and musk ox inhabit the area. The abandoned settlement you'll visit was once a Royal Canadian Mounted Police depot. This depot is still considered active, as every year a detail of Mounties arrives to tend the graves of their fallen comrades.

### DAY 10 *Beechey Island*

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Just offshore at the western end of Devon Island is Beechey Island. There, on a stony beach, stand three grave markers; solemn reminders of the lives lost during Sir John Franklin's search for the Northwest Passage. Upon approach to Beechey Island, we will be treated to presentations about Franklin and his expedition. Radstock Bay has an impressive archaeological site and is beside Caswell Towers, used as a polar bear observation point.

### DAY 11 *Somerset Island*

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We'll call on Somerset Island, in Peel Sound, located above the 74th parallel directly on the Northwest Passage (close to 800 km north of the Arctic Circle). Here we may see Peary caribou and musk ox, as well as the hundreds of thousands of birds that nest on the sheer cliffs of Prince Leopold I, off the NE tip of Somerset. The island was named by Lt W.E. Parry who discovered it in 1819, after the county in England.

### DAY 12 *Fort Ross and Bellot Strait*

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Through the night we'll be sailing in a southerly direction, following the coast of Somerset Island, just as Amundsen did. We plan to go ashore at Fort Ross, an uninhabited Hudson's Bay Company trading post.

In May 1670, King Charles II granted the lands of the Hudson Bay watershed to "the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into



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Hudson Bay.” For nearly 200 years, the administration of Canada’s north was the responsibility of the merchants of the Hudson’s Bay Company.

We sail westward through Bellot Strait, a narrow channel separating mainland North America from Somerset Island. About mid-point through the channel is the northernmost area of the continental land mass, Zenith Point.

#### DAY 13 *Victory Point*

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In 1845, John Franklin led an expedition of 129 British naval officers and seamen to the Canadian Arctic, tasked with finding the Northwest Passage. By 1848, they were presumed missing. Rescue missions were conducted for 32 years. The first skeletal remains attributed to the crew were discovered in 1859 by Captain Francis McClintock on the western shore of King William Island. McClintock also discovered the only written remains under a cairn erected on Victory Point.

Since 1859, many skeletal remains and artifacts from Franklin’s expedition have been found at various locations on King William Island. The most recent was in 2013 when Parks Canada gathered several bones for identification and analysis, as well as about 200 small artifacts, ranging from bits of canvas and leather to nails, rivets, cans, metal containers, cast iron and rope.

#### DAY 14 *King William Island*

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Here, we’ll return to the site of Sir John Franklin’s saga. For two winters, Franklin’s ships Erebus and Terror were beset in ice near the island. In 1848, the ships were abandoned.

A decade passed before a cairn with a terse note of explanation was discovered on Victory Point. The

questions raised by that discovery have inspired search expeditions into the 21st century.

Long considered lost forever, the ships of the Franklin Expedition have been the subject of many searches over the years. In September 2014, the Victoria Strait Expedition conducted a large hunt for the two missing vessels, and on 7 September, 2014 the search team found the sunken remains of the HMS Erebus off the coast of King William Island.

#### DAY 15 *Coronation Gulf and Cambridge Bay*

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In 1821, on an earlier voyage to the Arctic, Sir John Franklin named the gulf in honor of the coronation of King George IV.

Your Expedition Team will use ice charts, weather forecasts and their years of arctic expedition experience to make the most of time spent in Coronation Gulf. You will go ashore to hike or cruise in Zodiacs in search of wildlife. If weather conditions permit, visits will be made to historic sites.

The people of Iqaluktuuttiaq, also known as Cambridge Bay and the largest community on Victoria Island, will welcome our ship and guests to their culture through dance and song. Travelers will have time to explore the community of 1,400, a commercial hub for the region.

#### DAY 16 *Bathurst Inlet*

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In the area around Bathurst Inlet, we’ll enjoy a hike on the tundra among the spectacular fall colors. Here we will fully appreciate the lush flora that flourishes briefly during the short arctic summer. This is also the area where the first polar bear and grizzly hybrid was discovered, and we’ll be on the lookout for all three species.

#### DAY 17 - 18 *Amundsen Gulf*

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At the eastern end of the gulf is Dolphin and Union Strait, crossed in 1851 by Dr. John Rae, his two companions, two sledges and five dogs. At the completion of that expedition, Rae and his companions were only 80 km (50 miles) west of the beset ships of Sir John Franklin. Had Rae known, perhaps Franklin’s expedition would have had an entirely different ending. Our in-depth education program will provide the basis for on-going discussions over dinner or drinks in the bar.

#### DAY 19 *Kugluktuk (Coppermine)*

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Our final destination is the town of Kugluktuk. We will have a chance to explore and bid the community farewell. We’ll later make our way to the airport where we board our charter flight back to Edmonton.

Upon arrival in Edmonton, we will be transferred to our nearby airport hotel.

#### DAY 20 *Departure*

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Today you can make your way home at your leisure or spend some more time in the Edmonton area.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER** *Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy - and excitement - of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your expedition staff must allow the sea, the ice and the weather to guide route and itinerary details. The above is a tentative outline of what you’ll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed.*

# Inclusions

## THIS EXPEDITION INCLUDES

- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks on board
- All shore landings per the daily program
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled
- Downloadable photographic journal documenting the expedition
- Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
- An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Hair dryer and bathrobe in every cabin
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials, including a map and an informative Arctic Reader
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard ship
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US\$100,000 per person
- Greenland voyages cruise passenger tax

## THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES

- *Mandatory transfer package\**
- *International airfare*
- *Passport and applicable visa expenses*
- *Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above*
- *Meals ashore unless otherwise specified*
- *Baggage, cancellation, interruption, and medical travel insurance*
- *Excess baggage charges*
- *Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned*
- *Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified*
- *Phone and internet charges*
- *Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew*
- *Additional overnight accommodation*
- *Optional kayaking activities and Ilulissat Icefjord Glacier helicopter excursion*

### **\*MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- One night hotel accommodation in Copenhagen with breakfast
- Flight from Copenhagen to Kangerlussuaq
- Transfers to and from ship
- Flight from Kugluktuk to Edmonton
- One night hotel accommodation in Edmonton with breakfast

*Package cost: \$1,950*

*Note: Baggage allowance on charter flight is 33 lbs (15 kg) checked and 11 lbs (5 kg) carry-on.*

# Dates & Rates

## NORTHWEST PASSAGE *FRANKLIN'S LEGEND*

*Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship* **SEA ADVENTURER**

Dates	Days	Start/End	Triple	Lower Deck	Main Deck Porthole	Main Deck Window	Superior	Deluxe	Suite	
Aug 18 - Sep 06, 15	20	Copenhagen/Edmonton	\$11,995	\$13,995	\$14,995	\$15,995	\$17,995	\$18,995	\$20,995	

*Mandatory Transfer package available for \$1,950*

*All rates per person in USD.*



### HOW TO BOOK YOUR EXPEDITION & ADVENTURE OPTIONS

To book your cabin or inquire about the availability of Adventure Options, contact a Polar Travel Adviser **1.888.892.0073 (+1.203.803.2666)**.

# 1-888-892-0073

# Greenland

## POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

### KANGERLUSSUAQ

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Just 60 km (37 miles) north of the Arctic Circle sits the head of one of the longest fjords in Greenland. Musk ox, reindeer and arctic foxes inhabit the tundra-covered.

### ITILLEQ

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Itilleq in Greenlandic means a hollow which is where this village is situated, on an island without any fresh water. The village has approximately 130 inhabitants and offers picturesque views of colorful Greenlandic houses along the tundra.

### SISIMIUT

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With a population of 5,600, Sisimiut lies immediately north of the Arctic Circle and is the second-largest town in Greenland.

### ILULISSAT

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Ilulissat Kangerlua is Greenlandic for the Iceberg Fjord. UNESCO has designated the Ilulissat area a World Heritage Site.

### UUMMANNAQ

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Uummannaq was founded as a Danish colony in 1758 on the Nuussuaq mainland, but in 1763 it was moved to the nearby island, as seal hunting was more plentiful there.

### UPERNAVIK

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Upernavik is found at 72 degrees north and is the largest town in Greenland's north at almost 1,100 residents.

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### POND INLET

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Pond Inlet is a traditional Inuit community located on the northern tip of Baffin Island near the eastern entrance to the Northwest Passage. Situated near scenic fiords, glaciers and icebergs, the waters around Pond Inlet are famous as a great place to see narwhal.

### DUNDAS HARBOUR, DEVON ISLAND

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At Dundas Harbour, be alert for wildlife as walrus, polar bears and musk ox inhabit the area. The abandoned settlement you visit was once a Royal Canadian Mounted Police depot.

### BEECHEY ISLAND

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Beechey Island is associated with one of the most tragic episodes of arctic exploration history. During the winter of 1845-46, Sir John Franklin and his men stayed on the island as part of their ill-fated quest to find the Northwest Passage.

### FORT ROSS

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Fort Ross lies on the coast of Somerset Island and was founded in 1937 as a Hudson's Bay Company trading post.

### VICTORY POINT

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Located on King William Island; Victory Point is where the only written account of the ill-fated Franklin expedition was discovered.

### IQUALUKTUUTTIAQ (CAMBRIDGE BAY)

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Iqaluktuuttiaq, also known as Cambridge Bay, is the largest community on Victoria Island. Passengers will have time to explore the community of 1,400, a commercial hub for the region.

## KUGLUKTUK (COPPERMINE)

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Kugluktuk, formerly known as Coppermine, is situated along the banks of the Coppermine River and on the shores of the Coronation Gulf.

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