

SMALL-SHIP EXPEDITION CRUISE

Out of the Northwest Passage

September 10–26, 2027

From **\$18,995** to **\$35,095** USD

Aboard the *Ocean Victory*

Starts: Yellowknife, NT, Canada

Ends: Toronto, ON, Canada

Charter Flights:

Northbound Charter Flight: \$1,100 USD

Yellowknife, NT, Canada to Kugluktuk (Coppermine), NU, Canada. Early-morning departure.

Southbound Charter Flight: \$1,650 USD

Kangerlussuaq, Greenland to Toronto, ON, Canada. Evening arrival.



Itinerary

Day 1: Kugluktuk (Coppermine), NU, Canada

Day 2–4: Kitikmeot Region

Day 5: Ikirahaq (Bellot Strait)

Day 6: Beechey Island

Day 7–8: Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound) and Devon Island

Day 9: Ausuittuq (Grise Fjord)

Day 10: Smith Sound

Day 11: At Sea

Day 12–13: Northwest Greenland

Day 14: Ilulissat

Day 15–16: Sisimiut Coast

Day 17: Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

Trip Summary

Sail through the storied heart of the Arctic alongside Inuit cultural educators and guides on a journey that unites history, landscape, and living culture. From Nunavut's western edge to Greenland's glacial coast, *Out of the Northwest Passage* follows a route shaped by ice, memory, and the enduring presence of Inuit and their ancestors.

Begin in Kugluktuk and travel east through the Kitikmeot Region—lands filled with story and tradition. At Ikirahaq, where the currents of east and west converge, feel the Arctic's pulse as sea and time meet. Pay respects at Beechey Island, where the Franklin Expedition's traces lie within a landscape still speaking through wind and silence.

Sail through Tallurutiup Imanga, the life-filled heart of the North, where polar wildlife and Inuit stewardship define the rhythm of the sea. In Ausuittuq, Canada's northernmost community, experience the warmth of welcome in a place shaped by endurance and adaptation.

Cross Smith Sound toward Greenland, where light and ice merge in vast expanses. Walk the tundra at the edge of the ice cap and stand before the monumental icebergs of Ilulissat Icefjord. Continue south along the Sisimiut Coast, where colourful towns and quiet fjords mark the journey's final stretch.

Ending in Kangerlussuaq, reflect on a voyage that moves beyond geography—a passage through story, knowledge, and connection. Here, among shifting light and ancient ice, travellers who have journeyed alongside Inuit cultural educators and guides find not only the Arctic's grandeur but the shared humanity that endures within it.

Highlights

Journey through Inuit Nunangat

Experience the profound privilege of travelling through Inuit Nunangat—the ice, water, and lands that make up the Inuit homeland. This journey unfolds in partnership and respect, guided by Inuit cultural educators, artists, and knowledge holders who share stories of kinship between people and nuna—the living land.

As honoured guests, be welcomed into communities where laughter, drum dance, and throat song carry across the tundra. Learn a few words of Inuktitut, sample country food, and walk the land alongside Inuit guides whose ancestral ties shape every step. The Arctic reveals itself not as a wilderness, but as a homeland—alive with story, tradition, and continuity.

The living history of the Northwest Passage

Sail one of the most storied routes on Earth. For centuries, the Northwest Passage drew explorers in search of a way through the ice. For Inuit, these waters have always been known, travelled, and named—sustaining life through knowledge passed across generations.

Hear the entwined histories of Inuit navigators and European expeditions as you traverse the waterways that connect the Atlantic and Pacific. This is a voyage through legacy and learning, where the meaning of exploration expands to include understanding, reciprocity, and care.

Echoes at Beechey Island

At Beechey Island, history rests beneath the wind. Here, the Franklin Expedition overwintered in 1845–46; the graves of four men remain, silent witnesses to endurance and loss. Inuit oral histories later helped unravel what the frozen record could not.

To walk this shore is to encounter both remembrance and resilience—to sense how the Arctic holds its stories not in monuments, but in the continuity between land, people, and time.

Tallurutiup Imanga: where life gathers

Enter Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound), a vast National Marine Conservation Area where cold currents converge to create one of the Arctic's richest ecosystems. Watch for polar bears on ice pans, narwhal surfacing like breath in still water, and seabirds rising in scattered light.

This is a place of abundance and balance, where wildlife and community are inseparable. The sea here has long been a provider, its rhythms known to Inuit who have lived with and cared for it for millennia.

The ice of Ilulissat

Stand before the grandeur of Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the Sermeq Kujalleq glacier sends monumental icebergs into Disko Bay. From the boardwalk above the fjord, watch the slow drift of ice as sunlight refracts into silver, blue, and soft gold.

Listen as the glacier calving echoes across the bay—a sound that speaks of time’s immensity and the living pulse of the North.

Greenland’s Western coast

Trace Greenland’s rugged coastline, where mountains rise from turquoise fjords and colourful villages cling to stone. Here, daily life flows between tradition and modernity, shaped by the sea and softened by light. From the quiet beauty of Sisimiut to the glacial valleys of Kangerlussuaq, the journey’s final days offer reflection amid splendour—the closing notes of a passage defined by connection.

Abbreviated Highlights

Travel through Inuit Nunangat with Inuit cultural educators and guides
Sail the storied Northwest Passage and learn from Inuit knowledge holders
Visit Beechey Island, a poignant site of Arctic history
Explore Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound), home to extraordinary wildlife
Witness the monumental icebergs of Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Experience Greenland’s dramatic western coast and glacial fjords

Itinerary

Day 1: Kugluktuk (Coppermine), NU, Canada

The Place of Moving Waters

Your journey begins at Kugluktuk—the westernmost community in Nunavut—where the Coppermine River meets the open sea. Its Inuinnaqtun name means “place of moving waters,” a fitting departure for a voyage defined by flow and connection.

Explore this welcoming community known for artistry and warmth. Local hosts share stories of life in the western Arctic, where tradition and modern life move together with the rhythm of tide and season. As you embark on your ice-class expedition vessel, the horizon opens before you—an expanse of muted blues and greys threaded with drifting ice. The ship turns east, tracing the first lines of the storied Northwest Passage.

Days 2–4: Kitikmeot Region

Through the Heart of the Passage

The Kitikmeot Region stretches across the central Arctic, a landscape of tundra, island chains, and shifting sea ice. This is the heart of the Northwest Passage—a place where the stories of Inuit and explorers intertwine across centuries.

Visit a community where you are welcomed as a guest. Hear from Inuit hosts about local history, hunting traditions, and daily life. The scent of tundra moss, the laughter of children,

and the steady thrum of a drum dance create a portrait of life deeply rooted in place. Zodiac excursions explore quiet bays where caribou and muskoxen graze beneath wide skies.

Day 5: Ikirahaq (Bellot Strait)

Where Currents Meet

Reach Ikirahaq—known to many as Bellot Strait—a narrow channel where the tides of east and west converge. Threading between Somerset Island and the Boothia Peninsula, it marks the northernmost tip of continental North America.

Granite headlands rise close on either side, streaked with scree, snow, and time. The currents twist and surge beneath the hull, where seals, seabirds, and occasional belugas or narwhals forage for food. For Inuit, Ikirahaq has long been a place of movement and gathering—a reminder that the meeting of waters mirrors the meeting of stories.

Day 6: Beechey Island

Echoes of the Franklin Expedition

At Beechey Island, history lies close to the surface. In 1845, Sir John Franklin set out from England with HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*, attempting to sail through the Northwest Passage. His crew overwintered here, where three of his men died. Later, in 1854, Thomas Morgan of HMS *Investigator* was buried beside them—a solemn witness to the relentless search for Franklin's lost expedition.

Beechey became a depot and landmark for numerous search parties that followed. Amundsen, Bernier, and Larsen all stopped here, leaving their traces among the ruins of Northumberland House. The landscape is stark and wind-scoured: gravel, ice, and the call of gulls echoing across still water. Inuit oral history preserved what records could not, guiding modern searchers to the resting places of the ships and the men who vanished with them. Standing here, you feel the continuity between ambition and endurance—held quietly in the land's enduring silence.

Days 7–8: Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound) and Devon Island

Where Life Gathers in the North

Enter Tallurutiup Imanga, a great inlet where glaciers feed cold, life-rich waters. Designated as one of Canada's largest National Marine Conservation Areas, it is a confluence of nature and culture. Inuit knowledge and stewardship sustain a balance as intricate as the migration of narwhal and bowhead.

Watch for polar bears on the ice, walrus on floes, and seabirds circling overhead. Devon Island rises to the north, vast and uninhabited—a landscape of stone and silence. Hike across tundra valleys where traces of ancient camps speak to the endurance of those who have travelled this coast for generations.

Day 9: Ausuittuq (Grise Fjord)

The Northernmost Community

Arrive in Ausuittuq, a community established in the 1950s when families were relocated from Inukjuak, Québec, to this high Arctic environment—"the place that never thaws." Surrounded by peaks and glaciers, it is Canada's northernmost community. Feel the welcome of residents who share stories of family, hunting, and adaptation. Listen to the cadence of Inuktitut and feel a quiet generosity amid the stark beauty of ice and stone. As you walk the shoreline, the balance between isolation and belonging becomes palpable—a living connection between people and the land that sustains them.

Day 10: Smith Sound

Edge of the Known World

Sail into Smith Sound, a broad waterway marking the meeting place of Canada and Greenland—and, historically, the threshold to the North Pole. Icebergs drift south from Greenland's glaciers, glowing with every hue of blue. For centuries, Inuit hunters have crossed its frozen expanse, while European expeditions sought passage north through its icy corridors. Today, its silence is punctuated only by wind and the slow fracture of ice. As we continue eastward, the sense of scale deepens—water and sky expanding endlessly, carrying us forward through time and tide.

Day 11: At Sea

Passage to Greenland

As we sail from Smith Sound toward northwest Greenland, the day invites relaxation and delight. Out on deck, guests linger over coffee, watching icebergs drift past under shifting light. Seabirds wheel overhead, and the fresh Arctic air feels both bracing and serene. Inside, conversation and curiosity flow easily—perhaps a talk from the expedition team, a shared story, or quiet reading by the window. Between moments of learning and laughter, there's time simply to enjoy the rhythm of the sea and the pleasure of being carried through one of the North's most beautiful reaches.

Days 12–13: Northwest Greenland

Where Ice Meets Sky

Crossing into Greenland, the coast reveals a world sculpted by ice. Glaciers descend from the inland cap, feeding fjords that stretch deep into the land. Scattered villages dot the shoreline, their bright homes vivid against the vastness of rock and snow. Go ashore where conditions allow to explore bays fringed with bergs or hike along tundra scented with Arctic cotton and crowberry. Ice and light combine to create a palette of silvers and aquas. Each moment shows how landscape shapes life—and how people, in turn, shape their bond with it.

Day 14: Ilulissat

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Day	Date
1	Fri-Sep-10-20
2	Sat-Sep-11-2
3	Sun-Sep-12-2
4	Mon-Sep-13-2
5	Tue-Sep-14-2
6	Wed-Sep-15-2
6	Wed-Sep-15-2
7	Thu-Sep-16-2
8	Fri-Sep-17-20
9	Sat-Sep-18-2
10	Sun-Sep-19-2
11	Mon-Sep-20-2
12	Tue-Sep-21-2
13	Wed-Sep-22-2
14	Thu-Sep-23-2
15	Fri-Sep-24-20
16	Sat-Sep-25-2
17	Sun-Sep-26-2

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The Icefjord's Sculpted Power

Arrive at Ilulissat, a name that means "iceberg" in Greenlandic. The Sermeq Kujalleq glacier, among the world's most active, sends vast icebergs into the UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord. From the boardwalk, watch as icy cathedrals drift through mirrored water, glowing blue beneath shifting light.

Listen to the thunder of calving ice, then the hush that follows. In town, explore a thriving community where Greenlandic culture, art, and daily life flow together with the rhythm of the ice.

Days 15–16: Sisimiut Coast

Life Along the Greenlandic Shore

Sailing south along the west coast, encounter the Sisimiut region—a place of mountain silhouettes, fjords, and enduring story. Colourful houses cling to granite hillsides, reflected in still waters. This is Greenland's second-largest town, marked by fishing boats and the warmth of community.

Go ashore to walk through town and meet local residents. Learn about the blend of ancient and contemporary traditions that define Greenlandic life. Hikers may climb to panoramic viewpoints where sea, ice, and sky converge.

Day 17: Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

A Passage Completed

Your voyage concludes in Kangerlussuaq, where the vast fjord stretches nearly two hundred kilometres inland. Here, the ice cap appears and vanishes at the horizon—occasional glimpses of white above the fjord, close enough to feel its breath but never in full view.

As you disembark and prepare for your flight south, reflect on a journey completed—the communities visited, the stories shared, and the countless shades of light and ice that shaped the days. The Northwest Passage is not only a route through geography but through knowledge and kinship—a journey that continues long after you leave its waters.