

Ellesmere Island and North Greenland: Journey to the Top of the World

August 22–September 03, 2028

From **\$12,595** to **\$23,730** USD

Aboard the *Ocean Nova*

Starts: Ottawa, ON, Canada

Ends: Ottawa, ON, Canada

Charter Flights:

Northbound Charter Flight: \$1,300 USD

Ottawa, ON, Canada to Resolute, NU, Canada.

Southbound Charter Flight: \$1,300 USD

Resolute, NU, Canada to Ottawa, ON, Canada.



Expedition Summary

Where Latitude Changes Perspective

At the edge of the map, where sea ice drifts beneath luminous skies, lies a place where natural beauty and human history converge. On *Ellesmere Island and North Greenland: Journey to the Top of the World*, you'll travel farther north than on any other Adventure Canada voyage.

Here, at the southern entry to the polar sea, Kane Basin, Smith Sound, and Nares Strait unfold in a world of drifting ice and layered histories. Beginning in Qausuittuq (Resolute), sail through Tallurutiup Imanga, a thriving Arctic sanctuary where whales and seabirds flourish. Cross into Greenland to visit the Inughuit community of Qaanaaq, navigate the powerful channels between Greenland and Ellesmere Island, and step ashore on Tartupaluk (Hans Island), a place of shared care and enduring Inuit connection.

Along the way, walk the sweeping tundra of Devon Island, reflect at Beechey Island, and experience the stillness of landscapes few have ever witnessed. For the curious traveller, this is a rare opportunity to experience moments that define the spirit of true exploration in the High Arctic, where geography, culture, and story meet, revealing the heart of the North as profound, humbling, and alive.

Expedition Summary

Website & brochure copy · 80 words

Where Latitude Changes Perspective

Sea ice drifts beneath luminous Arctic skies as this voyage explores Ellesmere Island and North Greenland, reaching toward Tartupaluk (Hans Island), one of Adventure Canada's northernmost destinations. Here, immense landscapes, Inuit history, and the enduring presence of sea ice reveal an Arctic shaped by both nature and people. For the curious traveller, it is a rare opportunity to experience one of the planet's highest-latitude regions, where every mile north invites a broader understanding of the Arctic and our place within it.

Itinerary

Day 1: Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU, Canada

Day 2-3: Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound)

Day 4: Qaanaaq, Greenland



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Day 5-6: Kane Basin

Day 7: Tartupaluk (Hans Island)

Day 8-9: Smith Sound

Day 10: Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord), NU, Canada

Day 11: Devon Island

Day 12: Beechy Island

Day 13: Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU, Canada

Highlights

Travel through Inuit Nunangat alongside Inuit

Journey through the ice, water, and lands of Inuit in the company of northern hosts who share their stories, art, and traditions. Experience the living culture of the Arctic as you visit vibrant communities, sample country food, and gain a deeper understanding of the enduring connection between Inuit and the nuna (land).

Sail to the southern entry of the polar sea

Venture farther north than on any other Adventure Canada voyage, navigating Kane Basin, Smith Sound, and the Nares Strait. Here, drifting ice, luminous skies, and immense landscapes forge moments that define the spirit of true exploration.

Experience living culture across borders

Across Nunavut and northern Greenland, Inuit culture flows freely through family ties, traditional knowledge, and the rhythms of land and sea, unconfined by national borders.

Explore one of Canada's richest marine sanctuaries

In Tallurutiup Imanga, whales and seabirds thrive amid striking cliffs and sweeping valleys. Step ashore on Devon Island, the world's largest uninhabited island, where glaciers meet the sea and traces of Inuit life whisper through the stone and tundra.

Stand on Tartupaluk (Hans Island)

Few travellers will ever stand upon this small, windswept island in Nares Strait. Once the focus of a symbolic sovereignty dispute, Tartupaluk now embodies shared care for the North and honours the enduring Inuit connections that unite these northern shores.



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Step into the Franklin mystery

Set foot on windswept Beechey Island, one of the most storied places in Arctic exploration. Here, Franklin's expedition spent the winter of 1845–46 before sailing south and disappearing. Three graves, stone cairns, and remains of the camp still mark the stark shoreline, offering a tangible connection to a mystery that has drawn searchers and travellers north for nearly two centuries.

Highlights at a Glance

- Venture farther north than on any other Adventure Canada voyage, navigating Smith Sound, Kane Basin, and the Nares Strait.
- Journey through Inuit Nunangat and northern Greenland, discovering enduring connections shaped by kinship, culture, and knowledge.
- Explore Tallurutiup Imanga, where whales, seals, and seabirds thrive amid spectacular High Arctic landscapes.
- Stand on Tartupaluk (Hans Island), where Nunavut and Greenland meet.
- Walk Beechey Island among the graves, cairns, and remains at the heart of the Franklin mystery.

Itinerary

In the High Arctic, weather, ice, and community priorities guide every journey. Flexibility leads to the best discoveries.

Day 1: Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU, Canada

The North Beckons

Beneath the lingering glow of the Arctic summer sun, Qausuittuq, “the place with no dawn,” welcomes you to the High Arctic. Set amid gravel flats and rolling moraine, this community carries stories of adaptation and renewal, from relocation in 1953 to its role today as a gateway for Arctic research and travel. Take time to orient yourself to the land and its stories before embarking aboard the *Ocean Nova*. The North awaits.

Days 2–3: Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound)

Whales, Ice, and Vast Horizons

Enter Tallurutiup Imanga, one of Canada's largest marine protected areas, where nutrient-rich waters support whales, walrus, seals, and immense seabird colonies beneath towering cliffs and

across deep fjords. On Devon Island, the world's largest uninhabited island, glaciers meet the sea and archaeological traces reveal thousands of years of Inuit and earlier human presence.

Day 4: Qaanaaq, Greenland

Life at the Edge of the Sea Ice

Set against a backdrop of mountains and drifting sea ice, Qaanaaq is one of the world's northernmost towns and a centre of Inughuit culture. Here, longstanding skills and modern life flow together with the rhythms of the sea ice. Traditions such as dog sledding and hunting remain vital parts of community identity, reflecting deep connections to place. Meeting the people of Qaanaaq offers a glimpse of extraordinary adaptation and continuity, with life still shaped by ice, animals, and seasons.

Days 5–6: Kane Basin

Where Continents Nearly Touch

Sail into Kane Basin, where Ellesmere Island and Greenland nearly meet. Across two days, the scale of this High Arctic waterway unfolds through towering mountains, immense glaciers, drifting sea ice, and light that continually transforms the passage. Changing conditions reshape the view from hour to hour, revealing new coastlines, channels, and possibilities for wildlife.

Long travelled by Inuit, these waters later became a principal route for expeditions seeking the lost Franklin expedition and a way to the North Pole. The basin bears the name of American explorer Elisha Kent Kane, who crossed it in 1854 during his search for Franklin. Few waterways bring the scale of the High Arctic and the history of polar ambition into such powerful focus.

Day 7: Tartupaluk (Hans Island)

A Shared Island

Set foot on Tartupaluk, a place few will ever visit. Perched in the middle of Nares Strait between Canada and Greenland, this small, rocky island marks a remarkable meeting point between nations. In modern times, it became the focus of a good-natured yet symbolically important territorial dispute between Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark.

In 2022, an agreement divided the island along a natural ravine, creating one of the world's newest international land borders. The agreement also maintains access and freedom of movement across the entire island for Inuit and local people from Nunavut and Greenland, recognizing connections to these waters that long predate the border itself. With one foot in Canada and the other in Greenland, Tartupaluk offers a memorable example of sovereignty resolved through cooperation.

Days 8–9: Smith Sound



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Gateway to the Great Upwelling

Venture through Smith Sound, the dramatic channel connecting Baffin Bay with Kane Basin and part of the greater Pikialasorsuaq region. Pikialasorsuaq means “great upwelling” in Kalaallisut and is known in Nunavut as Sarvarjuaq.

Recurring open water within the surrounding sea ice makes this the Arctic’s largest polynya and one of the most biologically productive regions north of the Arctic Circle. Nutrient-rich waters sustain an extraordinary abundance of life, drawing whales, seals, and millions of seabirds to this vital Arctic ecosystem.

Day 10: Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord)

Life in the Place That Never Thaws

Set between the mountains of southern Ellesmere Island and the waters of Jones Sound, Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord) is Canada’s northernmost civilian community. Its Inuktitut name means “the place that never thaws,” a reference to the enduring ice above the community.

Ausuittuq was established through the High Arctic Relocations of 1953 and 1955, when the Canadian government moved Inuit families from Inukjuak and Mittimatalik, in part to reinforce Canadian sovereignty. The hardship and injustice of that history remain part of the community’s story, commemorated by a monument overlooking the shore. Today, family, language, harvesting, and community life give this small and remarkable Inuit hamlet its enduring character.

Day 11: Devon Island

The World’s Largest Uninhabited Island

Vast and elemental, Devon Island reveals a world shaped by ice and time. Here, broad valleys and exposed rock tell of ancient forces, while bursts of Arctic wildflowers bring unexpected colour to the tundra. Along the shore, traces of Inuit presence remind us that even in the quietest landscapes, human stories endure. Immense views, striking geological formations, and profound silence combine to make this one of the most atmospheric stops of the journey.

Day 12: Beechey Island

In the Wake of Franklin

Beechey Island holds one of the most tangible chapters in the Franklin mystery. HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* spent the winter of 1845–46 here before sailing south and disappearing. The graves of three crew members, remains of the winter camp, stone cairns, and traces left by later search expeditions still mark its narrow, windswept shore.



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Protected as part of Beechey Island Sites National Historic Site, these remains capture the expedition at the threshold of mystery. The island later became a base for the vast search effort that helped map much of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

Day 13: Qausuittuq (Resolute), NU, Canada

A High Arctic Farewell

The expedition concludes in Qausuittuq, set on gravel flats and moraine beneath an immense Arctic sky. Its Inuktitut name means “place with no dawn,” a reference to the long polar night. Established through the Canadian government’s High Arctic Relocation of 1953, Qausuittuq has become an important centre for northern research, transportation, and travel.

After disembarking, transfer to the airport for the charter flight to Ottawa. Here, at a crossroads of High Arctic travel, the sea journey ends and the route turns south.