



Adventure
Canada

SMALL-SHIP EXPEDITION CRUISE

Out of the Northwest Passage

September 02–18, 2028

From **\$18,995** to **\$37,495** USD

Aboard the *Ocean Victory*

Starts: Yellowknife, NT, Canada

Ends: Toronto, ON, Canada

Charter Flights:

Northbound Charter Flight: \$1,150 USD

Yellowknife, NT, Canada to Kugluktuk (Coppermine), NU, Canada.

Southbound Charter Flight: \$1,700 USD

Kangerlussuaq, Greenland to Toronto, ON, Canada.





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Expedition Summary

The Passage in a New Light

Travel eastward through the Northwest Passage as late summer begins to turn towards Arctic autumn. From the gentle tundra and intricate waterways of the western Arctic to Greenland's glacier-carved coast, the route crosses Inuit Nunangat beneath deepening colours, lower light, and skies that grow dark enough for the aurora.

This changing season brings another character to the Passage. Cooler air sharpens the landscape, migratory wildlife remains active, and the returning darkness transforms evenings aboard. Ice, weather, and distance continue to determine the way forward through waters that have connected Inuit communities across the Arctic for millennia.

In 2028, the voyage marks one hundred years since the *St. Roch* was launched for Arctic service. In partnership with the Vancouver Maritime Museum, travel through waterways important to the wooden RCMP schooner's history. The *St. Roch* became the first vessel to navigate the Northwest Passage from west to east, the first to complete it in a single season, and the first to make the passage in both directions.

Special guest David Jordan, executive director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, brings the vessel's achievements, complexities, and wider legacy into focus. The story extends beyond the ship and its crew to the Inuit knowledge that made its journeys possible and to the Panikpakuttuk family, whose experiences form an essential part of its history.

Inuit educators and expert guides place these histories within the living homelands through which they unfolded. Community visits, archaeological sites, wildlife encounters, and time on the *nuna* (land) reveal a Passage where culture, ecology, and maritime history remain closely connected. Under the changing light of Arctic autumn, the west-to-east journey follows these storied waters towards Greenland and the Atlantic.

Expedition Summary

Website & brochure copy · 80 words

The Passage in a New Light

Travel eastward through the Northwest Passage as Arctic autumn gathers. From the rolling tundra and intricate waterways of the western Arctic to Greenland's glacier-carved coast, journey through Inuit Nunangat amid deepening fall colours, cooler air, and skies dark enough for the aurora. In partnership with the Vancouver Maritime Museum, mark one hundred years since the *St. Roch* was launched for Arctic service. Inuit educators, expert guides, and guest David Jordan explore the Passage's living cultures, wildlife, history, and maritime legacy.

Special Guest

Name: David Jordan

Title: Executive Director, Vancouver Maritime Museum

Short bio: David is a passionate arts leader and non-profit executive with decades of experience championing arts, culture, and community.

David grew up in the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh, also known as Prince George. He completed his bachelor's degree in theatre at Concordia University in Montreal and then his master's degree at Ohio University. He has worked extensively with non-profits and served as executive director of the Vancouver Fringe Festival for eleven years. For four years he was the arts services manager for the City of Burnaby, where he was responsible for the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts and major civic events.

He has volunteered as an executive mentor for Vantage Point, as a member of the arts and culture grants advisory committee for the Vancouver Foundation, president of the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals and as a member of the Granville Island Council. He lives with his wife and three children in East Vancouver. He is a fisherman and a poet.

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 Fiord)

Day 10: Smith Sound



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Day 11: At Sea

Day 12–13: Northwest Greenland

Day 14: Ilulissat

Day 15–16: Sisimiut Coast

Day 17: Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

Highlights

Travel Inuit Nunangat in good company

Share the journey through Inuit Nunangat with Inuit whose stories, knowledge, and experiences connect the landscapes around us with the people who call this region home. Time together aboard and ashore creates opportunities for conversation and learning, grounding our travels in Inuit perspectives and relationships with *nuna* (the land), sea, family, and community.

Trace the Franklin story on Beechey Island

Stand on Beechey Island, where three marked graves and other traces of the Franklin Expedition remain in a stark High Arctic landscape. The site brings one chapter of nineteenth-century exploration history into sharp focus while opening a broader conversation about Inuit knowledge, presence, and travel through these waters long before European expeditions arrived.

Let wildlife encounters find us

Travelling by expedition ship gives us time to watch the Arctic closely. Seabirds, marine mammals, and other wildlife may reveal themselves as conditions allow, sometimes dramatically and sometimes fleetingly. Each sighting becomes an opportunity to look beyond the individual animal and consider the interconnected High Arctic ecosystem it inhabits.

Come face to face with Ilulissat's ice

Few places make the movement of Greenland's ice as visible as Ilulissat. Nearby Sermeq Kujalleq sends ice into the UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord, filling the landscape with immense forms shaped by fracture, current, and weather. Explore from shore and, conditions permitting, from the water, where the scale of the ice becomes especially vivid.

Experience the scale of Tallurutiup Imanga

Sail among the mountains, cliffs, glaciers, islands, and rich marine waters of Tallurutiup Imanga. Wildlife may provide unforgettable encounters here, but the larger story lies in the

relationships among sea, ice, animals, and people. Experiencing this region within Inuit Nunangat places its ecological richness within an equally important cultural landscape.

Highlights at a Glance

- Follow the Northwest Passage east as autumn gathers, with deepening tundra colours, fresh snow, lower light, and wildlife beginning its seasonal movement.
- Journey through Inuit Nunangat alongside Inuit, guided by cultural educators, artists, knowledge holders, and community hosts whose perspectives shape the experience throughout.
- Mark one hundred years since the launch of the *St. Roch* with the Vancouver Maritime Museum, special guest David Jordan, and stories explored along its west-to-east route.
- Enter an Arctic stronghold for wildlife in Tallurutiup Imanga, where exceptionally rich protected waters support whales, walrus, seals, polar bears, and seabirds.
- Welcome the return of the northern lights, watching for the aurora above dark water, distant mountains, and drifting icebergs.

Itinerary

Day 1: Kugluktuk (Coppermine), NU, Canada

The Place of Moving Waters

The voyage begins in Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit homeland encompassing the land, water, and ice of Arctic Canada. At its western edge, Kugluktuk stands where the Coppermine River enters Coronation Gulf. Its Inuinnaqtun name means “place of moving waters,” reflecting the currents and rapids that have long defined this meeting of river, tundra, and sea.

Kugluktuk is an Inuinnaït community shaped by close relationships with the river and surrounding *nuna* (the land). Fishing, harvesting, artistic expression, and travel on the land remain central to life here, while Inuinnaqtun carries knowledge and stories particular to the western Arctic. Time with local hosts introduces the people and cultural region whose homelands frame the first days of the journey.

After boarding the *Ocean Victory*, the route turns east beneath the lower light and deepening colours of Arctic autumn. The voyage also marks one hundred years since the *St. Roch* was

launched for Arctic service. In partnership with the Vancouver Maritime Museum, its history becomes one thread within a much larger journey through Inuit Nunangat.

Days 2–4: Kitikmeot Region

Across the Country of the Inuinait

Western Kitikmeot opens in low tundra, scattered islands, wetlands, and distant horizons. Wide sounds narrow into channels that weave among gravel coastlines and archaeological sites. Muskoxen and caribou move across the land, while seals and whales travel the surrounding waters and migratory birds gather as autumn advances.

This is the Inuinait country, a distinct regional group of Inuit whose language, Inuinnaqtun, carries an intricate geography of place names, travel routes, stories, and ecological knowledge. Generations of harvesting caribou, muskoxen, seals, and fish have shaped distinctive clothing, tools, food traditions, and patterns of movement. Today, Inuinait communities are strengthening the transmission of their language and culture while adapting these traditions within contemporary life.

The *St. Roch* spent two winters in this region during its 1940–42 crossing, first at Walker Bay on Victoria Island and later at Pasley Bay on the Boothia Peninsula. During these extended stays, crew members learned ice-fishing and hunting methods from Inuit whose knowledge helped them adapt to Arctic conditions. Those long winters in the ice speak to the distance, uncertainty, and challenges of navigating the Arctic in a wooden vessel. Today, landings, tundra walks, community visits, and Zodiac explorations bring the people, wildlife, and expansive landscapes of Kitikmeot into view.

Day 5: Ikirahaq (Bellot Strait)

Where Currents Meet

Ikirahaq is a narrow, twenty-five-kilometre passage separating Somerset Island from the Boothia Peninsula. At its narrowest, little more than a kilometre divides the shores. Strong tidal currents move through the channel as waters from the eastern and western Arctic meet beneath steep granite walls.

In 1942, the *St. Roch* entered Ikirahaq during the final year of its west-to-east crossing. Moving ice pressed the wooden schooner against grounded floes as the tide drove more ice into the



strait. The vessel eventually broke free and continued east, making this one of the most perilous moments of its twenty-seven-month passage.

Seals, whales, seabirds, and occasionally polar bears may be encountered along the shores or among the moving ice. On the southern side lies Murchison Promontory, the northernmost point of mainland North America. Passage through Ikirahq remains governed by powerful currents, ice, weather, and careful navigation.

Day 6: Beechey Island

In the Wake of Franklin

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 and Bernier stopped here, as did Henry Larsen aboard the *St. Roch* on August 20, 1944. Given the island's importance to British Arctic exploration and the Franklin Expedition, the visit held particular significance for Larsen and his crew. Archival photographs capture crew members gathered beside the Franklin Expedition cenotaph, adding their own presence to the island's layered history.

Nearby stand the ruins of Northumberland House, while the surrounding landscape remains stark and wind-scoured: gravel, ice, and the call of gulls echoing across still water. Standing here, you feel the continuity between ambition and endurance—held quietly in the land's enduring silence.

Inuit testimony proved essential to tracing the expedition's final movements and, generations later, locating its lost ships. Beechey Island connects Franklin's failed voyage with its wider legacy, including expanded geographical knowledge, growing colonial ambitions, and an increasingly sustained southern presence in Inuit Nunangat.

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

Where Life Gathers in the High Arctic

Tallurutiup Imanga is the ecological engine of the eastern Canadian Arctic. Nutrient-rich waters and recurring areas of open water support narwhal, beluga and bowhead whales, walrus, seals, polar bears, and some of the Canadian Arctic's largest seabird colonies. As autumn approaches, marine mammals continue to move through its channels while migratory birds gather before turning south.

This National Marine Conservation Area has supported Inuit travel, harvesting, and cultural practice for millennia. Inuit stewardship and *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit*, or Inuit knowledge, play an essential role in its protection. Inuit expedition team members and naturalists bring the relationships among currents, ice, wildlife, and human life into focus.

After navigating Ikirahaq in 1942, the *St. Roch* continued through Prince Regent Inlet and entered Tallurutiup Imanga on its way towards Baffin Bay and the Atlantic. After two winters in the western Arctic, these broad eastern waters marked the final stage of its historic west-to-east crossing. Two years later, the schooner passed through Lancaster Sound in the opposite direction during its single-season return voyage.

To the north, Devon Island rises in broad plateaus, glacial valleys, gravel plains, and open tundra. It is the world's largest uninhabited island, although archaeological sites attest to centuries of Inuit and earlier human presence. Walks and Zodiac explorations reveal autumn vegetation, immense geological scale, and coastlines approached most naturally from the sea.

Day 9: Ausuittuq (Grise Fiord)

Life in the Place That Never Thaws

Set between the mountains and sea of southern Ellesmere Island, Ausuittuq means "the place that never thaws." Canada's northernmost civilian community occupies a landscape of glaciers, open tundra, and waters that remain covered by sea ice through much of the year.

The community was established in 1953 through the Canadian government's relocation of Inuit families from Inukjuak and Mittimatalik. That difficult history remains an important part of Ausuittuq's story, alongside more than seventy years of community life shaped by family, ingenuity, and cultural continuity. Hunting, travel on the nuna, artistic expression, and the rhythms of the seasons remain closely woven into life here. Time with local hosts offers a view of contemporary High Arctic community life within the immense landscape of Ellesmere Island.

Day 10: Smith Sound**Between Greenland and Ellesmere**

Low autumn light draws out the immense scale of Smith Sound, where Greenland and Ellesmere Island rise on either side of a channel linking Baffin Bay with Kane Basin. The sun follows a lower arc across the sky, casting long shadows over mountains and glaciers. Fresh snow may trace the higher slopes, while colder air and extended twilight bring a new character to the passage.

Drifting ice and immense icebergs move through these waters between two great Arctic coastlines. Inuit have long travelled and hunted throughout the region, while nineteenth-century expeditions later followed Smith Sound in search of Franklin and routes towards the North Pole. These histories remain present within a passage still governed by current, ice, weather, and distance.

Day 11: At Sea**At the Turn of the Arctic Season**

September places Baffin Bay at a seasonal threshold. Sea ice is near its annual minimum, even as colder nights begin the transition towards freeze-up in the bay's northwestern reaches. Icebergs circulate with the currents, while whales and seals remain active and migratory seabirds move towards their winter ranges.

A day aboard offers time to watch the changing sea and sky from the decks and observation spaces. Presentations, workshops, and informal conversations with Inuit cultural educators, naturalists, historians, and other expedition team members deepen understanding of the wildlife, geography, cultures, and exploration history of the Northwest Passage.

Between sessions, the decks remain a gathering place for shared wildlife sightings and the quiet spectacle of icebergs moving across the horizon. As daylight fades, true darkness returns to the bay, and clear skies may bring the possibility of the aurora.

Days 12–13: Northwest Greenland**Through a Coast of Islands and Ice**



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In *Kalaallit Nunaat*, the Kalaallisut name for Greenland, the northwest coast forms both an immense seascape and a lived cultural world. Kalaallisut, the country's official language, carries the names, stories, and knowledge of its distinctive shores. Across western Greenland, Kalaallit culture shapes language, food, creative expression, and everyday relationships with the sea.

The northwest coast rises from the water in islands, narrow channels, sheltered bays, and deep fjords enclosed by steep mountains. The West Greenland Current carries immense icebergs northward, gathering bergs from Disko Bay and glaciers farther north into a moving flotilla of towers, arches, and fractured blue faces.

Small communities occupy rocky islands and natural harbours throughout this intricate seascape. Fishing and hunting remain central to local economies and food traditions, while boats connect settlements separated by water and rugged terrain. Autumn deepens the tundra into red, gold, and ochre, setting the final colours of the growing season against dark rock and drifting ice.

Explore the coast by ship, Zodiac, and on foot. Community visits and shoreline walks bring contemporary Kalaallit life and the immense scale of the landscape into view.

Day 14: Ilulissat

Where Icebergs Are Born

At Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Sermeq Kujalleq carries ice from the Greenland Ice Sheet towards the sea. Immense icebergs enter Disko Bay in a continually changing procession of towers, arches, and fractured blue faces. Ilulissat means "icebergs," a name that captures the defining presence of ice within the landscape and community.

A boardwalk leads towards views across the icefjord, while the Ilulissat Icefjord Centre explores the connections among ice, climate, culture, and human history. In town, a working harbour, museums, restaurants, cafés, shops, and colourful neighbourhoods reveal one of Greenland's most energetic contemporary communities, lived within sight and sound of the moving ice.

Days 15–16: Sisimiut Coast

Life Along the Greenlandic Shore

The Sisimiut coast brings together mountain ridges, sheltered waterways, offshore islands, and long fjords reaching towards the Greenland Ice Sheet. Autumn deepens the colours of crowberry, dwarf birch, willow, and tundra moss, while lower light sharpens the outlines of rock and water. Darkening evenings may also bring opportunities to watch for the aurora borealis.

Human history along this coast reaches back more than 4,500 years. Archaeological traces left by successive cultures, including Saqqaq, Dorset, and Thule peoples, speak to generations of movement and adaptation. Contemporary communities continue to look to the sea for travel, fishing, and connection.

Zodiac cruises, hikes, community visits, and time aboard offer different ways to experience this meeting of coast and fjord. Whales may still be encountered offshore, while seabirds move through the final stages of their seasonal migrations.

Day 17: Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

From Fjord to Sky

Kangerlussuaq lies within a broad glacial valley between the Greenland Ice Sheet and the sea. Its dry climate and unusually stable weather led to the establishment of an American air base here during the Second World War and continue to make it one of Greenland's most important aviation gateways. The surrounding region has a much longer history as a place of Inuit travel and hunting.

The journey concludes after sailing through Kangerlussuaq Fjord, one of Greenland's longest fjords. Mountains, glacial valleys, and pale meltwater mark the transition from the western coast towards the interior. After disembarkation, transfer to the airport for the charter flight south.

From the moving waters of Kugluktuk to this glacial valley, the route has crossed the Northwest Passage from west to east through a season of changing light.