

THE ARCTIC - ILULISSAT TO QAQORTOQ



INTRODUCTION

Embark on an 12-day expedition along Greenland's west coast aboard the M/S Balto, a 12-passenger vessel designed for intimate exploration. This journey offers a blend of natural wonders and cultural insights, from navigating iceberg-laden fjords and observing humpback whales to visiting remote settlements and the capital, Nuuk. Experience the rich tapestry of Inuit and Norse history amidst Greenland's stunning landscapes.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Embarkation in Ilulissat, Greenland

We arrive independently to the town by the ice fjord, Ilulissat. As soon as we arrive, the breathtaking natural scenery captivates us, showcasing hills, glaciers, and a bay dotted with icebergs. The remoteness from our everyday life is obvious! In the afternoon we board M/S Balto. We are now on a voyage in true expedition style and our exact route is depending on weather and ice and the itinerary must be kept flexible!



TRIP CODE

ACPQTGWC

DEPARTURE

17/07/2026

DURATION

12 Days

LOCATIONS

Greenland, The Arctic



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DAY 2: Expedition cruising - Day 2 to 11

We continue to explore the ice-choked Disko Bay area, before we head south. We are constantly on the lookout, since we are very likely to sail through humpback feeding grounds. We also pass the small and colourful houses of Aasiaat. As we continue via an inland passage towards Sisimiut, we sail amongst small islands, fjords and cliffs. We might pay a short visit to wander the streets, or we might opt for the surrounding wild fjords with an abundance of cod and various whale species. During hikes we might see the iconic muskox. As we now leave the ice-filled fjords behind, only random icebergs will pass our way. We pass by Sermersuut Island and might enter the magical Kangerlussuatsiaq fjord (the fjord of eternity), where huge mountains up to 2000 metres rise straight from the ocean. We then reach Nuuk. The capital's setting is stunning, and the bay is sometimes visited by minke and pilot whales. We pay a visit to the National Museum, Greenland's largest museum of cultural history. The collections come from all over the country, brought from various archaeological and small museum displays over recent years and the visit gives us great insight into the many different cultures of Greenland. Our journey continues south towards the fjords around Qaqortoq. En route we hope to stop by the abandoned mining town of Ivittuut – one of the few places in the world to have discovered naturally occurring cryolite. During a hike here we have good chances of seeing muskox. Nearby is the Ikka fjord. The legend says that the Inuit people drove invaders out onto the thin ice and when the ice gave way, the invaders died in the ice-cold water. If you look closely, you can catch a glimpse of their petrified remains on the bottom. The figures on the bottom are made of ikaite, an unusual form of chalk or limestone that is formed under an enormous pressure. Only about five other findings of ikaite have been observed around the world. The places we are travelling through on this voyage have many stories to tell. One is of the Inuit's great respect of and symbiotic relationship with environment and animals. During periods of weather change and animal numbers declining, amulets and fishing or hunting artefact became objects of great beauty and artistry. Of respect and love for the animals, who give themselves to sustain the Inuit life and culture, offerings are made to the Sea Goddess Sedna, to release the animals' souls. Still today, Inuit carry a small jug of fresh water when hunting seal. After a seal is killed it is given fresh water, so its spirit will not go thirsty. We will have many opportunities to learn about stories and legends, different eras and people that migrated to Greenland, conflicts and the ultimate demise of the once powerful Norse civilisation. We reach Qaqortoq, the largest city in Southern Greenland, beautifully situated on the mountain slopes and surrounded by fjords. We venture into Eriksfjord, named after Erik the Red, a Norse explorer believed to have founded the first settlement in Greenland. During a landing we visit Brattahlid, the estate he established at the end of the 10th century. We also hope to explore the hot springs of Uunarteq and enjoy a bath in these warm-tempered natural bathtubs, with breath-taking views of mountain peaks and drifting icebergs.



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DAY 12: Disembarkation in Qaqortoq

We disembark, continue to the airport in Qaqortoq and begin our journey home. Please note: Our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and wildlife as well as permissions and restrictions from local authorities. The places mentioned are just examples of some of the many sites this region of Greenland has to offer. We always strive to maximize your experience. Please remember that flexibility is the key to a successful expedition!



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Cabin On Board Ship
Inclusions	<div>INCLUSIONS</div> <div> Cabin accommodation on board ship All meals, tea, and coffee on board throughout your voyage All scheduled landings and excursions Guiding and leadership by expert exploration team and crew Passenger taxes and harbour/landing fees </div> <div>EXCLUSIONS</div> <div> Flights to Ilulissat and from Qaqortoq Excess-baggage fees on international or internal flights Transfers to/from airport, hotel and ship Any other pre- or post- land arrangements not mentioned Passport and visa expenses Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance - strongly recommended Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew Meals ashore unless otherwise specified Laundry, bar or any other personal charges unless specified </div>
Difficulty Rating	2 (Light Adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.

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Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, and vary from single to various twin/double cabins.</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.</p> <p><i>Traveling to Greenland can be challenging due to its remote location, limited flight availability, and small airports. Flights tend to be infrequent and costly, often requiring additional hotel nights before or after your trip. Booking flexible tickets well in advance is strongly advised.</i></p>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY

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