

SOME OF THE COLOSSAL THRILLS WE'LL DISCOVER IN THE LAND OF THE BIG ICE

We embark our expedition at **Iqaluit**, the capital of **Nunavut**, with its *inuksuk*-emblazoned flag proudly waving. Our fifteen days of unbridled exploration in the Arctic archipelago promise icescapes animated by wildlife in the waters off **Baffin Island**. As voyage naturalist, Karen Copeland, describes: Mid-August and it is fall in the far north. The **tundra** vibrates with color. Red, orange and gold carpet the land. One step upon its shores releases the fragrant aroma of Labrador tea, soothing, relaxing and so inviting ...

On **Baffin Island** and nearby islets, the **polar bears** wait. They prowl the shoreline in search of carrion or lie beneath a bird cliff in hopes that a misguided **guillemot** fledgling

will fall within their reach. Autumn for the great white carnivores signals the coming of plenty, the return of the seals and the frozen sea. Until then, they simply wait. The human residents of the north prepare too for the time of darkness. Crowberries and blueberries are gathered. Meat is stored away. **Baleen whales** gorge in the productive northern waters and **toothed whales** take advantage of the freedom of open water.

Disko Bay's waters, alive with bergs, growlers and bergy bits deliver us to the Arctic's 'mecca': **Ilulissat Icefjord**. At **Sisimiut** we'll discover vestiges of the **18th-century** past. Then exploring further along Greenland's beautiful, glacier-gouged west coast, keeping a lookout for humpback and minke whales, we'll encounter the dramatic finale of our voyage: the 100-mile-long **Kangerlussuaq Fjord**, with its emerald waters at the fjord head and soaring mountains in the middle.



A caribou roams the tundra.



With luck, we see elusive narwhals.



At right: Ilulissat Icefjord, one of the few glaciers through which the Greenland ice cap reaches the sea, and one of the fastest and most active glaciers in the world. Studied for over 250 years, it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, as an outstanding example of a stage in the Earth's history: the last ice age of the Quaternary Period.



NEW

ARCTIC QUEST: GREENLAND AND THE CANADIAN HIGH ARCTIC

17 DAYS/15 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER
PRICES FROM: \$16,160 to \$29,850 (See page 22 for complete prices.)

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Glide between soaring icebergs at the mouth of the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO site.
- ▶ Observe polar bears, walrus, ringed seals, belugas, and elusive narwhals.
- ▶ Discover the incredible wildlife and landscapes of the Canadian High Arctic.
- ▶ Explore Umannaq, the site of an impressive mummy find featured in *National Geographic* magazine.



“Dressed for a journey to the Land of the Dead, a young Inuit woman and seven companions were laid in two graves on the west coast of Greenland during the era of Christopher Columbus...making the Qilakitsoq mummies among the oldest known well-preserved humans in the Arctic.”

—Jens P. Hart Hansen, Jorgen Meldgaard, and Jorgen Nordqvist, “The mummies of Qilakitsoq,” National Geographic magazine, February 1985

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

30+
YEARS
EXPERIENCE

There is simply no better, more veteran team with whom to head into this bellwether geography. Our expedition leader and 8 naturalists are Arctic-adept. A National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and video chronicler will help you capture the experience. An undersea specialist and wellness specialist round out our team. And the Global Perspectives guest speaker adds relevant insight.

Visit our website to read staff and guest speaker bios for this expedition.

National Geographic Explorer passing a magnificent iceberg in Greenland's Ilulissat Icefjord.



DAY 1: U.S./OTTAWA, CANADA

Fly to Ottawa and check in to the Fairmont Chateau Laurier, or similar. (D)

DAY 2: OTTAWA/IQALUIT, CANADA/EMBARK

Take our charter flight to Iqaluit, Canada, where we embark *National Geographic Explorer*. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: SOUTH BAFFIN IS./FROBISHER BAY

The southeastern tip of Baffin Island forms the mouth of the Hudson Strait and is surrounded by tiny islands. Lower Savage and Resolution Islands are often a summer home to polar bears stranded by the retreating pack ice. Navigate the ice floes and rocks in a Zodiac, and spot harbor seals frolicking in the icy waters. Continue into Frobisher Bay—named for the English navigator who came across it on his quest for the Northwest Passage—and sail northward. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: HALL PENINSULA

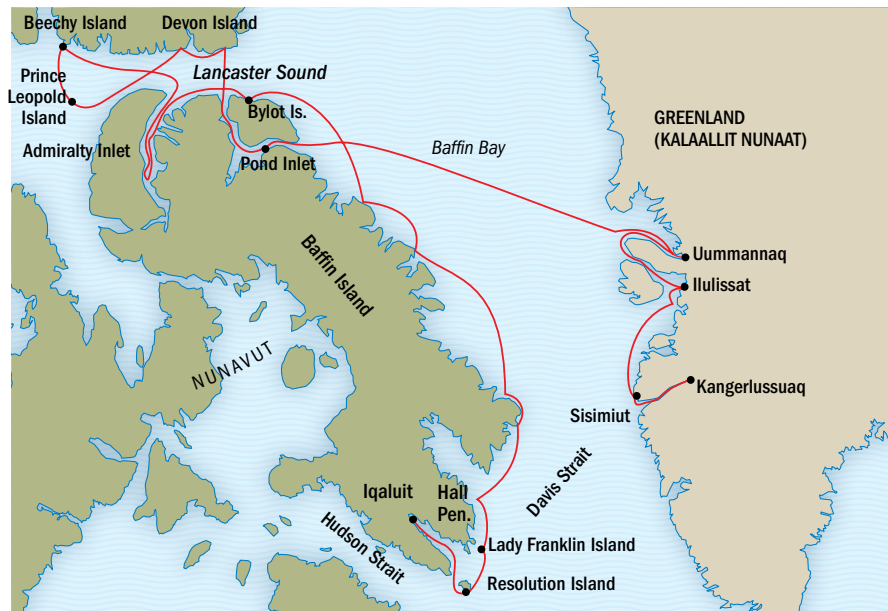
Spend the day exploring the wild Hall Peninsula of Baffin Island. Hike the tundra in search of caribou and arctic foxes, or follow our botanist to learn more about hardy arctic plants. Then cruise along the cliffs of Monumental and Lady Franklin Islands to see walrus hauls out on the rocks. (B,L,D)

DAYS 5-11: EXPLORING THE CANADIAN HIGH ARCTIC

Lancaster Sound is the eastern gateway to the Arctic Archipelago, named by explorer William Baffin when he ventured here in the 17th century to search for the Northwest Passage. Our days here will be spent searching for ringed seals, arctic foxes, walrus, and polar bears, as well as beluga and killer whales. We may even see the elusive narwhal, an arctic whale known for the spiraling tooth that projects up to ten feet from its upper jaw. Delve into the region's cultural history on visits to archaeological sites of the Thule people and traditional Inuit villages. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: AT SEA IN BAFFIN BAY (B,L,D)**DAY 13: UUMMANNAQ, GREENLAND**

Stop at Uummannaq, where a collection of mummies dating back to 1475 was



discovered in 1972 among the remains of an old Inuit settlement. The mummies were featured on the cover of the February 1985 issue of *National Geographic* magazine. (B,L,D)

DAY 14: DISKO BAY & ILULISSAT

Sail into Disko Bay to explore the World Heritage site of Ilulissat Icefjord, a tongue of the Greenland ice cap that extends to the bay. Take an extraordinary cruise among towering icebergs. Then walk alongside this immense, calving glacier to the Inuit fishing village of Sermermiut. (B,L,D)

DAY 15: GREENLAND'S WEST COAST & SISIMIUT

Dozens of deep fjords carve into Greenland's west coast, many with glaciers fed by the ice cap that covers 80% of the country. Discover this beautiful and ragged coastline, searching for humpback and minke whales. At Sisimiut, a former whaling port, visit the museum and wander amid a jumble of 18th-century wooden buildings. (B,L,D)

DAY 16: KANGERLUSSUAQ/DISEMBARK/OTTAWA, CANADA

Disembark in Kangerlussuaq and fly to Ottawa by chartered aircraft. Overnight at our hotel. (B,L)

DAY 17: OTTAWA/HOME (B)**EXPEDITION DETAILS**

DATE: 2013 Aug. 10

ARCTIC GREENLAND SPECIALIST:

Henning Thing is a native of Denmark and has a Ph.D. in arctic wildlife ecology. (Aug. 10, 2013)

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Flip Nicklin (left) is one of the world's leading photographers of whales. (Aug. 10, 2013).

[Learn more at expeditions.com/photo](http://expeditions.com/photo)



Adult ringed seal, comes up in its air hole, near Baffin Island.