

THE ARCTIC - EAST & SOUTH GREENLAND EXPLORER & AURORA BOREALIS | PLANCIUS



TRIP CODE

ACOWGEAB

DEPARTURE

13/08/2025

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Svalbard, Greenland



INTRODUCTION

One of the most isolated and sparsely inhabited regions in the Arctic is East Greenland, an untamed landscape with striking fjords, tiny Inuit villages, and historic relics from the Thule and Viking cultures. See the region's enormous icebergs and striking rock formations as you sail and explore its shores, keeping a look out for Arctic animals.

** Please Note: All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Landings are subject to site availabilities, permissions, and environmental concerns per AECO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with AECO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed of our vessel is 10.5 knots.*

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Longyearbyen - Embarkation

The adventure begins in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. Though the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded here. In the early evening the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where we might spot the first minke whale of the voyage.



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DAY 2: At Sea - Day 2 & 3

Embarking on the journey to East Greenland, we eagerly anticipate catching a glimpse of the jagged edge of the East Greenland sea ice, its dramatic contours potentially flashing into view, depending on the prevailing conditions. Stay vigilant throughout the journey, as the opportunity to witness majestic whales and the graceful migration of seabirds adds an extra layer of anticipation to our expedition.



DAY 4: Foster Bay

As we approach Greenland, we may sail through the sea ice into Foster Bay and land at Myggebugten. Beyond the old hunters’ hut where Norwegian trappers once hunted for polar bear and Arctic fox, there is a sprawling tundra populated by musk oxen as well as geese floating the small lakes. From here we sail through Kaiser Franz Josef Fjord, surrounded by towering mountains and bright interior icebergs. An alternate route is Sofia Sound, a narrower waterway.



DAY 5: Teufelschloss (Devil’s Castle)

We arrive at Teufelschloss (Devil’s Castle), a mountain with layered geology. On the other side of the fjord is Blomsterbugt and the intended landing site. In the afternoon we head into Antarctic Sound, where we find the islands of Ruth, Maria, and Ella. Maria is the most likely spot for a landing.



DAY 6: Antarctic Havn

For the first part of our day, we’ll be exploring Antarctic Havn, a vast valley known for its tranquility and occasional sightings of musk oxen. During this time of the year, the limited greenery is adorned in the warm, autumnal hues, creating a peaceful and scenic atmosphere for our journey.



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DAY 7: Scoresby Sund

Today we reach Scoresby Sund, sailing along the glaciated Volquart Boons Kyst. You may also enjoy a zodiac cruise past one of the glacier fronts, along with a visit to the basalt columns and ice formations of Vikingebugt. We continue along the east coast of Milne deeper into the fjord.



DAY 8: Sydkap

In the morning we encounter colossal icebergs, some over 100 meters (328 feet) high and more than a kilometer long. Most of them are grounded, as the fjord is only about 400 meters deep (1,312 feet). We then land near Sydkap, with fine views of Hall Bredning and a good shot of seeing Arctic hares. Later we will land at Satakajik and see the remains of Thule dwellings.



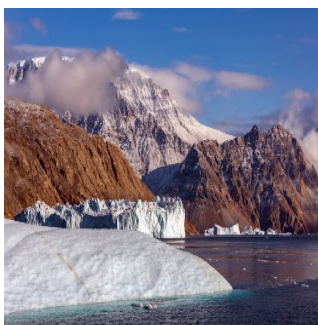
DAY 9: Blosseville Coast

Today we make a tundra landing on Liverpool Land, in Hurry Inlet. The afternoon stop is Ittoqqortoormiit, the largest settlement in Scoresby Sund at about three hundred inhabitants. At the post office you can buy stamps for your postcards or just stroll around to see the sled dogs and drying skins of seals and musk oxen. In the afternoon we sail south, passing the picturesque landscapes of the Blosseville Coast.



DAY 10: Stewart Island

Our next stop is Stewart Island, an important hunting area for the people of Scoresby Sund. There are beautiful remains of Thule houses to be seen here. Rømer Fjord and Turner Sound, meanwhile, give us the opportunity to sail far inland, as they have no glacier front at their head and are not clogged with ice. This also provides us good hiking opportunities.



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DAY 11: East Greenland coast - Day 11 to 13

Sailing south along the East Greenland coast, we enter several fjords competing in beauty: d'Aunay, Nansen, and possibly either Ikersuaq or Kangertitsivaqmiit. Most of these fjords have glacier front at the head, but any of them can offer us a chance to see polar bears.



DAY 14: Tasiilaq

Tasiilaq, once known as Angmagssalik (about 2,000 inhabitants) is our next port of call. This charming town is the center of East Greenland, boasting a museum where you can learn about the colorful local history of this incredibly remote area.



DAY 15: Umivik

We next sail south to land at Umivik, where the explorer Fridtjof Nansen ascended the Greenland ice sheet. Here you may even be able to walk a short distance in his steps.



DAY 16: Skjoldungen

Today we circumnavigate Skjoldungen through one of the most spectacular fjords of southeast Greenland, then land at Qornoq to see houses from the Thule culture. We will then visit Mariedal and a beautiful valley where Greenlanders used to collect berries in autumn.



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DAY 17: Timmiarmiut

Moving on to Timmiarmiut, we see an abandoned Greenlandic settlement and will possibly sail into the fjord. Polar bears have sometimes been spotted here in the past. As an alternative, we may visit Igutsait to the south.



DAY 18: Prins Christian Sund

Our westward passing of the Prins Christian Sund is surrounded by mountains of over 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) and is one of the highlights of the voyage. We may make a landing at Svaerdfiskens Havn or in the evening at Ikigait, once known as Herjolfsnes, a former Norse settlement.



DAY 19: Uunartoq

Today we reach Lichtenau, a lovely though nearly deserted Greenlandic village, where the Herrnhuters had a mission in the 18th century and where some of their large German-style buildings still remain. We will then try to get to Uunartoq, where we can bathe in a large hot spring surrounded by icebergs. Across at Vagar, we find the remains of a Norse homestead.



DAY 20: Eriksfjord

In Eriksfjord we land at Ittileq, in a bay from which we can walk 4 km (2.5 miles) down a road to Igaliku (Gardar). In this small Greenlandic village, we can see the remains of a 13th-century Norse church, along with other ruins. Then in the afternoon, we plan to visit Bratthalid, the base of Erik the Red. This is a sub-Arctic area with birch trees, agriculture, and cattle. Later that evening, we arrive at Narssarsuaq for the final night of our voyage.



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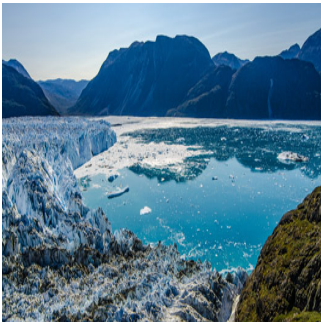
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DAY 21: Disembarkation

From the airport of Narssarsuaq, we fly back to Copenhagen. Though our adventure has come to an end, we take home memories that will accompany us wherever the next adventure lies. Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS


Accommodation

Cabin on board a ship



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Inclusions	INCLUSIONS All meals on board including snacks, coffee and tea Accommodation onboard the Hondius in booked cabin category Scheduled chartered economy flight from Narsarsuaq to Copenhagen on disembarkation Onboard lecture program from Expeditions Team and Naturalists All applicable shore excursions and Zodiac cruising (except paid adventure options with cost) Use of rubber boots & snowshoes Transfers and baggage handling between the airport, hotels and ship only for those passengers on the group flights to Longyearbyen Transfers and baggage handling between the ship and the airport Narsarsuaq for those passengers on the charter flight to Copenhagen All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme AECO fees and governmental taxes. Comprehensive pre-departure material Access to 1.5 GB of free internet connectivity per person, which resets every 24 hours. Supplementary vouchers available to purchase on onboard. Subject to satellite coverage
	EXCLUSIONS Any airfare not mentioned as included, whether on scheduled or charter flights to Longyearbyen, and from Copenhagen Airport transfers, taxes and excess baggage charges unless specified Meals other than those specified in the pre-departure information Pre and post land arrangements Visa & passport fees (if applicable) Travel insurance (compulsory) Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings Additional optional activities Tobacco, alcoholic or beverages (other than coffee and tea) Meals ashore Personal expenses such as laundry & bar Miscellaneous extras Gratuities for the crew (guidelines will be provided) Government arrival or departure taxes (if applicable)
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Subject to availability upon request. No single supplement will apply if willing to share in selected cabins. Please contact us for more details.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, and may be based on quad/triple/twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

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