North Pole: The Ultimate Arctic Adventure

Your icebreaker, *50 Years of Victory*, will take you to a part of the world more commonly associated with fairy tales and folklore—the North Pole. Crushing through multiyear pack ice, the journey can take as long as a week, which only helps heighten the level of excitement. Celebrate with champagne upon your arrival, and if conditions permit, soar above the Earth on an optional hot air balloon ride.

**EXPEDITION IN BRIEF**

- Stand at the top of the world at 90°N
- Experience the largest, most powerful nuclear icebreaker in the world, *50 Years of Victory*
- Enjoy helicopter sightseeing above the Arctic Ocean
- Possibly view polar bears, walrus and other arctic wildlife
- Take advantage of optional tethered flight by hot air balloon (weather permitting)
- Cruise in a zodiac
- Visit Franz Josef Land historical sites, wildlife and wildflowers

**DID YOU KNOW?** *The closest permanently inhabited settlement to the North Pole is in Canada. The settlement of Alert, Nunavut is normally home to five to 10 people and lies only 508 miles (817 km) from the North Pole.*
Adventure Option

Booking an Adventure Option as part of your expedition is a great way to enhance your polar experience. This option is subject to availability and fills up quickly, so be sure to book yours early. Please note that Adventure Options are weather dependent.

**HOT AIR BALLOONING***

If reaching the North Pole isn’t a big enough thrill, be one of only a few people in the world to soar above the sea ice in a hot air balloon, with a sweeping 360-degree view of all points south. Rising as high as 98 feet (30 meters), you’ll experience a bird’s-eye view of the ship and arctic tundra—something you’ll remember forever. Exclusive to Quark Expeditions®, this option brings you a whole new perspective on the North Pole!

*This option can only be booked during your voyage and is highly weather dependent.

More information about your Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost, is available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser.
**WANT TO STAY LONGER OR ARRIVE EARLIER?**

Contact our Polar Travel Advisers via email, live chat or phone (1.888.892.0073) for seamless, worry-free booking of all trip extensions.

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**DAY 1 Helsinki, Finland**

Your adventure begins with a one-night stay in Helsinki, Finland’s capital.

**DAY 2 Embarkation Day in Murmansk**

From Helsinki, you’ll join your fellow passengers on the charter flight to Murmansk, Russia, where you’ll embark on your voyage to the North Pole and get acquainted with 50 Years of Victory, the world’s largest and most powerful icebreaker.

**DAYS 3 TO 6 Northbound in the Arctic Ocean**

Being on board Victory and feeling the icebreaker as it crushes through the arctic pack ice is an experience you’ll never forget. Just as memorable is boarding the ship’s helicopter for a thrilling aerial view over the ship and the expansive Arctic Ocean.

You can expect variable sailing conditions this far north. The crossing from Murmansk to the North Pole can take us anywhere from four to six days depending on the ice conditions. This means you’ll have plenty of time to get to know your shipmates and be treated to lectures and discussions by our Expedition Team while looking out for birdlife. There are also many wonderful amenities on board, such as the ship’s lap pool or basketball court.

**DAY 7 90°N**

The anticipation reaches a climax as you arrive at the North Pole! Many travelers find themselves overcome with emotion, while others are in a festive and celebratory mood. Take photos, call your family, wave a flag—just be sure you enjoy your moment at the top! Later, everyone will celebrate with a champagne toast and a barbecue on the ice. If the opportunity allows, you have the option of taking a polar plunge into the icy waters around the North Pole. We’ll also attempt to launch passengers high above the Pole in our hot air balloon to commemorate this great moment (this is highly weather dependent).

**DAY 8 Southbound in the Arctic Ocean**

On our return voyage, you can sit back and relax. As you head farther south, you may get lucky and spot polar bears hunting for seals.

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**Itinerary**

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Actual itinerary may vary based on weather conditions.
DAYS 9 AND 10 Franz Josef Land and the Arctic Ocean

This group of 191 islands forms the most northerly archipelago in Eurasia and lies entirely within the Arctic Circle. Here, you’ll explore Cape Flora and discover historic remains from three ill-fated arctic expeditions. When conditions permit, we’ll launch the Zodias and cruise beneath towering cliffs to explore remote seabird colonies. The 50 Years of Victory helicopter will provide aerial sightseeing, and our Zodias will transfer you to seldom-visited landing sites.

DAYS 11 AND 12 Southbound at Sea

Enjoy your time on deck or reminisce with your shipmates and new friends as you cross the Arctic Ocean back to Murmansk. Expedition staff will be on hand to answer any remaining questions and point out wildlife during the return journey.

DAY 13 Disembarkation in Murmansk

Returning to Russia’s most northerly city, it will be time to bid farewell to 50 Years of Victory. You’ll be transferred to the airport for your charter flight to Helsinki, Finland, to enjoy one final night with your newfound friends.

DAY 14 Helsinki, Finland

After breakfast, your official Quark Expeditions® journey comes to an end. We do encourage you to spend time exploring Helsinki, Tallinn (the capital of Estonia) and Saint Petersburg.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your expedition staff must allow the sea, the ice and the weather to guide route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you’ll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed.

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Arrival & Departure Details

Welcome! As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested to know the details of your arrival and departure. Since air transportation to and from your voyage is not included in the cost of your expedition, you will need to arrange flights from your home to the starting point, and home again from the finishing point. Quark Expeditions® can assist you with booking air arrangements on an individual basis, or feel free to contact your preferred travel agent or airline. Here are the details for your expedition.

Arrival Day and Embarkation

ARRIVING IN HELSINKI
You may arrive in Helsinki at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary. Your included accommodation will be at the airport hotel, so arrival transfers are not necessary.

On arrival at the hotel, you will receive a welcome letter outlining the departure information for the following day’s flight. An agent representing Quark Expeditions® will be available in the lobby of the hotel this evening to answer any questions about the charter flight(s) scheduled for the following morning.

Please note: There is a strict luggage limit of 44 lbs (20 kg) checked luggage and 11 lbs (5 kg) cabin baggage on the flights between Helsinki and Murmansk. Should you have additional luggage, it can be stored at the hotel in Helsinki. There is NO option to pay for additional luggage.

MURMANSK AND EMBARKATION
Your flight to the Arctic is expected to depart from Helsinki to Murmansk on Day 2 of the itinerary. Although the scheduled flight time will be communicated in your welcome letter, there is significant variability based on weather conditions. You should be prepared to depart the hotel for the airport on our group transfer at any time.

Final Day and Departure

DISEMBARKATION IN MURMANSK
Your ship is scheduled to arrive back at the pier in Murmansk, between 7 am and 8 am local time. After breakfast, and once the ship has docked, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour. After disembarkation, you will transfer to the airport for the return charter flight to Helsinki.

DEPARTING FROM HELSINKI
Upon arrival in Helsinki, there will be a group transfer to your included post-expedition hotel. After breakfast the following morning, you may make your way to the airport to connect with your homeward flight, or stay longer if you have booked additional accommodation.

Please note: Weather conditions can always delay our arrival, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Booking flexible tickets is always encouraged, as we cannot be held responsible for delays due to unforeseen circumstances.
Included Hotel Accommodations

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated on your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day, please contact your Polar Travel Adviser for hotel options. Since accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

HELSINKI AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival and departure transfers in Helsinki are not included in the expedition. Your first night’s included accommodation will be provided at the airport hotel, so please make your way to the lobby for check in when you arrive. A departure transfer to the airport is not provided from the downtown hotel at the end of your stay in Helsinki.
Inclusions

THIS EXPEDITION INCLUDES
- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks on board
- All shore landings per the daily program
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled
- Photographic journal documenting the expedition
- Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
- Official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Hair dryer and bathrobe in every cabin
- Comprehensive predeparture materials, including a map and an informative Arctic Reader
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US$500,000 per person
- Russian invitation letter for visa application provided after final payment
- Group helicopter flightseeing as part of the daily program

THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES
- Mandatory transfer package*
- International airfare
- Helicopter flying time in excess of that offered for the group
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international flights
- Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified
- Phone and Internet charges
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew
- Additional overnight accommodations
- Hot air ballooning at the North Pole

MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE INCLUDES
- One night’s pre- and post-expedition hotel accommodation in Helsinki with breakfast
- Round-trip flights from Helsinki to Murmansk
- Transfers to and from the ship
- Transfers between the airport and hotel in Helsinki

Package cost: $1,750

*Note: Baggage allowance on charter flights is 44 lbs (20 kg) checked and 11 lbs (5 kg) carry-on.

IMPORTANT
Russian visas are required for tourists from most countries. This voyage requires double-entry Russian visas. See your country’s Russian consulate or embassy for details.
2017 Dates & Rates

NORTH POLE The Ultimate Arctic Adventure

Expedition Aboard the Icebreaker 50 YEARS OF VICTORY

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<th>Start/End</th>
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<td>July 9 - July 22, 2017</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Helsinki</td>
<td>$27,995</td>
<td>$31,995</td>
<td>$39,995</td>
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Mandatory transfer package available for $1,750.
All rates per person in USD.
Nonalcoholic and house-poured drinks are included on board. A selection of premium alcoholic drinks (such as top wines and spirits) is also available at an additional cost.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR EXPEDITION & ADVENTURE OPTIONS

To book your cabin or inquire about the availability of Adventure Options, contact a Polar Travel Adviser 1.888.892.0073 (+1.203.803.2666).

1-888-892-0073
North Pole

NORTH POLE

Visitors to the North Pole usually number in the mere hundreds each year. Soak up the icy surroundings knowing that even polar bears and harp seals are rare visitors to this extremity of the Earth.

Franz Josef Land

POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

APOLLONOV ISLAND

This small island has a ridge that may provide a vantage point for viewing a walrus rookery, which is known to haul-out on the island. Zodiac cruising to watch walrus from a distance is also a possibility.

BELL ISLAND

In 1881, Benjamin Leigh-Smith’s expedition built a hut here, but the crew never had the opportunity to use it, as their ship was wrecked off the coast. The hut is in supreme condition, and has a number of interesting inscriptions on its interior walls. Also found here is an old Russian isba (a wooden hut), which may even predate the official 1873 discovery of Franz Josef Land.

CALM BAY, HOOKER ISLAND

Sporadically in use today, this is the site of the archipelago’s first-ever polar station, built in 1929. Memorials to Georgiy Sedov’s wintering in 1913–14 are built here, and the remains of a glaciologist’s hut can also be seen.

CAMBRIDGE STRAIT

Cambridge Strait is a well-known area for spotting polar bears. It’s also a popular hunting ground for them, as seals frequent the area.

CAPE FLIGELY, RUDOLF ISLAND

The most northern point of the archipelago is marked with a copper plaque and a memorial cross. This is also the northernmost part of Europe, reaching farther north than Spitsbergen. The island is almost entirely ice covered, and temperatures only rise above freezing for a few short weeks each summer.

CAPE FLORA, NORTHBROOK ISLAND

More than half a dozen expeditions passed through here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries—the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition described in the book A Thousand Days in the Arctic was among them. Many buildings from the time are in ruins or have fallen into the sea, but some remain. Memorials and crosses have been erected in more recent years in memory of the survivors and victims of those early expeditions.

CAPE HELLER, WILCZEK ISLAND

Historically significant markers can be found here, including the remains of a stone hut used by two men from the 1898–99 Walter Wellman expedition. There is a grave site and large memorial post in honor of the one member who died here just after New Year’s in 1899.

CAPE NORWAY, JACKSON ISLAND

Weather is always a factor in this northern part of the archipelago, which is sometimes unreachable, even to icebreakers. A variety of arctic flora is found in this area, making it particularly interesting for botanists. This is also where Fridtjof Nansen and Frederick Jackson stayed during the 1895–96 winter and the remains of their stone hut can be visited.

CAPE TEGETTHOFF, HALL ISLAND

Impressive tall cliffs are home to large numbers of seabirds, while the ruins of the Walter Wellman 1898–99 expedition can also be found. With a diverse landscape, the island is great for exploring on foot, provided that polar bears aren’t in the vicinity.
CHAMP ISLAND

Wildflowers of the tundra are a common sight, giving a bit of color to an often bleak landscape. Of particular interest are the mysteriously perfectly rounded rocks scattered around parts of the island. They are up to seven feet (two meters) in diameter and have been nicknamed Devil’s Marbles.

NEGRI FJORD

This is a scenic and narrow waterway that lies between MacKlintok Island and Hall Island toward the southern reaches of Franz Josef Land.

RUBINI ROCK, HOOKER ISLAND

Rubini Rock is considered by many to be home to the most impressive bird cliffs anywhere in Franz Josef Land. The cliffs feature a bounty of seabirds, and because of deep waters, ships are able to get up close to the edge of the cliffs for great views. Most of the shores are dominated by glacier fronts, while a large part of the island is ice covered.

TEPLITZ BAY, RUDOLF ISLAND

With a long history of arctic exploration, this bay was first explored during Julius Payer’s 1874 expedition. Once a base for long-distance arctic flights, the bay is also home to an abandoned polar station. Ships have sunk in these icy waters; a wrecked aircraft lies on the ice cap, and monuments and graves pay homage to the early explorers who died here. For wildlife, both narwhal and beluga whales have been seen in these waters.

Last updated March 6, 2017