BEST OF THE WESTERN ARCTIC

Canada & Greenland
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Overview

Venture far above the Arctic Circle, in a land where the sun never sets and polar bears roam, with the Best of the Western Arctic: Canada and Greenland itinerary. You’ll be exploring the northerly shores of Canada’s Baffin Island and the western coast of Greenland, searching for the wildlife and visiting the communities that call this mysterious realm home. Zodiac cruising gives you an awe-inspiring perspective of impressive icebergs, glaciers and fjords, while visits to communities immerse you in their traditional and modern way of life. The rugged beauty of these pristine places will have you marveling at the soaring cliffs of Sam Ford Fjord and the dazzling icebergs dotting the Ilulissat Icefjord. In this remote, wildlife-rich region, you may spot whales in their natural surroundings or get a glimpse of one of the Arctic’s most iconic animals; the polar bear.

The Arctic has been inspiring explorers for centuries, and our expeditions offer the chance for you to discover why. We’re excited to host you on your unforgettable adventure! Feel free to reach out to our team of Polar Travel Advisers or your travel professional, who can answer your questions and provide assistance at any time.

EXPEDITION IN BRIEF

- Search for iconic arctic wildlife, such as polar bears, muskoxen, walrus and whales
- Explore Canadian wildlife sanctuaries and the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Visit traditional settlements and meet Inuit and Greenlandic locals
- Cruise in a Zodiac to explore icebergs, glaciers, fjords and more
- Immerse yourself in the icy realm of the Arctic with optional kayaking adventures
Best of the Western Arctic: Canada and Greenland

20-Day Itinerary

DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND
Your arctic expedition begins in Reykjavik. Explore Iceland’s capital city on your own before spending the night at your included hotel.

DAY 2 | EMBARKATION DAY IN KANGERLUSSUAQ, GREENLAND
In the morning, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Kangerlussuaq, a small town at the eastern head of Sondre Stromfjord, one of the longest fjords in the world. After embarking your ship in the afternoon, enjoy time out on deck, taking in your new surroundings as you set sail on your arctic expedition.

DAY 3 | AT SEA
As we cruise across the Davis Strait, your Expedition Team will prepare you for the adventures that await. Learn about the storied history and politics of the Arctic, its fascinating wildlife, geology, ecology and climate, and the incredible sights you will soon explore. Staff will also keep a lookout for seabirds soaring above your ship, as well as whales that frequent the waters here.

DAYS 4 TO 6 | EXPLORING BAFFIN ISLAND, CANADA
Baffin Island is the fifth-largest island in the world, it was named for English navigator William Baffin, who ventured to the area in the early 17th century in search

Call your Travel Professional or a Quark Polar Travel Adviser at 1.888.892.0073 | Visit QuarkExpeditions.com for additional details
of the fabled Northwest Passage. Your days sailing along the island’s eastern coast will
be guided by weather and ice conditions, with each day and each landing presenting
new adventures. Some of our favorite destinations include Qikiqtaaluk, Isabella
Bay and Sam Ford Fjord. Towering mountains, deep fjords, colorful tundra,
and Inuit settlements await!

The Inuit community of Qikiqtaaluk (which means “the big island” in
Inuktitut) is located just north of the Arctic Circle, on Broughton Island.
Fondly called Qik by locals, the welcoming hamlet offers a superb
vantage point of the Davis Strait. You’ll also have a chance to support local Inuit
artisans here by purchasing unique artwork, crafts and jewelry.

The rarely explored Sam Ford Fjord is one of the most isolated places on
the planet. It is a spectacular big-wall playground, attracting adventurous
climbers eager to scale the dozens of towering vertical granite cliffs that erupt
from the sea. Have your camera handy as you cruise along this impressive coastline
carved by ancient glaciers—the towering formations, stacked side by side, are
simply majestic.

**DAY 7 | AT SEA**
As our ship sails farther north, take in a presentation by our on-board experts,
sip an icy cocktail in the bar, watch a movie or join your Expedition Team on
the bridge as they scan for wildlife—there is no shortage of activities while
at sea.

**DAYS 8 TO 11 | LANCASTER SOUND**
The gateway to the Northwest Passage, Lancaster Sound is one of the richest
marine habitats in the Arctic. With open-water areas staying ice-free all year, it is
an important summer feeding area for whales and other marine wildlife. Our
days here will be spent exploring several of the sound’s beautiful bays and inlets,
discovering historical sites, enjoying Zodiac cruises and searching for such
iconic wildlife as walrus, seals and, of course, whales. Polar bear sightings
are possible too, as Lancaster Sound is known for polar bear sightings. If you’re
fortunate, you may even spot the elusive narwhal.

There may be a possibility for a shore visit at Radstock Bay, the location of one
of the most impressive ancient Thule sites in the Arctic. Exploring the well-
preserved remains of the subterranean houses, including the whale bones used
as supports for the dwellings, will give you an understanding of how these pre-
Inuit people thrived in the Far North.
We will attempt to land at Beechey Island, a Canadian National Historic Site. Named after explorer Frederick William Beechey, the island is the final resting place of members of Sir John Franklin’s 1845–46 expedition to find the Northwest Passage. The graves, on a desolate rocky beach, were discovered in 1850 by a team searching for signs of the ill-fated expedition.

Predominantly covered in glaciers and ice fields, Coburg Island and its surrounding waters comprise the Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area. The island’s steep coastal cliffs are an ideal habitat for hundreds of thousands of nesting seabirds like Brünnich’s guillemots (thick-billed murres), black-legged kittiwakes, northern fulmars and black guillemots.

**DAY 12 | SMITH SOUND**
Before saying goodbye to Canada, we’ll push as far north as possible, exploring both sides of Smith Sound, the uninhabited passage between Ellesmere Island and Greenland. Experience a true expedition as weather and ice determine how far north we explore.

**DAYS 13 AND 14 | EXPLORING NORTHWEST GREENLAND**
Your return to Greenland will have you sailing along the remote northwest coast, a land of impressive icebergs and massive glaciers. Qaanaaq, formerly known as Thule, is one of the northernmost towns in the world. Here, local Inuit share their culture and traditions, while the museum sheds more light on life near the top of the world.

We hope to explore Melville Bay, a significant whaling site until the early 1900s. Opening up to Baffin Bay, the area is a major egress for the Greenland ice cap and is home to spectacular icebergs in all shapes and sizes, making it an ideal spot for Zodiac cruising. If you’re feeling adventurous, perhaps you’ll treat yourself to a unique arctic experience by partaking in an optional paddling excursion (additional cost).

**DAY 15 | AT SEA**
As we continue sailing south along the west coast of Greenland, presentations by our on-board experts will prepare you for the adventures that lie ahead.

**DAYS 16 TO 18 | EXPLORING WEST GREENLAND**
Boasting spectacular glaciers, mountainous landscapes, dramatic fjords...
and vibrant communities, the west coast of Greenland will leave you breathless. Some areas we hope to explore here are Uummannaq, Itilleq and the impressive Ilulissat Icefjord.

Quite possibly the most picturesque place in Greenland, the traditional Inuit town of Uummannaq (which means “heart-like”) takes its name from the red heart-shaped mountain that rises up a staggering 3,840 feet (1,170 meters) behind it. You’ll want to be positioned on deck as your ship approaches the shore, with your camera ready to capture the inspiring vistas of the twin peaks soaring high above the colorful houses dotting the rugged coastline.

Another beautiful locale is the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home to Jakobshavn, one of the most active glaciers in the world, this is a great spot to enjoy a Zodiac excursion past towering icebergs. Venturing ashore in the town of Ilulissat (which means “iceberg”) will allow you to visit the icefjord on foot and gaze at this unforgettable river of ice from the rocky shore.

Surrounded by sea and mountains, Itilleq (meaning “crossing place”) is situated about a mile (2 km) above the Arctic Circle, in a scenic hollow on a small island. It is the southern limit of the Greenlandic sled dog. To keep the breed pure, the dogs are not permitted south of this community and all other dog breeds are prohibited this far north. Explore the town’s traditional wooden houses painted in a rainbow of colors, chat with the locals, whose main trade is fishing, and maybe challenge them to a game of football (soccer) —it won’t be long before you’re experiencing Itilleq’s famous friendly vibe.

**DAY 19 | DESEMBARK IN KANGERLUSSUAQ & FLY TO REKYJAVIK**

Enjoy one more Zodiac ride to shore, where you’ll board your charter flight back to Reykjavik, Iceland. Upon arrival in Reykjavik, we will transfer you to your included hotel.

**DAY 20 | DEPART REKYJAVIK**

Today, you can make your way home at your leisure or spend time exploring this vibrant city.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

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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 have some flexibility in planning your flights. Looking to extend your adventure beyond your polar cruise? Learn how to add on a pre- or post-expedition stop—or both!—in your gateway city on page 21.

**Arrival Day and Embarkation**

**ARRIVING IN REYKJAVIK**
You may arrive in Reykjavik at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary and make your way to the included hotel.

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 scheduled for the following morning.

**KANGERLUSSUAQ AND EMBARKATION**
Your flight to the Arctic is expected to depart from Reykjavik to Kangerlussuaq on Day 2 of the itinerary in the afternoon. The scheduled flight time will be communicated in your welcome letter, and you will be transferred from your hotel to check in at the airport. Upon arrival in Kangerlussuaq, you will be transferred to the ship by Zodiac.
Final Day and Departure

**DISEMBARKATION IN KANGERLUSSUAQ**

Your ship is scheduled to arrive in Kangerlussuaq between 7am and 8am local time. After breakfast, and once the ship has anchored, 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 be transferred to the airport for the return charter flight to Reykjavik.

**DEPARTING FROM REYKJAVIK**

Upon arrival in Reykjavik, 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 onward flight, or stay longer if you have booked additional accommodation.

**Hotel Accommodations**

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated in your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day and would like help booking a pre- or post-stay, please contact your Polar Travel Adviser or travel professional for hotel options. As accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

**Arrival and Departure Transfers**

**REYKJAVIK AIRPORT TRANSFERS**

An arrival transfer in Reykjavik is not included in the expedition; however, your Polar Travel Adviser or travel professional can arrange one for you.

Your final night’s included accommodation will be provided at a hotel close to Keafivik International Airport, and a transfer to the airport will be available on the final day of the itinerary. A transfer to the city is not included if you are extending your time in Iceland after the expedition but one can be arranged for you.
Quark Expeditions® is pleased to boast the largest polar-class fleet of any polar operator and the ability to offer our guests this great expedition on one of our ice strengthened vessels.

The entire Quark Expeditions® fleet is built for the challenging polar environments, so we can confidently take you to places ordinary cruise companies wouldn’t dream of going.
**OCEAN ADVENTURER — Newly Renovated!**

Our popular ship *Sea Adventurer* has been relaunched as *Ocean Adventurer* after a multimillion-dollar renovation. A team of marine architects, engineers, interior designers and polar expedition specialists worked together to enhance this nimble and intimate fleet favorite. Upgrades include a refreshed look and feel throughout, plus the complete remodeling of the lounge, dining room and bar. All cabins received new linens and bathroom updates. Six new deluxe cabins as well as three new suites have also been added. Major technical enhancements include two new Rolls-Royce engines, which yield increased speed and fuel efficiency, and a minimized carbon footprint.

**SHIP SPECIFICATIONS:**
- **Staff & Crew:** 87
- **Guests:** 128
- **Lifeboats:** 4, partially enclosed
- **Ice Class:** 1A

Visit [QuarkExpeditions.com](http://QuarkExpeditions.com) to view deck plan details.
Included Activities

Ready for a little adventure beyond your ship? Each Quark Expeditions® voyage offers a variety of fun recreational activities to enhance your polar experience.

ZODIAC CRUISING
Zodiacs are the workhorses of polar expeditions, safely transporting guests to remote shorelines and shallow inlets—places the ships can’t reach. Expedition staff make stepping in and out of them-safe and comfortable.

HIKING
Led by experienced staff, exploring in foot is the best way to appreciate the polar landscapes. Our guides are able to accommodate a range of skill levels to suit every passenger.

PRESENTATIONS
Daily chats with on-board experts—our guides, scientists and other special guests—let guests rub shoulders with historians, ornithologists, biologists, geologists and more.

POLAR PLUNGE
This rite of passage, experienced just once per expedition, sees you safely jumping into icy ocean waters under the watchful eye of our staff—and just about every single camera lens on board!

PHOTOGRAPHY
Documenting your voyage so you can take the memories home is a rewarding experience. Our photography guides will help you learn skills to capture the beauty of the Polar Regions.

OTHER EQUIPMENT ON BOARD
Walking poles are provided at each landing for your convenience. As there are limited number of poles available, please bring your own if you require them on every landing.

Contact your Polar Travel Adviser or your Travel Professional for more information about your Included and Paid Activities, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost.
Adventure Options

**SEA KAYAKING | $695**

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers. Our Sea Kayaking adventures are a great way to feel at one with the sea. A small group of kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage instead of shore landings. The number of kayaking opportunities is weather dependent and will only be conducted during calm conditions.

Prior kayaking experience is recommended for you to feel comfortable on the water, and the capability to do a wet exit is strongly encouraged. Beginners interested in kayaking should consider participating in the Paddling Excursion adventure option.

**PADDLING EXCURSION | $195**

If you’re interested in kayaking and would like to try something less in depth than Sea Kayaking, you can still enjoy the benefits of adding an on-water experience to your expedition with a Paddling Excursion. Sign up for a one-time paddle on our sit-on-top kayaks, which are stable and unencumbered—perfect for anyone with little to no kayak experience. Expert guides take rotating groups of passengers on calm days to connect with the sea.

**PLEASE NOTE**

For all paid activities pre-booking is required. We recommend booking early as spaces fill quickly.
## Dates & Rates

Best of the Western Arctic: Canada and Greenland

### OCEAN ADVENTURER

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<th>Dates</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Start / End</th>
<th>Triple</th>
<th>Lower Deck</th>
<th>Main Deck</th>
<th>Main Deck</th>
<th>Superior</th>
<th>Deluxe</th>
<th>Suite</th>
<th>Owner’s Suite</th>
<th>Transfer Package</th>
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</table>

Call your Travel Professional or a Quark Polar Travel Adviser at 1.888.892.0073 | Visit [QuarkExpeditions.com](http://QuarkExpeditions.com) for additional details.
MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE INCLUDES:

• One night’s pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Reykjavik
• Group transfer from the Reykjavik hotel to the ship on Day 2
• Charter flight from Reykjavik to Kangerlussuaq
• Group transfer from the ship to the Kangerlussuaq airport on disembarkation day
• Charter flight from Kangerlussuaq to Reykjavik
• Group transfer from Reykjavik airport to hotel on disembarkation day
• Shuttle transfer to Keflavik airport on last day of itinerary

PACKAGE PRICE: $1,695 USD
Our Expedition Leaders and staff bring diverse polar expertise in subjects as varied as polar history, marine biology, glaciology and photography. Their knowledge will deepen your immersion into the polar environment and further enhance your connection to the Arctic.

With over 29 years of experience bringing passengers to remote polar regions and an industry leading staff to guest ratio, we know how to handle the unexpected to guarantee the safety of all passengers. Ensuring this hard earned experience is passed on, our new expedition staff receive comprehensive training in our newly developed Quark Academy, which provides real-world polar expedition training prior to any staff member’s first voyage as well as ongoing training for experienced staff.

Your Expedition Team

Your Expedition Leader

ALISON KIRK-LAURITSEN

Ali fondly remembers her first big adventure—a six-month trip around Australia at age nine—and believes such early life experiences shaped her perspective of the importance of family and the privilege of traveling. Born in Australia, she speaks Mandarin and did her post-graduate studies in international relations. Ali’s career has provided further opportunities to travel while developing her leadership, management, communications and logistics skills. An avid skier, scuba diver, cyclist and runner, she enjoys exploring the outdoors. Loving the world of polar adventures, Ali is excited to share her passion for conservation and sustainability with you.

*Expedition Leader subject to change, and will be confirmed in final documents.

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PRE- AND POST-EXPEDITION TRIP EXTENSIONS

You can extend your trip by booking extra days to explore our gateway city before or after the voyage. Since you’re traveling such a long way, you may want to spend extra time in Reykjavik. We have a variety of pre- and post-expedition packages in this fascinating city, known for its vibrant music and art scenes. Enjoy an extensive city tour, explore the Golden Circle, taking in Iceland’s most stunning natural wonders, and soak in the famous Blue Lagoon. And maybe fit in some whale watching, too!

To discover the best options for extending your adventure, get in touch with your Travel Professional or a Polar Travel Adviser for seamless, worry-free booking of all trip extensions.

FROM TOP: View of Reykjavik; Blue Lagoon
If there is one constant at sea, it is that you’ll enjoy delicious meals daily. While meal times may change due to landings and wildlife encounters, you’ll always be served three meals a day. Most dietary restrictions can be accommodated by letting us know prior to your expedition.

Breakfasts and lunches are normally served buffet-style, while dinners are served plated. À la carte meals are made at the time of your order, allowing our chefs to prepare each dish to your individual needs, ensuring you receive top-quality meals during the course of your expedition.

Soft drinks, juices and water are available at all times, and beer and wine are served with dinner, all included in the cost of your package. Spirits, premium wines and champagne are available at an extra cost, which can be billed to your shipboard account. The well-stocked bar is open to enjoy with your fellow shipmates in the late morning, afternoon and evening.
Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must allow the sea, the ice and the weather to guide route and itinerary details. The following landing sites are a sample of what you may experience on your expedition.

Canada

**BEECHEY ISLAND**
Named after Frederick William Beechey, an explorer with the Royal Navy, this is one of Canada’s most important Arctic sites and has been deemed a Canadian National Historic Site. During the Franklin expedition of 1845–46, two of Franklin’s ships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, anchored here with perilous results. Three of Franklin’s crew died here and are buried at a marked gravesite.

**COBURG ISLAND**
A well-known nesting ground, Cobourg Island is a wildlife reserve with a diverse avian community. Brünnich’s guillemots (thick-billed murres), black-legged kittiwakes, northern fulmars and black guillemots dominate the cliffs here, while it’s also possible to spot greater snow geese, snowy owls, peregrine falcons and gyrfalcons.

**CROKER BAY**
A nearby glacier actively calves off chunks of ice, creating a birthing place for icebergs at Croker Bay. The bay was a popular stop during the
1800s, when a path to the Pacific (the Northwest Passage) was at the forefront of arctic exploration.

**DUNDAS HARBOUR**  
Located on Devon Island, there are remains of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police post here, dating back to 1924. Historically, this area has been settled for more than 3,000 years by Inuit and pre-Inuit cultures. The Inuit name for Devon Island (Talluruti) refers to the various north-south oriented fjords on Devon’s south coast that resemble the tradition women’s straight line chin tattoos. Be alert for wildlife, as walrus, polar bears and muskoxen have been seen here.

**ISABELLA BAY**  
A bowhead whale sanctuary, the Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area is comprised of the islands of Isabella Bay and the surrounding shoreline and waters. As many as a hundred bowheads have been recorded at one time in the bay, which is the single-largest known concentration of the species in Canada.

**QIKIQTARJUAQ**  
Known until 1998 as Broughton Island, Qikiqtarjuaq boasts the highest mountains in North America east of the Rocky Mountains. A friendly and welcoming community will share their techniques for living off the natural resources here.

**RADSTOCK BAY**  
This bay has been a popular research location for observing polar bears. Denning mothers favor the area, and polar bears are frequently seen here during summer months. A Thule site here provides insight into how the pre-Inuit people thrived in the Arctic.

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SAM FORD FJORD
This fjord is a rock climber’s dream. Tempting some of the most famous mountaineers and adventurers, its sheer rock faces form a severe barrier against the sea. The dramatic landscape makes for stunning photographs.

West Greenland

ILLULISSAT
North of the Arctic Circle, this ice fjord is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Recognized as one of the fastest-moving glaciers in the world, the Jakobshavn glacier located here moves at 62 feet (19 meters) per day. More glacial ice is calved into the ocean here than anywhere else outside of Antarctica.

ITILLEQ
Itilleq in Greenlandic means “a hollow,” which is where this village is situated, on an island without any freshwater. The village has approximately 130 inhabitants and offers picturesque views of colorful Greenlandic houses dotted along the rocky landscape.

KANGERLUSSUAQ
Kangerlussuaq and the Kangerlussuaq Fjord in West Greenland present the potential for glimpses of such arctic wildlife as muskoxen and caribou. Mountainous landscapes provide a great backdrop at this port of embarkation and disembarkation.

MELVILLE BAY
This large bay was named by explorer Sir John Ross after Lord Melville, the first lord of the British Admiralty. The Greenland ice sheet comes down to the coast, making it a major egress for some of the most spectacular icebergs in the world.

QAANAAQ
Qaanaaq is one of the world’s most northern settlements. Traditional means of living are strong here, and the local museum helps shed some light on what it takes to live this close to the top of the world.

UUMMANNAAQ
Uummannaq was founded as a Danish colony in 1758 on the Nuussuaq mainland, but in 1763 it was moved to the nearby island, as seal hunting was more plentiful there. Within sight of the Greenland ice sheet, this town and the island of the same name are a study in contrasts.
Packing Checklist

WHAT TO BRING! Packing for the polar regions doesn’t have to be daunting, and to make it easier for you, all Quark voyages include an expedition parka to keep, and a loan of appropriate polar footwear. Additional suggested items include:

FOR SHORE LANDINGS
- Base layers (wool, synthetic or a blend)
- Mid-layer warm/fleece top
- Mid-layer warm/fleece pant
- Wool and synthetic sock (3 to 4 pairs)
- Neck warmer or balaclava
- Warm hat that covers ears
- Waterproof pants
- Waterproof gloves and glove liners
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Spare set of gloves
- Bug spray and bug nets

SUGGESTED ITEMS
- Waterproof, lightweight backpack or dry sack
- Swimsuit (for the polar plunge!)
- Binoculars
- Camera with extra batteries
- Extra memory cards
- Earplugs (in case of noisy cabinmates)
- Eye masks for sleeping
- Seasickness, indigestion, headache or other medicine
- Voltage converters and plug adapters (220V/European outlets)
- Ski goggles (for Zodiac cruising)

FOR ON BOARD
- Comfortable casual clothing (pants/jeans, shirts, sweaters)
- Lighter shirts (in case the ship gets warm)
- Comfortable non-slip close-toed unheeled shoes (NOTE: Flip flops or sandals should not be worn on board due to safety concerns)

For more packing and gear-related info, visit the Quark Expeditions® online Polar Boutique at Shop.QuarkExpeditions.com

WEATHER CONDITIONS & TEMPERATURES
Weather is very variable; temperatures may hover around the freezing mark and winds can be strong. The continuous daylight warms sheltered areas so that you may sometimes find it warm enough for t-shirts. However, you may encounter snow squalls, fog and white-outs during an expedition and should be ready for any conditions.
TO BOOK YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE
Contact your Travel Professional
or a Quark Expeditions® Polar Travel Adviser

1.888.892.0073
QuarkExpeditions.com

PHOTO CREDITS:
Acacia Johnson; David Merron; Nicky Souness; Samantha Crimmin; Sue Flood;
Cindy Miller Hopkins; Hugo Perrin; Grange Productions; Focus Productions