East Greenland: Northern Lights

Scoresbysund, the world’s largest fjord system, beckons you to explore Greenland. Enticing you with some of the world’s best displays of the Northern Lights, the Inuit settlement of Ittoqqortoormiit also offers you a rare connection to the past, as they still live off the land as their ancestors did hundreds of years ago.

Iceberg choked fjords, tundra hikes and the Arctic wildlife of Greenland National Park create picture perfect scenes every day. One of our most active expeditions, you can climb atop mountains and watch herds of grazing musk oxen on the horizon. This is pure wilderness, the untouched Arctic as it was thousands of years ago.

EXPEDITION IN BRIEF:
- Spectacular Greenland landscapes
- World’s largest fjord system
- World’s largest and most remote national park
- Possible musk oxen and whale sightings
- Zodiac cruising
- Tundra hiking
- Community visits
- Optional kayak adventure option on selected expeditions

DID YOU KNOW? There are dozens of myths and legends associated with the Aurora Borealis. From Finland to Norway and Canada to Greenland different native peoples have different stories about what the dancing lights are. Some believe them to be an omen of war; others say the lights are spirits playing with a dead walrus skull. In Eastern Greenland the traditional belief is that the lights are the spirits of children who died at birth.
Adventure Options

You have the chance to book optional adventure activities on your expedition. These options vary by departure, are all subject to availability and fill up quickly, so be sure to book yours early. Please note, all Adventure Options are weather dependant.

SEA-KAYAKING

Imagine gliding along the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers! Our sea-kayaking adventures are the best way to feel at one with the sea.

Taken in small groups of 10-16 people, multiple times per voyage, sea-kayaking adventures are only done during calm weather conditions. We require you to have some prior sea-kayaking experience, including the capability to do a wet exit.

More information about your Adventure Options, including physical requirements and cost of each option is available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser.
DAY 1 Reykjavik, Iceland

Your adventure begins with an overnight stay in thoroughly-modern Reykjavik, the world’s northernmost capital city.

DAY 2 Akureyri, Iceland

You fly from Reykjavik to the northern Iceland town of Akureyri to begin your expedition to Greenland. As you sail out to sea, your first wildlife sightings will be seabirds above and whales below, get ready for a great adventure!

DAY 3 At Sea

Sail through the Denmark Strait en route for mysterious Greenland. Your onboard Expedition Team will keep you informed and entertained with presentations about Greenland’s wildlife, history and geography.

DAYS 4 TO 7 Greenland National Park

Fjords and flower meadows punctuate the scenery of Greenland National Park, where Arctic fox and musk oxen roam free. Your days will be spent exploring and learning about the unique history and geology of Greenland.

King Oscar Fjord is a hiker’s paradise. You may walk across the delicate flower-and-berry-strewn tundra at Holm Bay, Zodiac-cruise through spectacular Alep fjord or challenge yourself with a climb to the top of nearby Ella Island (the views are worth it.)

From Ella Island you’ll head to the Antarctic. Yes, curiously, there is an Antarctic Sound in the Arctic. The area is home to beautiful purple and gold colored rocks with Ymer Island and Blomsterbugten, the “Bay of Flowers,” ready to explore in the distance. Keeping a constant eye out for wildlife, you will then head south along the Liverpool Coast. Weather conditions are variable here, but we’ll aim to visit Storefjord and the “warming island” of Uunartoq Qeqertaq, which was only discovered in 2005.

DAYS 8 TO 11 Scoresbysund Fjord

Arriving at Scoresbysund, you’ll find yourself mesmerized by the largest, longest, and – some say – most beautiful fjord system in the world. This area was named for William Scoresby, who

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.
charted the east coast of Greenland in 1822.

At the start of the sound, Ittoqqortoormiit is East Greenland’s most northerly community and one of the world’s last remaining examples of a living hunter society. With clear skies, you’ll have a great opportunity to see the Northern Lights here. You can also support the local Inuit artisans by purchasing unique handicrafts.

Our time here is spent bonding with the Inuit people and gaining an appreciation of their way of life. Sailing on, deeper into Scoresbysund you’ll encounter massive icebergs and an ancient Thule settlement as we approach Sydkap and Øfjord. The scenery here is something you can’t even imagine, with towering mountain sides and hundreds of apartment size icebergs playing tricks with your sense of perception.

Pushing onward, your expedition will come to Rypefjord and Kap Hofmann Halvø. We will keep our eyes peeled for sightings of rare blue icebergs, which are more normally seen in the Antarctic. With binoculars in hand, birders should keep watch for wheatears, snow buntings and ravens at Rypefjord.

At Cape Hofmann Halvø we’ll have a good chance for closer encounters with grazing musk oxen and enjoy a final hike out on the colorful tundra.

**DAY 12 & 13 At Sea**

Your homeward journey re-crosses the Denmark Strait, giving you a couple of days for whale watching. During our crossings we’ve seen white-beaked dolphins and humpback, minke and blue whales. Birders have enjoyed spotting kittiwakes, gannets, guillemots, fulmars and razorbills on our journey back to Iceland.

**DAY 14 Disembarkation Day in Reykjavik**

Your Greenland adventure comes to an end as you enter port in Reykjavik. If you have time, stick around and explore this great city.

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Inclusions

THIS EXPEDITION INCLUDES

- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks on board throughout your voyage
- All shore landings per the daily program
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader
- A daily program of lectures by noted naturalists
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and Special Guests as scheduled
- Photographic Journal on DVD, documenting the voyage
- A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
- An official Quark Expeditions parka to keep
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- A selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Hair dryer and bathrobe in every cabin
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials, including a map and an informative Arctic Reader
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard ship
- Pre-night accommodation as indicated in the itinerary
- On embarkation day group transfer from your hotel
- On disembarkation day group transfer from the ship downtown
- Emergency Evacuation Insurance for all passengers to a maximum benefit of US$100,000 per person
- Greenland voyages Cruise Passenger Tax

THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES

- International airfare
- Passport and any applicable visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Any meals ashore with the exception of breakfast at the host hotel
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption, and medical travel insurance
- Excess baggage charges
- Laundry and other personal charges
- Telecommunications charges
- The voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew
- Any overnight accommodation required due to flight connections
- Optional sea-kayaking activities
## Dates & Rates

**EASTERN GREENLAND Northern Lights**

*Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship SEA SPIRIT*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Emb/Disemb</th>
<th>Triple</th>
<th>Main Deck</th>
<th>Classic</th>
<th>Superior</th>
<th>Deluxe</th>
<th>Premium</th>
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<td>Sept 22 - Oct 5, 2014</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Akureyri/Reykjavik</td>
<td>$6,995</td>
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All non-alcoholic and house pouring drinks are included. 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 Advisor **1.888.892.0073 (+1.203.803.2666).**

1-888-892-0073
Eastern Greenland

POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

**BLOMSTERBUGTEN, YMER ISLAND**

Known as the Bay of Flowers, Blomsterbugten is a colorful and lush landscape quite different from other Arctic regions like Spitsbergen. Expect a range of flora and fauna here with a possible hike to Noa Lake.

**CAPE HOFMANN HALVØ**

This is often the best location for getting close to musk oxen. The Cape is also home to wheateaters and snow buntings, while you may also spot rock ptarmigans or northern divers while at sea.

**DENMARK ISLAND**

Near Fohn Fjord, some of the most stunning icebergs are to be encountered before taking a hike across Denmark Island, which offers stupendous views of the Scoresbysund and Fohn Fjord below.

**HOLM BAY AND ELLA ISLAND**

Towards the northern end of Scoresby Land is King Oscar Fjord. Holm Bay is a common landing site here, allowing for panoramic views of the fjord and surrounding area. Within the fjord, and hence within Northeast Greenland National Park, lies Ella Island. The Danish navy unit called Sirius Sledge Patrol trains here in summer. Musk oxen may be spotted from here.

**ITTOQQORTOORMIT**

Around 500 people call this northern settlement home. Traditional hunting and fishing ways are alive and well here, as are the Northern lights! This is known as one of the best places to have a chance at seeing the mysterious Aurora Borealis. Heading to Hurry Inlet and hiking from Itoqqortoormitt you’ll be immersed in Arctic flora, with wildflowers coloring the landscape.

**RØDEFJORDEN**

The Red Fjord, or Rypefjord, is named for the colorful sandstone located on its western side. The stone has been ‘stained’ red by hematite, creating an oddity in this part of Greenland.

**SCORESBYSUND**

Revered by many as the most beautiful fjord system in the world, Scoresbysund is definitely the longest and largest. The sound was named after William Scoresby, a whaler, scientist and man of the cloth, who was famed for mapping more than 400 miles of Greenland coastline.

**SYDKAP**

Icebergs and early history are front stage here, as remains from an ancient Thule settlement may be seen. The Thule often used Greenland whale bones in building their structures. Be on the watch for lemmings and musk oxen in this area.

**UUNARTOQ QEQERTAQ**

Discovered in 2005, this small island is called a ‘warming island’ as it was uncovered as the result of climate change and the melting of ice.

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