

GREENLAND & WILD LABRADOR CRUISE

An Arctic cruise on board *Ocean Endeavour*

September 22, 2017 - 17 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$11,465 Inside Category 3

\$12,685 Outside Category 4

\$13,810 Outside Category 5



tour
a more intimate travel experience

- > Please add 0.5% GST
- > \$145 single supplement, limited number of cabins, book early
- > Other categories may be available.
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 175 points from this tour.
Redeem **175 points** if you book by **May 17**.

* HIGHLIGHTS & PORTS *

Kangerlussuaq, Greenland
Qeqqata Kommunia, Greenland
Nuuk, Greenland
Davis Strait
Kangiassualujjuaq, Ungava, Quebec

Torngat Mountains National Park
Hebron, Labrador
Nain, Labrador
L'Anse aux Meadows, Nfld
St. John's, Nfld

Includes

- Flight from Victoria to Toronto
- Air transport taxes, security fees, luggage fees
- 1 night accommodation & taxes in Toronto
- 1 night accommodation & taxes in St. John's
- Charter flight from Toronto to Greenland
- 14 days on board *Ocean Endeavour*
- Gratuities for ship crew, guides and naturalists
- Discovery Fee (US\$250)
- Lectures and other services on board ship
- Greenland National Museum
- Locally-guided tour of St. John's
- Cape Spear and Signal Hill National Historic Site
- Transfer from hotel to St. John's Airport
- Flight from St. John's to Victoria
- Wells Gray tour director throughout the tour
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **43 meals:** 14 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 15 dinners

102 - 736 Broughton Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1
www.wellsgraytours.com

victoria@wellsgraytours.com
Toll Free > 888-595-7889
Phone: > 250-590-7889



MS Ocean Endeavour

The *Ocean Endeavour* was built in 1981 and has operated as a cruise ship in the Baltic, the Mediterranean, and throughout Scandinavia. Adventure Canada has leased the ship since 2014 and has undertaken major renovations to equip it for Arctic voyages. The ship is 137 metres long and has nine decks with six of them open to passengers. The ship carries 198 passengers. There is a variety of cabins ranging from Insides to Outsides and Suites. The outside cabins have portholes or picture windows, some with obstructed views. Each cabin has a private bathroom. None of the cabins have balconies. Cabins range in size from 9 to 30 square metres, generally smaller than large cruise ships. A few cabins are designated as singles with no single surcharge. The ship has two elevators which serve only Decks 4, 5 and 6. The Polaris Restaurant, Nautilus Lounge where most lectures are held, the Library, gift shop, and outdoor pool are on Deck 6. A hot tub is on Deck 7, a gymnasium and sauna on Deck 8, and an observation lounge on Deck 9.

Expedition staff are experts on the Arctic including geology, glaciation, history, and flora and fauna. There are frequent lectures, educational presentations, and interactive workshops. Evening entertainment is offered. There is a fully-stocked library for additional reading about the cruise destinations. During many days, there are expeditions ashore or to nearby attractions, using the ship's 18 zodiacs.

All meals are included in the Polaris Restaurant and there are also on-deck barbecues and afternoon tea. Coffee, tea and snacks are available 24 hours a day. Hors d'oeuvres and snacks are served during evening programs. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased in the lounges and at dinner.

Tour and Cruise Notes

- We urge you to visit our office and look at the ship's deck plans to better choose your cabin/category.
- Due to extremely high demand for Arctic voyages, the *Ocean Endeavour* may be full for this cruise many months in advance. Wells Gray Tours has limited cabins in categories 3, 4 and 5. The quoted price for singles will increase after the cabins designated for singles are sold out. Book early for best choice.
- Cancellation penalties are higher than normal for a Wells Gray tour and effective dates are further out. These penalties are applied by the cruise line and cannot be altered, even for name changes.
- Comprehensive insurance is mandatory and Adventure Canada requires proof of at least \$75,000 in emergency evacuation coverage due to the remote places we visit. If you do not buy insurance through Wells Gray Tours, it is essential that you check your policy carefully. Insurance with your credit card or employee benefits may not cover what you need.
- This cruise is late in the summer season to enjoy fall foliage colours. Bring warm clothing for outdoors.
- A detailed brochure about packing tips, the ship, and shore excursions will be available later.
- Following is the planned itinerary, but many factors such as weather, sea conditions, pack ice, icebergs, and polar bears can cause changes to the route or the shore excursions.

Itinerary

Friday, September 22:

Flights are arranged from Victoria to **Toronto**, and we stay overnight at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, located in the airport. A reception for all passengers on the ship is planned tonight at the hotel. Meet the expedition leaders and listen to a briefing about our Arctic adventure for the next two weeks.

Saturday, September 23:

Meals: L,D

We board a charter flight from Toronto to Kangerlussuaq on the west coast of **Greenland**. Depending on the flight time, either breakfast or lunch is served on the plane. **Kangerlussuaq** is one of only two airports in Greenland capable of handling

large jets, yet the nearby town has a population of only 500. The United States built an air base here during World War II due to the relatively mild weather and strategic proximity to Europe. The military base closed in 1992 and the strip is now Greenland's main international and domestic airport. Upon arrival, we drive 12 km to the dock and ride zodiacs out to the ***Ocean Endeavour***. Sondre Stromfjord is one of the longest fjords in the world at 168 km and Kangerlussuaq is located at its head. The name means 'the big fjord.' Although we are at the **Arctic Circle**, the fjord does not freeze. Locals can thank ocean currents for this, making this part of Greenland a year-round centre for whaling and fishing. The area is distin-

guished by fantastic nature and rich biodiversity. There is nowhere else in Greenland where it is so easy to go so far into the interior and the world's largest ice cap can be reached in less than an hour. The landscape features enormous glacier formations which have ploughed deep into the tundra. On the plain between the fjord and the inland ice are Greenland's biggest herds of muskox, reindeer, and arctic foxes, plus many peregrine falcons and more than 250 species of plants. After pulling anchor, we begin our cruise to Newfoundland, sailing west in **Sondre Stromfjord** for most of the night.

Sunday, September 24: *Meals: B,L,D*

The west Greenland coastline is a mixture of charming fishing communities, rocky islands and complex coastal waterways. Depending on timing and sea conditions, we will call in at a community such as **Qeqqata Kommunia** to experience small town Greenlandic life, or we may navigate into the stunning fjords that line the coast. This is a day in the true spirit of expedition travel and we will avail ourselves of any opportunities.

Monday, September 25: *Meals: B,L,D*

Welcome to **Nuuk**, the capital of Greenland and one of the world's northernmost capital cities. Nuuk means 'the headland' and is situated at the mouth of a gigantic fjord system. Established in 1728, Nuuk remains the bustling centre of the country today. We have the chance to spot humpback whales in the fjord, reindeer roaming the land, and birds soaring above. The town is home to the University of Greenland, a cathedral dating back to 1849, and Greenland's National Museum. We visit some of the city's most important sites, along with free time to explore on your own.

Tuesday, September 26: *Meals: B,L,D*

We leave Greenland and sail southwest across **Davis Strait**. The strait was named for the English explorer John Davis (1550–1605) who was one of the first to seek the fabled Northwest Passage. While out on deck keep your eyes peeled for minke and humpback whales and other marine mammals, as well as the seabirds that are sure to mark our passage. Tonight, we pass **Cape Chidley**, the northernmost point of the Labrador Peninsula which is shared by Labrador, Quebec and Nunavut. The headland rises 350 metres from the ocean.

Wednesday, September 27: *Meals: B,L,D*

In the shelter of a commanding granite rock outcrop we arrive at **Kangiarsualujuaq**, or George

River, on the east coast of **Ungava Bay**, Quebec. The ebb and flow of the tides define the summer lives of the people and fauna of this area. Arctic flora thrives in the protected valley and the calving grounds of the George River caribou herd, estimated at several hundred thousand, is nearby. We clear Canada Customs here, then have the freedom to explore the community, meet with locals, or head out of town for a tundra hike.

Thursday, September 28: *Meals: B,L,D*

Friday, September 29: *Meals: B,L,D*

Saturday, September 30: *Meals: B,L,D*

We round Cape Chidley again and enter the awesome spectacle of the **Torngat Mountains**. These rugged peaks have been home to the Inuit people and their predecessors for millennia, with archaeological evidence reaching back almost 7,000 years. The fjords slice deep amid the mountains, bounded by cliffs reaching 1,600 metres, the highest points in Labrador. The magnificent beauty of the Torngat Mountains underscores their role as the spiritual homeland of Nunatsiavut and were protected as Eastern Canada's largest national park in 2005. The Torngats comprise some of the oldest rocks on the planet and provide superb exposure to geological history. Polar bears, caribou, falcons, and eagles are among the species hardy enough to live here. We spend three days going ashore for hikes, searching for wildlife, visiting archaeological sites, and cruising in zodiacs through dramatic landscapes. These are expedition days in the truest sense as we navigate a labyrinth of **Labrador fjords**. *Ocean Endeavour* is the perfect vessel for exploring these hidden treasures of the north, as her manoeuvrability allows her to access coastal areas that would be impassable to larger vessels. The captain is on alert for changing weather and ice conditions and uses skilled judgment as to which route along the coast is the most spectacular. The ship's expert team is on deck, searching for wildlife and discussing these awesome landscapes.

Sunday, October 1: *Meals: B,L,D*

Our next stop is **Hebron** where we can wander among the abandoned buildings of this once-bustling community. A Moravian Mission station was constructed here from 1829 to 1831 but the church, mission house, and store were not inhabited until 1837. In a controversial move, the station was abandoned in 1959 with the departure of the Moravians, forcing the relocation of the Inuit who also resided there. **Hebron Mission National Historic Site** was established in 1976 to protect the deteriorating buildings. In 2005, Premier Danny Williams apologized to people affected

by the relocations. The provincial government unveiled a monument at the site of Hebron in 2009 with an inscribed apology for the forced closure. Today, some buildings are being renovated as a cultural interpretation centre. As we start to cruise south, we leave the perpetual tundra and start to see trees for the first time in the voyage. This cruise has been scheduled late in the season to be able to enjoy the incredible **fall foliage colours** of the Labrador forests.

Monday, October 2: Meals: B,L,D

Nain is the northernmost permanent community in Labrador. It was established as a Moravian Mission in 1771 and received some of the resettled people from Hebron in 1959. About 1,400 people live here today. Our visit includes the Moravian Church, the Nunatsiavut Building with its Labradorite stone and the new Torngâsok Cultural Centre, and we have a chance to visit local leaders who share the town's interesting history.

Tuesday, October 3: Meals: B,L,D

Wednesday, October 4: Meals: B,L,D

The lower coast boasts five of Labrador's ten eco-regions, including coastal barrens, high subarctic tundra, high boreal forest, mid boreal forest, and string bog. The **Mealy Mountains** reach heights of more than 1,000 metres and were designated as a National Park Reserve in 2010, pending settlement of native land claims, and about 20,000 square kilometers could be set aside. We explore the park's coastlines, going ashore in zodiacs at interesting places.

Thursday, October 5: Meals: B,L,D

We stop at the tip of Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula to visit **L'Anse aux Meadows**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the only authenticated Norse settlement in North America. The archaeological ruins found here in 1960 date to about 1000 AD. Amazingly, the site was first established by a close reading of the Viking sagas. Today, a superb interpretive centre and reconstructions of several Norse-style sod buildings make L'Anse aux Meadows a significant stop.

Friday, October 6: Meals: B,L,D

The northeast coast of Newfoundland is known for the dozens of quaint villages that dot its rocky shores, and we visit one of these small settlements today. The coast is home to a plethora of islands and, seasonally, icebergs that drift all the way from Greenland; the *Ocean Endeavour* will chart a scenic course past these beautiful monoliths.

Saturday, October 7: Meals: B,D

The *Ocean Endeavour* passes through the Narrows into the harbour of **St. John's** with Signal Hill rising to the north. We disembark in late morning. A tour with a local guide visits **Cabot Tower** atop Signal Hill, Confederation Building, Quidi Vidi Battery, and **Cape Spear**, the most easterly point in North America. We stay overnight at the Delta Hotel. Tonight is our farewell gathering, an opportunity to reminisce about our Arctic cruise south from Greenland.

Sunday, October 8:
We fly from St. John's via Toronto to Victoria.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 17, 2017.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 1, your tour payments will be refunded less a cruise line fee of \$700 per person. From February 2 to May 17, the cancellation charge is \$1,000 per person. From May 18 to June 16, the cancellation charge is 65% of the tour fare. After June 16, there is no refund. Be sure that your travel insurance policy covers these penalties.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from the airlines, cruise line and other tour suppliers can occur at any time. The cruise fare and charter flight are charged to Wells Gray Tours in US dollars, and exchange rates are impossible to predict 11 months in advance when this tour was set up. All these changes are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure. Any decreases in costs will also be passed on.

Photo Credit: Roland Neave (*Ocean Endeavour* in Greenland)

Tour 25: This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning capacity of tour is limited to 25 participants or less, a more intimate travel experience.

Activity Level: This tour is very active including getting in and out of zodiacs, and walking on tundra or beaches with no trail. The ship's elevator accesses 3 of the 6 passenger decks. It is extremely important to read the cruise line's printed materials about this tour, so you can assess whether you are capable of handling the activity. This tour is not appropriate for people with walkers or wheelchairs. Seeing everything requires active participation. Prior to accepting your booking, you will be required to sign a declaration that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour. The tour director and ship's staff have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance if this tour is too active for you.

e-points: This tour earns 175 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until May 17.

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