

GREENLAND & BAFFIN ISLAND CRUISE

An Arctic Safari cruise on board *Ocean Endeavour*

August 3, 2016 - 14 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$13,360 Interior - Category 3

\$14,580 Exterior - Category 4

\$15,705 Main - Category 5

Please add 0.3% GST

Other categories available along with single fares.

Deck plans and cabin descriptions available at our offices.



Redeem Experience Points: Book by **March 29, 2016** and redeem up to **200 e-points**

* HIGHLIGHTS & PORTS *

Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

Itilleq, Greenland

Ilulissat, Greenland

Uummannaq Fjord, Greenland

Karrat Fjord, Greenland

Qikiqtarjuaq, Broughton Island

Niqinganiaq, Baffin Island

Northeast Baffin Fjords

Mittimatilik, Baffin Island

Devon Island

Prince Leopold & Beechey Islands

Quaasuittuq, Cornwallis Island

Includes

- Transfers to/from Kelowna airport
- Flight from Kelowna to Toronto
- Air transport taxes, security fees, luggage fees
- 2 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- Charter flight from Toronto to Greenland
- 12 days on board *Ocean Endeavour*
- Gratuities for ship crew, guides and naturalists
- Discovery Fee (US\$250)
- Lectures and other services on board ship

- Charter flight from Resolute Bay to Ottawa
- Transfers between Ottawa airport and hotel
- Flight from Ottawa to Kelowna
- Wells Gray tour director throughout the tour
- Luggage handling at Ottawa hotel
- **33 meals:** 11 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners

Experience Points: Earn **200 e-points**

Kamloops > 250-374-0831

Kelowna > 250-762-3435

www.wellsgraytours.com

Penticton > 250-493-1255

Vernon > 250-545-9197

Toll Free > 800-667-9552



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. The ship was sold in 2014 by Kristina Cruises to Adventure Canada, and has undergone a major renovation 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 Interior to Exterior 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, 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 our destinations. During many days, there are expeditions ashore or to nearby attractions, using the ship's 20 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 a year in advance. Wells Gray Tours has limited cabins in most categories. 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 the ship 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 is unlikely to cover what you need. More details are available later.
- A detailed brochure about packing tips, the ship, and shore excursions will be available later.

Itinerary

Wednesday, August 3:

Transfers are provided to Kelowna Airport. We fly on Westjet to **Toronto**, and stay overnight at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, located in the airport. A gathering of all passengers on the ship is planned tonight at the hotel, and a briefing will prepare you for the Arctic adventure ahead.

Thursday, August 4:

Meals: D

We board a charter flight from Toronto to Kangerlussuaq on the west coast of **Greenland**. Upon arrival, we transfer to the dock and board the **Ocean Endeavour**. Sondre Stromfjord is one of the longest fjords in the world and boasts 168 km of superb scenery. **Kangerlussuaq**, the town at its eastern mouth, 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 United States built an air base at Kangerlussuaq 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. The area is distinguished 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.

Friday, August 5:*Meals: B,L,D*

The west Greenland coastline is a rich mixture of fishing communities, many islands and complex coastal waterways. We make an expedition stop at **Ililleq** to explore the Greenland landscape.

Saturday, August 6:*Meals: B,L,D*

Venturing 250 km north of the Arctic Circle, we find the stunning coastal community of **Ilulissat**. The name translates literally into "iceberg" and this couldn't be more fitting. Our visit includes time in the colourful town and a chance to hike out to an elevated viewpoint for a panoramic view of vast sheets of ice. We also cruise in the ship's fleet of Zodiacs into the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the **Ilulissat Ice Fjord**. Here is the Sermeq Kujalleq Glacier, one of the most active and fastest moving in the world at 19 metres per day and calving more than 35 square km of ice annually. The glacier has been the object of scientific attention for 250 years and, because of its relative ease of access, has significantly added to the understanding of ice-cap glaciology, climate change, and related geomorphic processes.

Sunday, August 7:*Meals: B,L,D*

Uummannaq Fjord in northwest Greenland is the country's second-largest system of fjords. It empties into Baffin Bay and is characterized by its developed coastline and various bays, islands, and peninsulas. It is considered to be the sunniest spot in Greenland and favourable weather, coupled with proximity to coastal travel routes, has made the fjord system a popular destination for Greenlandic Inuit. It has been settled and resettled continually for the last 4,500 years. Archaeological excavations at Qilakitsoq, due south of Uummannaq Island, revealed the existence of the ancient Saqqaq culture. Recent evidence indicates that these groups settled Greenland between 2500 BC and 800 BC, and further, that they migrated from Siberia to reach Uummaanaq. It is thought that this migration gave rise to both modern Native Americans and the Inuit. Our time in Uummannaq is spent cruising and exploring; staff experts are on deck to help spot wildlife and explain the dramatic scenery surrounding the ship.

Monday, August 8:*Meals: B,L,D*

We cruise **Karrat Fjord**, one of Greenland's most spectacular fjords, known for plentiful marine life and awe-inspiring landscapes. Seals use the long leads created by high winds in this region to hunt the rich waters of the fjord. The cliffs and talus

slopes within the fjord should give us good opportunities to see colonies of dovekies. Time spent on deck today should result in some good wildlife sightings, plus incredible photographic opportunities of the majestic rock faces.

Tuesday, August 9:*Meals: B,L,D*

We leave Greenland and sail from Karrat Fjord southwest across **Davis Strait** to **Baffin Island** in Nunavut. Qikiqtarjuaq, a community located on Broughton Island, is known for its wildlife, whale watching, and as an access point for **Auyuittuq National Park**. It is one of the Nunavut communities closest to Greenland. **Qikiqtarjuaq** (fondly called "Qik", for short) is known as the iceberg capital of Nunavut and was home to a NORAD military station that formed part of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line in the 1950s. Qikiqtarjuaq also boasts a burgeoning traditional Inuit craft industry, and local craftsmen are eager to share their wares. Talented local artists produce Inuit carvings with a particular focus on intricate ivory work and jewellery. Carvings can be purchased.

Wednesday, August 10:*Meals: B,L,D*

Niqinganiaq is a 336,000-hectare marine region on Baffin Island that is a crucial feeding area for threatened bowhead whales. This is the world's first Inuit-initiated and managed marine mammal sanctuary. The area includes two deep offshore troughs rich in copepods which are a main food source for the bowhead whale.

Thursday, August 11:*Meals: B,L,D*

Today is an expedition day in the truest sense as we navigate a multitude of **fjords of northeast Baffin Island**. They are numerous and striking, and their great depth and narrow width affords stunning perspectives on geological processes. The *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 will be the most spectacular. As ever, the ship's expert team is on deck for the duration, searching for wildlife and discussing the awesome landscapes we can see.

Friday, August 12:*Meals: B,L,D*

Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet) is a bustling Arctic community surrounded by one of the most beautiful landscapes in the eastern Arctic. We have a

chance to explore the town, including its excellent library and other facilities, and meet many local citizens who gladly share their culture. We are treated to a cultural presentation at the Community Hall, and arts and crafts may be available for purchase. Mittimatalik is a superb region for viewing marine mammals, including the elusive narwhal. Leaving Mittimatalik, we cruise through the stunning Milne Inlet.

Saturday, August 13: Meals: B,L,D

Devon Island is the largest uninhabited island in the world, comprising over 50,000 square km, and supports significant concentrations of wildlife, including 26 species of seabirds and 11 species of marine mammals. We follow the route of 19th century explorers into **Lancaster Sound**, and on to the island.

Sunday, August 14: Meals: B,L,D

The soaring cliffs of **Prince Leopold Island** are one of the top bird sites in the high Arctic during both the breeding and summer seasons. They form a breeding site for thick-billed murrelets, black-legged kittiwakes, northern fulmars, glaucous gulls, and black guillemots. It was beneath these tall cliffs that Sir James Clark Ross, perhaps the greatest polar explorer of the 19th century, was based in 1848–49. Ross's search for the Franklin expedition was not successful; they spent a frustrating winter locked by ice in Port Leopold on the northeast coast of Somerset Island and returned to England the following summer. It was also from this area that Sir John Ross (James's uncle) escaped in 1833 after abandoning the *Victory* and spending four harrowing winters in the Arctic.

Monday, August 15:

Meals: B,L

Qausuittuq or "place with no dawn" is truly the land of the midnight sun where there is daylight from about April 29 to August 13 each year. Located on the south coast of Cornwallis Island, **Resolute Bay** (as it is also known) is the starting point for expeditions to the North Pole. From archaeological excavations, it has been concluded that there have been at least three stages of occupation at Resolute Bay. The Dorset culture was the first, followed by an early phase of the Thule culture, in which the artifacts found show strong Alaskan affinities. These were probably both short periods of occupation by only a few families. A later phase of the Thule culture lasted longer with a considerably larger population. Resolute Bay was named after *HMS Resolute*, one of the ships in the Franklin search expedition commanded by Captain Austin. An airfield was established at Resolute Bay in 1947 during construction of a joint Canada-USA weather station. In 1953, Inuit from Inukjuak, Québec, and Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet) were relocated to Resolute by the Canadian government. In the afternoon, we disembark the *Ocean Endeavour* and board a charter flight to **Ottawa**. We stay overnight at the Novotel Hotel.

Tuesday, August 16:

We fly on Westjet from Ottawa to Kelowna. Transfers take us to our home cities.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$1,600 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 29, 2016.

Cancellation Policy: Up to December 1, 2015, your tour payments will be refunded less a cruise line fee of \$700 per person. From December 2, 2015 to March 29, 2016, the cancellation charge is \$1,000 per person. From March 30 to April 28, the cancellation charge is 65% of the tour fare. After April 28, 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 over a year 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: Adventure Canada

 **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 canes or walkers. 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 200 E-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or E-points. 1 E-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until March 29.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924