GREENLAND & WILD LABRADOR CRUISE
An Arctic cruise on board Ocean Endeavour
September 22, 2017 - 17 Days

Fares Per Person: based on double/twin
$11,465 Inside Category 3
$12,685 Outside Category 4
$13,810 Outside Category 5

> 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
Kangiqsualujjuaq, 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

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**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 Kangiqsualujjuaq, 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 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.