

# NORTHWEST PASSAGE EXPEDITION CRUISE

Cruise the legendary Arctic route on board *Ocean Endeavour*  
August 16, 2019 - 19 Days



a world to experience



**Fares Per Person:** based on double/twin

**\$21,995** Interior - Category 3

**\$23,750** Exterior - Category 4

**\$25,490** Exterior - Category 5

> More deluxe cabins in categories 6 and 7 also available.

> A few cabins for singles are offered at reduced fares.

> Please add 0.2% GST.

> Deck plans and cabin descriptions available at our offices.

> **Experience Points:** Earn 200 points; redeem 200 points by Apr 11



## \* HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VOYAGE \*

Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

Sisimiut, Greenland

Ilulissat Icefield, Greenland

Uummannaq Fjord, Greenland

Karrat Fjord, Greenland

Qikiqtarjuaq, Broughton Island

Northeast Baffin Island Fjords

Devon Island & Croker Glacier

Beechey Island & Franklin graves

Parry Channel

Prince of Wales Island

Queen Maud Gulf

Sunken sites of *Erebus* and *Terror*

Kugluktuk (Coppermine)

## Includes

- Flight from your home airport to Toronto
- Air transport taxes, security fees, luggage fees
- 2 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- Charter flight from Toronto to Greenland
- 17 days on board *MS Ocean Endeavour*
- Gratuities for ship crew, guides and naturalists
- Discovery Fee (US\$250)
- Port fees and access permits
- Northwest Passage expedition jacket
- Lectures and other expertise on board ship
- Charter flight from Kugluktuk to Calgary
- Flight from Calgary to your home airport
- **47 meals:** 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 16 dinners

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## *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 reduced rates. The ship has two elevators which serve only Decks 4, 5 and 6. The Polaris Restaurant, Nautilus Lounge where most lectures are held, 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 barbeques 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.

## Cruise Notes

- **Please book early!** Due to extremely high demand for Northwest Passage voyages, the *Ocean Endeavour* may be full for this cruise a year in advance. Wells Gray Tours has limited cabins in categories 3 to 7.
- An **early booker discount** is offered by the cruise line on double/twin cabins until September 30, 2018. If you are eligible, this will be calculated at time of booking and your fare will be reduced.
- A **loyalty discount** is offered by Adventure Canada if you have travelled with them previously.
- 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.
- There is no Wells Gray tour director with you during the cruise, but one of our staff will be in Toronto to assist with directions and orientation, and will attend the welcome reception with you. During the charter flights and on board the ship, up to 20 Adventure Canada staff are available for assistance.
- We urge you to visit our office and look at the ship's deck plans to better choose your cabin/category.

## The Legendary Northwest Passage

Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, world explorers have dreamed of a ship route through North America to the fabled riches of Asia. Dozens of expeditions have set out to find it. Some returned safely with extraordinary tales of the Arctic, but many others were never seen again. The famous Franklin Expedition of 1845 was one that simply disappeared, spawning numerous searches, and the mystery of the final resting places of *HMS Erebus* and *HMS Terror* was not solved until just a few years ago.

The Northwest Passage represents the pinnacle of Arctic exploration. On this trip, like the explorers before us, we will experience the quaint villages, dramatic fjords, and calving glaciers of Greenland. After crossing Davis Strait, we will visit Qikiqtarjuaq, the iceberg capital of Nunavut, and pay respects at the Franklin Expedition graves at Beechey Island. Somerset and Devon Islands offer opportunities to spot caribou, polar bear, walrus, and muskox, and for visits to ghostly RCMP and Hudson's Bay posts. Parry Channel and Peel Sound afford a passage to Queen Maud Gulf and onward along Victoria Island to our destination, Kugluktuk, the end of our epic journey above the Arctic Circle.

To sail the Northwest Passage is to sail living history. Meet the Inuit who have called this remarkable place home for generations. Attend daily presentations on the ship and listen to experts in many fields related to the Northwest Passage and the Arctic. Explore secluded bays and channels using the ship's fleet of zodiacs, and get very close to stunning glaciers and icebergs. Join the ranks of the adventurers who have been lured by the legends of the Northwest Passage.

## Itinerary

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. Please be flexible.

### Friday, August 16:

Fly from your home airport 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, and a briefing will prepare you for the Arctic adventure ahead.

### Saturday, August 17:

*Meals: D*

We take a charter flight for about 4½ hours to Kangerlussuaq on the west coast of **Greenland**. The USA 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. 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. From the airport, 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. After pulling anchor, we cruise west in the fjord for most of the night.

### Sunday, August 18:

*Meals: B,L,D*

The west Greenland coastline is a rich mixture of fishing communities, many islands, and complex coastal waterways. We dock for part of the day at **Sisimiut** to explore a traditional village.

### Monday, August 19:

*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 short hike to a panoramic view of the vast **Ilulissat Icefield** which is 50 km long and 6 km across. It produces most of the icebergs seen in the North Atlantic. We board zodiacs to explore close to the awesome face of the glacier where it reaches the ocean. It is one of the most active and fastest moving in the world at 19 metres per day and calves more than 35 square km of ice annually. The glacier has been studied for 250 years and has significantly added to the understanding of ice-cap glaciology.

### Tuesday, August 20:

*Meals: B,L,D*

**Uummannaq Fjord** in northwest Greenland is the country's second-largest system of fjords. 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 the Inuit. It has been settled continually for the last 4,500 years. 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.

### Wednesday, August 21:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We cruise into **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 viewing of colonies of dovekies. Conditions permitting, we go ashore for hikes, strolls, and incredible photo opportunities of glaciers and peaks.

### Thursday, August 22:

*Meals: B,L,D*

Leaving Greenland, we enter **Davis Strait** and cruise southwest for most of the day to reach **Baffin Island** in Nunavut.

### Friday, August 23:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We take zodiacs into **Qikiqtarjuaq** (called "Qik" for short), a community on Broughton Island known as the iceberg capital of Nunavut. It was home to a NORAD military station that formed part of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line in the 1950s. Qik also boasts a traditional Inuit craft industry, and local craftsmen are eager to show their wares. Carvings can be purchased. We clear Canada Customs here.

### Saturday, August 24:

*Meals: B,L,D*

### Sunday, August 25:

*Meals: B,L,D*

These two days are truly expedition days as we navigate a multitude of **fjords of Baffin Island**. 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.

### Monday, August 26:

*Meals: B,L,D*

**Devon Island** is the largest uninhabited island in the world, comprising over 50,000 square km, and supports lots of wildlife, including 26 species of seabirds and 11 species of marine mammals. Shore visits are planned at **Croker Glacier** which flows directly into the ocean, and at an abandoned RCMP post. We follow the route of 19<sup>th</sup> century explorers to reach **Lancaster Sound**.

**Tuesday, August 27:***Meals: B,L,D*

We anchor in the sheltered bay at **Beechey Island** which has seen so many Arctic sagas unfold. In 1845, **Sir John Franklin** set out from England with *HMS Erebus* and *Terror*, attempting to sail through the Northwest Passage. Franklin's party wintered at Beechey Island where three of his men died. Numerous search parties later used Beechey as a depot and rendezvous. Amundsen, Bernier, and Larsen visited Beechey. Thomas Morgan of the *HMS Investigator* was buried there in 1854 alongside Franklin's men. The graves and the ruins of **Northumberland House** are a haunting memorial. Take an optional rigorous hike to the top of Beechey Island and see the monument built by Franklin at the crossroads of the Arctic.

**Wednesday, August 28:***Meals: B,L,D***Thursday, August 29:***Meals: B,L,D*

The 'obvious' route of the Northwest Passage, **Parry Channel** seldom provides a full transit because of ice. It is named after Arctic explorer William Parry who got as far as Melville Island in 1819 before being blocked by ice. **Peel Sound** was the Franklin Expedition's route south. It presents numerous wildlife and exploratory opportunities. The setting is optimal for hiking and exploring the geological diversity of the area.

**Friday, August 30:***Meals: B,L,D***Saturday, August 31:***Meals: B,L,D***Sunday, September 1:***Meals: B,L,D*

We cruise through many channels comprising the **Northwest Passage** and the route may vary depending on ice conditions, even in late August. Known as the Kitikmeot Region, it consists of parts of Victoria Island, the adjacent part of the mainland as far as the Boothia Peninsula, King William Island, and southern **Prince of Wales Island**. Two communities are Usqsuqtuuq (Gjoa Haven) and Cambridge Bay. Recently, this region has been in the news since the lost ships of the Franklin Expedition were found in its waters. It is Nunavut's least-populated region, though wildlife abounds here both in the sea and on land.

**Monday, September 2:***Meals: B*

On our last morning, we cruise through Coronation Gulf to reach the end of our epic expedition in the Northwest Passage at **Kugluktuk** at the mouth of the Coppermine River. We disembark the *Ocean Endeavour* and board a charter flight to **Calgary**. We stay overnight at the Marriott Hotel in the airport.

**Tuesday, September 3:**

We fly from Calgary to our home cities.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$2,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 11, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to January 2, 2019, your tour payments will be refunded less a cruise line fee of \$800 per person. From January 3 to April 11, the cancellation charge is \$1,200 per person. From April 12 to May 10, the cancellation charge is 65% of the tour fare. After May 10, 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 14 months in advance when this tour was arranged. 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 registration form about this tour, so you can assess whether you are capable of handling the activity. This tour is not appropriate for people with walkers, and scooters cannot be used. 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 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. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until April 11.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842





## **NORTHWEST PASSAGE EXPEDITION CRUISE — August 16, 2019**

**This tour is rated “Activity Level 3” by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours. This rating is the highest activity level assigned to a tour, meaning that there is a lot of activity which could include one or more of (but is not limited to) the following:**

- **You can walk 3 kilometres in 1 hour.**
- **You can climb into a zodiac and step out into a few inches of water with waterproof boots.**
- **You can walk on beaches with sand or rock and on tundra with a spongy surface.**
- **You can access boat docks or use a ship gangway that may have a steep walkway at low tide.**
- **You can climb up to 3 flights of stairs on the ship to access Decks 7, 8 and 9.**
- **You can carry your own luggage in airports.**

**Since a few people who are not capable of doing the above activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with “Activity Level 3” to be reasonably fit. You must be able to participate in activities without the assistance of the ship’s crew or other travellers.**

**Please read the following and sign acknowledging that these statements are true. The tour deposit will be due after you have signed this statement.**

- **I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of “Activity Level 3”.**
- **I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.**
- **I understand that this is the highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.**
- **I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.**
- **I do not require the use of a wheelchair or a walker.**
- **If my physical condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and insurance may cover this.**
- **If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or I require ongoing assistance, I understand that the ship’s officers or Adventure Canada staff have the right to stop me from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. This may require me to stay on the ship and not go ashore until the ship arrives in Kugluktuk, and I realize that travel insurance will probably not cover me.**

**This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants. Each person booking this tour must sign this statement. Thank you for your understanding.**

**Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_**