



Croker Glacier



Karrat Fjord, Greenland

# HIGH ARCTIC EXPLORER

August 11, 2022 – 15 Days

*11-day cruise on Ocean Endeavour in Canada's Arctic and Greenland*

The Northwest Passage represents the pinnacle of Arctic exploration. On this cruise, like the explorers in previous centuries, we will experience the quaint villages, dramatic scenery, abundant land and marine wildlife, and calving glaciers of Canada's Arctic and Greenland. We fly to Resolute and board our ship, the comfortable *Ocean Endeavour*. Be among the lucky few to experience the historical significance of Beechey Island and the Franklin Expedition graves. Devon Island is the world's largest uninhabited island and there we can spot polar bear, walrus, caribou, or muskox, visit the ghostly RCMP and Hudson's Bay posts, and cruise the dramatic face of Croker Glacier. In Greenland, we are awed by the vast Ilulissat Icefield, 50 km long and 6 km wide where it reaches the ocean. Expedition staff are experts on Arctic geology, glaciation, history, and flora and fauna.

Activity Level: 3



35 Meals Included:

13 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 12 dinners

Fares per person based on double/twin:

\$16,915 – Inside Category 3

\$18,215 – Outside Category 4

\$19,515 – Outside Category 5

Other categories may be available.

Please add 0.4% GST.

**\$250 single supplement, limited numbers of cabins are available. Book early!**

**Early Bookers:**

A discount of about 15% of the cruise fare is offered to early bookers by the cruise line until June 1, 2021, but could be extended. The above fares include the discount, so fares will increase after the discount ends.

**Experience Points:**

Earn 280 points on this tour.

Redeem 280 points if you book by April 5, 2022.

**Departures from:** Interior, Victoria, Lower Mainland



Baffin Island

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Thursday, August 11

Flights are arranged from Victoria to **Ottawa**. We stay two nights at the classic Lord Elgin Hotel. Its location is ideal, close to Parliament Hill, the Rideau Canal, Sparks Street pedestrian mall, and the National Gallery. The hotel was built in 1941 and named for the first Governor General of the united Canadas. A Wells Gray tour director is with you most of today and tomorrow to assist with the flight, hotel, and local sightseeing.

**Accommodation:** Lord Elgin Hotel

### Day 2: Friday, August 12

Rest easy this morning, then a local guide joins us this afternoon for a tour of the city highlights. You may wish to take a tour of the **Parliament Buildings**, but note that the Centre Block is closed for renovations. A reception for all passengers on the ship is planned, an opportunity to meet the expedition leaders and listen to a briefing about our Arctic cruising adventure for the next 11 days. Afterwards, join the other Wells Gray travellers for dinner at the hotel.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Lord Elgin Hotel

### Day 3: Saturday, August 13

We take a charter flight out of Ottawa, heading north to **Qausuittuq (Resolute), Nunavut**. From the airport, we transfer to the dock, then Zodiacs take us out to the **Ocean Endeavour**, anchored in the bay. Resolute was founded in 1953 when Inuit from Inukjuak, Québec, and Mittimatalik were relocated under false pretences by the Canadian government with the aim of asserting sovereignty over the Arctic. Today the community is home to 250 people and is an important staging point for High Arctic research, tourism, and military activities. After pulling anchor, the *Ocean Endeavour* cruises into Barrow Strait. The first part of our journey passes shoreline flats, rocky coastal bluffs, and glacial moraines. An introduction of staff is held in the Nautilus Lounge, followed by our first delicious dinner in the Polaris Restaurant.

**Meals included:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Ocean Endeavour*

### Day 4: Sunday, August 14

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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Ocean Endeavour*



### Day 5: Monday, August 15

### Day 6: Tuesday, August 16

### Day 7: Wednesday, August 17

### Day 8: Thursday, August 18

We spend these four days exploring **Lancaster Sound**, a crucial connection to the Northwest Passage and one of Canada's newest National Marine Conservation Areas. Narwhal, beluga, and bowhead whales transit and feed in this area. We cruise by ship and Zodiac in search of wildlife.

**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.

**Croker Glacier** cascades directly into the ocean and we ride in Zodiacs close to its awesome face, hoping to see some ice collapse and splash into the water. Another exploration by Zodiac is in Dundas Harbour, site of an abandoned RCMP

post and Hudson's Bay trading store. We visit several bays and enjoy hiking the tundra, discovering the botany, and spotting wildlife from ship and shore. Devon Island has lots of polar bears, but we cannot safely go ashore if any are nearby, so they are seen from ship or Zodiac. We visit Inuit archaeological sites with expert interpretation to learn about the human history along the shores of Lancaster Sound.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Ocean Endeavour*



### Day 9: Friday, August 19

**Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet)** is on the north coast of Baffin Island. It 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 east through the stunning Eclipse Sound.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Ocean Endeavour*

### Day 10: Saturday, August 20

Leaving Baffin Island, we cruise across **Davis Strait** to Greenland. Expect several lectures by the expedition experts on many intriguing topics. Some giant icebergs, floating south from Greenland, are likely to be seen.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Ocean Endeavour*

### Day 11: Sunday, August 21

The west coast of **Greenland** is simply spectacular. From mighty mountains rising straight out of the ocean and glaciers pouring into the sea to the tiniest tundra flowers, our stops today offer many memorable experiences. The ship may enter Kar-rat Fjord or Uummanaq Fjord, but this depends entirely on sea and ice conditions. Hikers, walkers, photographers, botanists, and contemplators are sure to be equally delighted with any stops today.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Ocean Endeavour*

### Day 12: Monday, August 22

Venturing 250 km north of the Arctic Circle, we anchor outside the awesome coastal community of **Ilulissat**. The name translates literally into "ice-berg" and this couldn't be more fitting. Our visit includes time in the colourful town and a chance to hike out to an amazing overlook for the vast **Ilulissat Icefield** which is 50 km long and 6 km wide where it meets the ocean. Later, we explore by Zodiac along the mighty face of ice, looking for strange formations and chunks of ice plunging 50 metres into the water with a thunderous splash. 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. Most of the icebergs seen in Newfoundland float from Ilulissat.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Ocean Endeavour*

### Day 13: Tuesday, August 23

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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Ocean Endeavour*

### Day 14: Wednesday, August 24

**Sondre Stromfjord** is one of the longest fjords in the world and boasts 168 km of superb scenery. You have to rise early to see it all. The end of the

fjord is the conclusion of our amazing cruise, and we say goodbye to the *Ocean Endeavour*. The town is **Kangerlussuaq** and 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 seen

from here. We take a charter flight from here to Toronto and stay overnight at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Terminal 3.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Sheraton Gateway Hotel

**Day 15: Thursday, August 25**

We fly from Toronto to Victoria.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

## **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 inside and outside cabins on different decks. The outside cabins have portholes or windows, some with obstructed views. Each cabin has a private bathroom with toilet, sink and shower. There are no cabins with 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 Compass Club (Library), gift shop, and outdoor pool are on Deck 6. The Aurora Lounge for other lectures and a hot tub are on Deck 7, a gymnasium and sauna on Deck 8, and an observation lounge on Deck 9.

Expedition staff are experts on the Arctic and Greenland including geology, glaciation, history, and flora and fauna. There are frequent 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. Other delights are an on-deck barbeque, afternoon tea and pastries every day, and a dessert extravaganza. 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 Nautilus Lounge and at dinner.



## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flights from Victoria to Ottawa
- Current air transport taxes and security fees
- Transfer from Ottawa Airport to hotel
- 2 nights accommodation & taxes in Ottawa
- Locally-guided tour of Ottawa
- Transfer from Ottawa hotel to airport
- Charter flight from Ottawa to Resolute, NU
- Transfer from Resolute airport to dock
- 11 days & nights on board *Ocean Endeavour*
- Cruise taxes and port charges
- Gratuities for ship crew, guides and naturalists
- Lectures, expert guides, resource staff, and other services on board ship
- Discovery Fund Fee (US\$250)
- Transfer from ship to Kangerlussuaq Airport
- Charter flight from Kangerlussuaq to Toronto
- 1 night accommodation & taxes in Toronto
- Flights from Toronto to Victoria
- Wells Gray tour director on Days 1 and 2
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **35 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 12 dinners

## TOUR NOTES:

- Please look at the ship's deck plans to choose your category – [www.adventurecanada.com/ships](http://www.adventurecanada.com/ships) then click on *Ocean Endeavour*.
- Due to high demand for these voyages, the *Ocean Endeavour* may be full for this cruise months in advance. Wells Gray Tours has cabins in categories 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, and others may be available. Single fares 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 \$500,000 in emergency evacuation coverage due to some remote places on this itinerary. 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.
- A passport is required as you are travelling on an internationally registered ship and entering a foreign country (Greenland).
- A Wells Gray tour director meets you in Calgary Airport and accompanies everybody to Ottawa (based on preliminary flight plans). She/he is with you during the Ottawa tour on August 12 and attends the Adventure Canada reception and briefing that evening. On August 13, you are in Adventure Canada's capable hands for the transfer to the ship. There is no tour director with you for the flight home on August 25.
- The planned itinerary is in this brochure, but many factors such as weather and sea conditions can cause changes to the route or the shore excursions.





**Activity Level 3:** This tour is very active including getting in and out of Zodiacs and walking on rocky or sandy beaches. 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 or motorized wheelchairs 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.

## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 5, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to March 4, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less a cruise line fee of \$800 per person. From March 5 to April 5, the cancellation charge is \$1,200 per person. From April 6 to May 5, the cancellation charge is 65% of the tour fare. After May 5, there is no refund. Be sure that your travel insurance policy covers these penalties.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes and surcharges from the airline, cruise line and other tour suppliers can occur at any time. The cruise fare is charged to Wells Gray Tours in US dollars, and exchange rates are impossible to predict over a year 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 until departure. Any decreases in costs will also be passed on.

**Photo Credits:** Roland Neave (all photos except ship on page 4); Adventure Canada (ship)

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 280 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 5, 2022.

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

### VICTORIA

102-736 Broughton St.  
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1  
250-590-7889

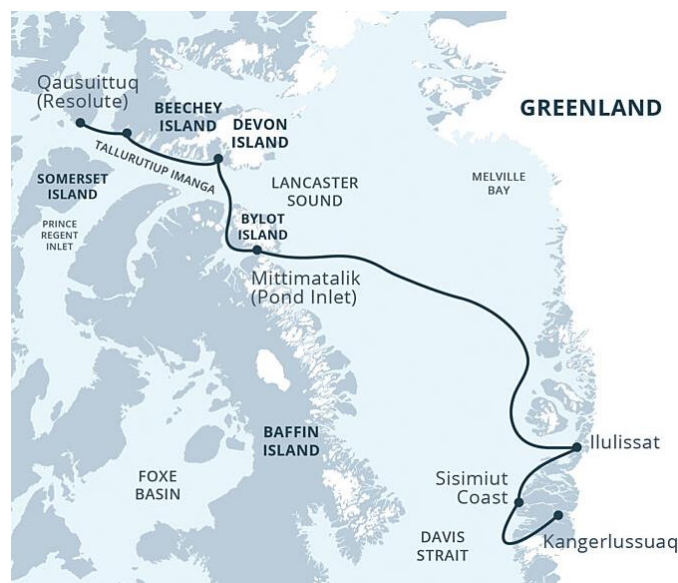
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### WE PLAN. YOU PACK. NO WORRIES!

[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

1-800-667-9552





## HIGH ARCTIC EXPEDITION CRUISE — August 11, 2022

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 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 passengers on the ship.
- 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 Kangerlussuaq, 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 \_\_\_\_\_