



NORTHWEST PASSAGE EXPEDITION CRUISE

August 25, 2024 – 20 Days

Cruise the Arctic on Ocean Endeavour

The fabled Northwest Passage represents the pinnacle of Arctic exploration. On this incredible journey, like the explorers before us, we experience the quaint villages, dramatic fjords, and calving glaciers of Greenland. After crossing Davis Strait, we visit Mittamitalik on Baffin Island and the vast Croker Glacier on Devon Island, 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 Bellot Strait afford a passage to Queen Maud Gulf and onward along Victoria Island to our destination, Kugluktuk, the end of our epic journey.

Join the ranks of the adventurers who have been lured by the legends of the Northwest Passage.

Activity Level: 3



TOUR
25

50 Meals Included:

18 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 17 dinners

Fares Per Person:

\$25,895 twin; \$33,725 single – Category 3 Inside
\$27,445 twin; \$35,900 single – Category 4 Outside
\$30,545 twin; \$40,245 single – Category 6 Outside
Other cruise categories are also available.
Please add 0.2% GST.

Experience Points:

Earn 301 points on this tour.

Departure from: BC Interior



ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, August 25

Fly from your home airport to Toronto and stay two nights at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, conveniently located above Terminal 3.

Accommodation: Sheraton Gateway Hotel

Day 2: Monday, August 26

Two major Toronto area attractions are included today. We ride the fast elevators up **CN Tower**, one of the tallest structures in the world at 550 metres, and enjoy a panoramic view of Toronto. Next is one of Canada's most celebrated art galleries, **McMichael Canadian Art Collection**. It showcases 6,000 works by the Group of Seven, Tom Thomson, Emily Carr, Clarence Gagnon, and other contemporaries, as well as First Nations, Inuit and other artists who have contributed to Canada's artistic heritage. The sprawling galleries have a beautiful woodland setting along the Humber River Valley. Back at the hotel, there is a gathering of all passengers going on the ship and a briefing about the Arctic adventure ahead.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Sheraton Gateway Hotel

Day 3: Tuesday, August 27

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.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 4: Wednesday, August 28

The Greenland coastline is a rich mixture of fishing communities, many islands, and complex coastal waterways. We dock for part of the day at **Sisimiut**, so you can stroll through a traditional

village, visit the museum, and sample some products in the market.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 5: Thursday, August 29

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 and Newfoundland. 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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*



Day 6: Friday, August 30

Day 7: Saturday, August 31

These two days are devoted to exploring the fantastic rocky and glacial west coast of Greenland. The itinerary depends on ice conditions, tides, and weather. We will likely visit **Uummannaq Fjord**, Greenland's second-largest system of fjords. It is the sunniest place 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. We may 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.

Meals included each day: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*



Karrat Fjord

Day 8: Sunday, September 1

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

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 9: Monday, September 2

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. Here at our first Canadian port, many travellers want to wander through the local grocery store and



Mittimatalik

compare food prices (which are usually shocking). We are treated to a cultural performance presented by the talented Tununiq Arsarniit Theatre Group, featuring drum dancing, throat singing, and storytelling. 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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 10: Tuesday, September 3

Day 11: Wednesday, September 4

Day 12: Thursday, September 5

We spend three fascinating days exploring around **Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound)**, one of Canada's newest National Marine Conservation Areas. These are truly expedition days as we navigate a multitude of fjords and their great depth and narrow width afford 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 are impassable to larger vessels. **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 **Dundas Harbour** to see an abandoned RCMP post. We follow the route of 19th century explorers who used Lancaster Sound to head west deeper into the Northwest Passage.

Meals included each day: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*



Dundas Harbour

Day 13: Friday, September 6

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* and 128 men, 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 14: Saturday, September 7

Parry Channel, the 'obvious' route of the Northwest Passage, 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. Instead, we head south into **Prince Regent Inlet** west of Baffin Island and cruise waterways rich in marine and avian life looking for the thick-billed murre, ivory gulls, beluga, narwhal, and bowhead whales who reside in these ice-strewn waters. We delve deeper into the exploration of the Northwest Passage and the mercantile efforts of the Hudson's Bay Company at intriguing expedition landing sites.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 15: Sunday, September 8

Leaving Prince Regent Inlet, if ice conditions permit, the *Ocean Endeavour* uses **Bellot Strait** to travel west into Peel Sound. The strait is 26 km



long and 2 km wide, and separates Somerset Island to the north from **Boothia Peninsula** to the south. We pass North America's northernmost mainland point on port side. Peel Sound was the Franklin Expedition's route south from Beechey Island. It presents numerous wildlife and birdlife opportunities and we are likely to go out in the zodiacs for closer views and a shoreline hike.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*



Day 16: Monday, September 9

Day 17: Tuesday, September 10

Day 18: Wednesday, September 11

We cruise through many channels comprising the Northwest Passage and the route may vary depending on ice conditions, even in September. 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 Uqsuqtuuq (Gjoa

Haven) and Cambridge Bay. During the last nine years, this region has been in the news following the discovery of the lost ships of the Franklin Expedition here. It is Nunavut's least-populated region, though wildlife abounds here both in the sea and on land.

Meals included each day: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 19: Thursday, September 12

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 Yellowknife.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife

Day 20: Friday, September 13

Flights are arranged to our home airports.

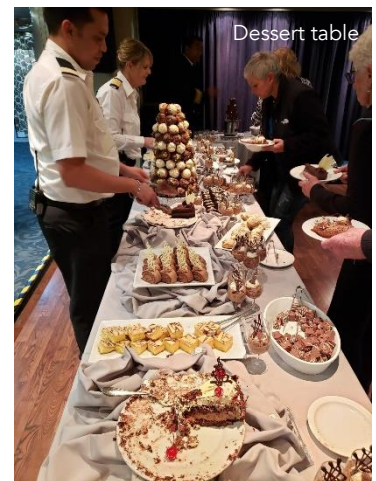
Meals included: Breakfast

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. 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, Inuit culture, marine life, birdlife, 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.



THE LEGENDARY NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Since the 17th century, world explorers have dreamed of a ship route through North America to the fabled riches of Asia. Dozens of expeditions 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. Our cruise visits Mittamitalik on Baffin Island, the vast Croker Glacier on Devon Island, several Franklin Expedition graves at Beechey Island, ghostly RCMP and Hudson's Bay posts at Dundas Harbour, Bellot Strait, Queen Maud Gulf, and Victoria Island. The end of this epic journey is Kugluktuk. 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.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flight from your home airport to Toronto
- Air transport taxes and security fees
- 3 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- Transportation for 1 day in Toronto
- CN Tower observation deck
- McMichael Canadian Art Collection
- Charter flight from Toronto to Greenland
- 17 days on board *MS Ocean Endeavour*
- Gratuities for ship crew, guides and naturalists
- Contribution to Discovery Fund (US\$250)
- Port fees and access permits
- Northwest Passage expedition jacket
- Charter flight from Kugluktuk to Yellowknife
- Flight from Yellowknife to your home airport
- Tour director August 25-27 & September 12-13
- **50 meals:** 18 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 17 dinners

TOUR & 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 10 cabins held in inside category 3 and outside categories 4 to 7. Unsold cabins can be taken away from us at any time if the ship or even a category fills. Therefore, please don't delay booking this tour.
- 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.
- All passengers on Adventure Canada expeditions must have emergency medical and emergency medical evacuation insurance with a minimum of \$500,000 USD coverage per person. Please note that this is a suggested minimum and that actual medical and evacuation costs could exceed this amount. It is your responsibility to review your policy details and ensure that coverage meets Adventure Canada's requirements. 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 on August 25-27 and in Yellowknife on September 12-13. 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.



Activity Level 3: 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 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 \$3,500 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due April 23, 2024. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 22, 2024, the cancellation charge is \$1,600 per person. From March 23 to April 23, the cancellation charge is \$2,400 per person. From April 24 to May 23, the cancellation charge is 65% of the tour fare. After May 23, there is no refund. Please be sure that your travel insurance policy covers these penalties.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: This Northwest Passage itinerary is subject to change due to weather, ice conditions, and tides. Safety is a primary concern in these remote places. The captain may change the route with little notice. A trip ashore in the zodiacs may be cancelled if a polar bear is spotted within a few kilometres of the landing site. In short, expect changes to happen! Please note that if Adventure Canada announces an itinerary change anytime before departure, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to currency exchange, taxes or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the flights to Toronto and home from Yellowknife. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$950 and book your own flight which allows seat selection.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. The ship may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. Please do not tell us about your food preferences, as restaurants ignore these requests. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what the ship and other restaurants are able to serve. Most meals on the ship are served as a buffet and some allergies are noted with signs.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details. If you choose to buy your own insurance, please refer to the note on page 6 about minimum travel insurance requirements.

Photo Credits: Roland Neave (all photos except ship on page 5); Adventure Canada (ship page 5)

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 301 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until April 23, 2024.

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

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1-800-667-9552



NORTHWEST PASSAGE -- August 25, 2024

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 travel insurance may cover this.

If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or I require frequent assistance, I understand that the Wells Gray tour director has the right to not allow me to participate in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and 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_____