

ARCTIC 2026

# Under the Northern Lights: Exploring Iceland and East Greenland

 ULTRAMARINE

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# Expedition Overview

Under the Northern Lights: Exploring Iceland & East Greenland

Explore some of the last unspoiled wilderness areas on the planet with the 14-day *Under the Northern Lights: Exploring Iceland & East Greenland* itinerary. Cruising along Iceland's mountainous west coast and Greenland's remote northeast coast, home to the largest fjord system in the world, you'll discover diverse and dramatically rugged landscapes. Immersed in the untamed beauty of the Arctic, you'll experience Greenlandic culture firsthand at Ittoqqortoormiit, visit ancient Thule sites steeped in history, and marvel at the majesty of massive icebergs and against a spectacular mountain backdrop. Of all of our northern trips, *Under the Northern Lights: Exploring Iceland & East Greenland* provides you with the best opportunity to marvel at the spectacular Northern Lights.

The Arctic has been inspiring explorers for centuries, and our expeditions offer the chance for you to discover why. We're excited to host you on your unforgettable adventure. Feel free to reach out to our team of Polar Travel Advisers or your travel professional, who can answer your questions and provide assistance at any time.

## HIGHLIGHTS



Spot iconic Arctic wildlife, such as polar bears, muskoxen and seals



Hike the tundra, visit an Inuit community and explore a breathtaking fjord system in East Greenland



Marvel at the kaleidoscope of dramatic sea and landscapes of Iceland's oldest region



Possibly view the enchanting Northern Lights (*Aurora borealis*)



Cruise in a Zodiac to explore majestic landscapes



Immerse yourself in the icy realm of the Arctic with optional kayaking adventures.





# Itinerary

## DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Arrive in the Icelandic capital in the morning and make your way to your included hotel. You will have the day to explore this fascinating city known for its stunning modern architecture, contemporary music and Viking history.

## DAY 2 | EMBARK

On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby and transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin. Details will be posted in the lobby of your hotel. This afternoon, you'll board your vessel and begin your expedition. Get ready for a great adventure ahead.

## DAY 3 | EXPLORING THE VESTFJORDS

Each region of Iceland has its own appeal for nature, bird and history lovers, and the little-visited Vestfjords (Westfjords), where the land meets the sea in the most dramatic fashion, is no exception.

Often referred to as 'Iceland's best kept secret,' this rugged peninsula at the country's remote northwestern tip is rife with fjords and mountains sloping down to the sea in impossibly beautiful ways.

We spend the day exploring the fjords and shores of Iceland's oldest region, enjoying its kaleidoscope of diverse land and seascapes. Here, tumbling cliffs and gushing waterfalls alternate with colorful beaches, and rolling green hills lead up to high moorlands dotted with rocky outcrops, small lakes and the occasional shaggy Icelandic sheep or horse grazing in the distance. A few little outposts of civilization, small fishing communities are nestled on fjord edges and the shores of the Denmark Strait, facing out into the mighty Atlantic and toward East Greenland—keeping alive a maritime heritage going back to the Viking days.



**UNDER THE NORTHERN LIGHTS:**  
Exploring Iceland & Greenland  
Onboard the *Ultramarine*



#### DAY 4 | CRUISING

As we cruise north across the Denmark Strait, your Expedition Team will prepare you for the adventures that await. Learn about the storied history and politics of the Arctic, its fascinating wildlife, geology, ecology and climate, and the incredible sights you will soon explore. The team will also search for the seabirds soaring around your ship, as well as the whales that frequent the waters here.

#### DAYS 5 - 12 | EXPLORING NORTHEAST GREENLAND

During your tour of Greenland's remote northeast coast, you'll enjoy Zodiac cruises and shore visits to several locations. We'll also keep an eye out for grazing muskoxen, as 40 percent of the world's population lives in Northeast Greenland National Park. Sailing through spectacular Scoresby Sund, the birthplace of many icebergs, you'll immediately see why some say it's the most beautiful fjord system on the planet. Sites such as Frederiksdal and Sydkap offer opportunities to explore the colorful

tundra and the remains of ancient Thule settlements. At the entrance of the sound is East Greenland's most northerly community, Ittoqqortoormiit, where you may spend time interacting with the Inuit people and learning about their way of life. You may also have a chance to see the northern lights here if the skies are clear. Deeper in the sound, Røde Ø offers a picturesque locale for admiring the beauty of sky-blue bergs set against striking red sandstone cliffs. Magnificent vistas also await at Kong Oscar Fjord, with possible landings at Ella Ø, renowned for its rugged cliffs and ice-choked waters, and flower-rich Botanikerbugt, on Ymer Ø.

#### DAY 13 | CRUISING

As your arctic adventure winds down, take in a presentation by our onboard experts, share your photos, sip an icy cocktail in the bar or watch a movie—there are many activities during your time at sea. Your Expedition Team will also be on hand to answer any questions and point out wildlife.

#### DAY 14 | DEPART

##### REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

You'll disembark in Reykjavik, Iceland's capital, at the end of your journey. If you have booked post-expedition accommodation, we provide a transfer to a central downtown location.



#### EXPEDITION SPIRIT

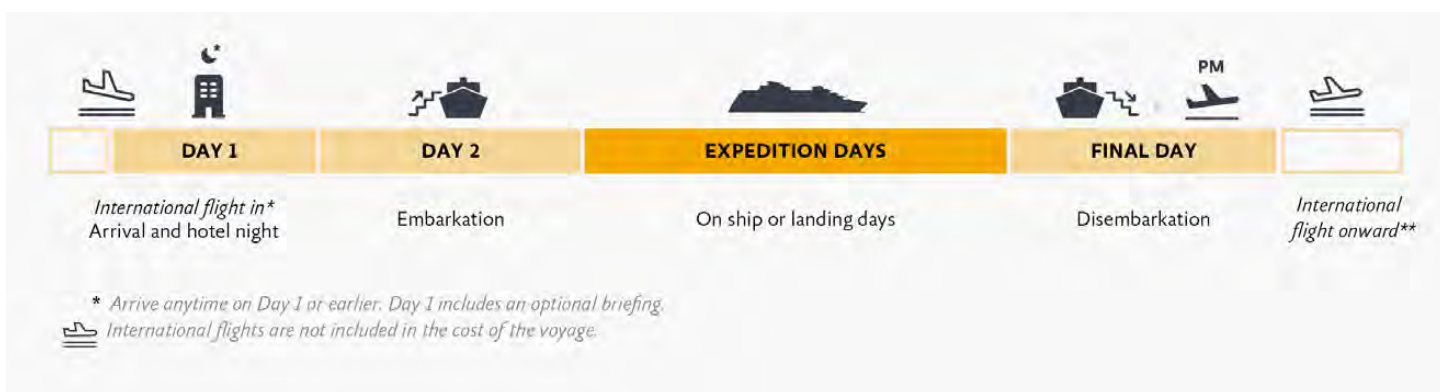
Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice, wildlife, and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you'll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife sightings as described are expected but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not a guarantee.







# Arrival and Departure Details, and International Flight Planning



As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested to know your arrival and departure details. Since air transportation is not included in the cost of your expedition, you have some flexibility in planning your flights.

## Arrival Day and Embarkation

### ARRIVING IN REYKJAVIK

You may arrive in Reykjavik at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary and make your way to the included hotel.

### EMBARKATION IN REYKJAVIK

On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel, transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin.

Ship embarkation will occur on Day 2 of your itinerary, usually around 4pm. You and your shipmates will meet in the lobby of your hotel and board the waiting buses for transfer to the ship. Information about transfer timing will be posted in your Reykjavik hotel.



## Final Day and Departure

### DISEMBARKATION IN REYKJAVIK AND ONWARD

Your ship is scheduled to arrive in Reykjavik between 7am and 8am local time. After breakfast, and once the ship has docked, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour. After disembarkation, you will transfer to a central downtown location.

## Arrival and Departure Transfers

### REYKJAVIK AIRPORT TRANSFERS

#### ARRIVAL

An arrival transfer in Reykjavik is not included; if you require a transfer to the city, you will need to arrange your own transportation. Most airports used on our voyages have good taxi ranks in the arrivals area, or you can often pre-book a transfer online.

#### DEPARTURE

A transfer is provided from the Reykjavik port to a central downtown location at the end of the expedition. A transfer to the airport is not included.

#### PLEASE NOTE

##### Included Hotel Accommodations:

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated in your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day. If you would like to extend your stay, you can book directly with the hotel or through a third party.







# Your Ship

## ULTRAMARINE

The technologically-advanced *Ultramarine* is designed to go beyond the familiar in polar exploration, to immerse guests in parts of the Polar Regions where few humans have ever set foot.

Equipped with two twin-engine helicopters and 20 quick-launching Zodiacs, *Ultramarine* offers the most off-ship adventure activities in the industry. Guests can enjoy two restaurants (Balena and Bistro 487), Tundra Spa, a sauna-with floor-to-ceiling windows, spacious suites and abundant wildlife-viewing spaces. *Ultramarine* also features advanced sustainability systems—which exceed all industry standards.

*Ultramarine* is perfectly designed to deliver the ultimate polar expedition experience.

## SHIP SPECIFICATIONS:

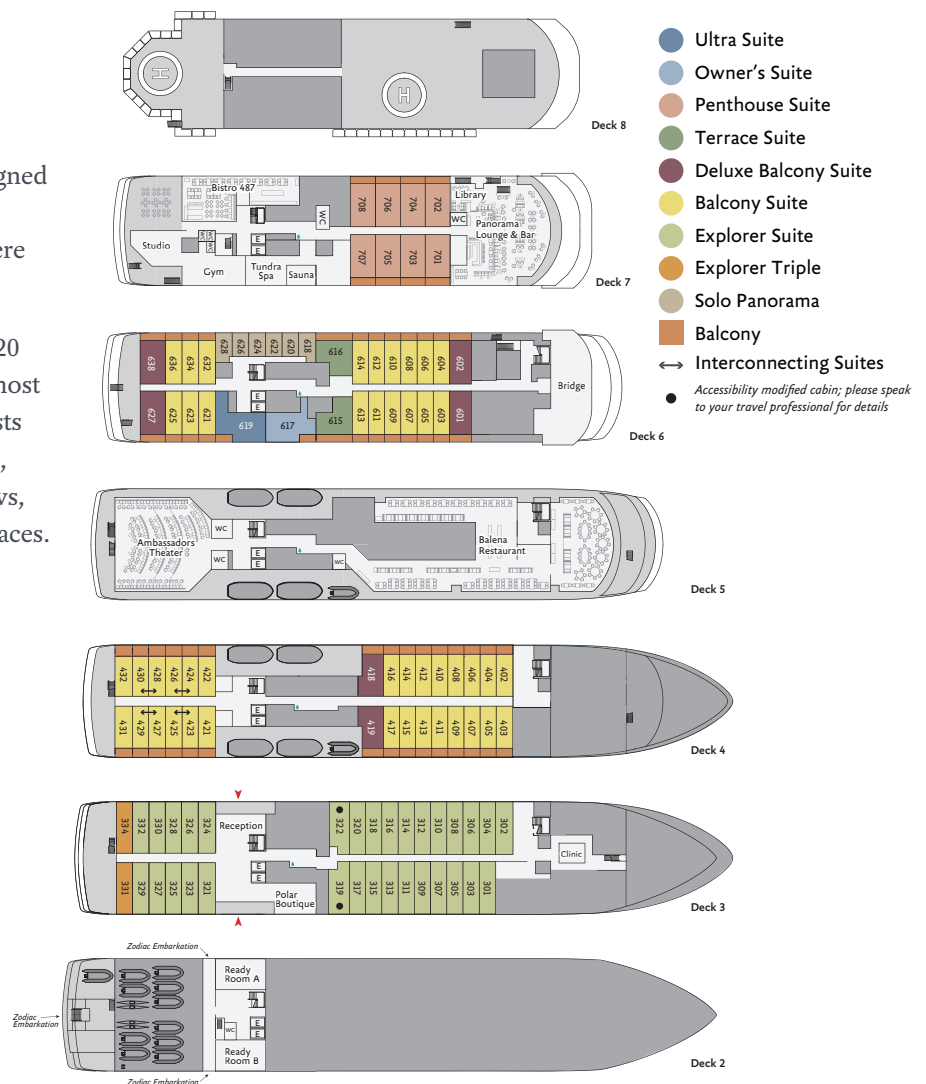
Staff and Crew: 140

Guests: 199

Lifeboats: 4, fully enclosed

Ice Class: PC6

Visit [QuarkExpeditions.com](http://QuarkExpeditions.com) to view deck plan details.







# Included Activities

These off-ship activities are included in your voyage.

Ready for a little adventure beyond your ship? Each Quark Expeditions® voyage offers a variety of recreational activities to enhance your polar experience.

## ZODIAC CRUISING

Zodiacs are the workhorses of polar expeditions, taking you to places the ships can't access, allowing you to reach remote shorelines, explore shallow inlets and spot wildlife. Expedition staff make stepping in and out of them safe and comfortable, and your Zodiac drivers will provide active interpretation, making the landscape come even more alive.

## HIKING

Led by experienced staff, exploring on foot is one of the best ways to appreciate the polar landscapes. Our guides are able to accommodate a range of skill levels to suit every guest.

## PRESENTATIONS

Enjoy daily chats with and presentations by our world-class onboard polar experts —expedition guides, specialists, photography guides and other special guests who will introduce you to the fascinating history, biology, ornithology, glaciology and geology of the region, and much, much more.

## POLAR PLUNGE

This rite of passage, scheduled only once per expedition, gives you the chance to jump safely into the bracing Arctic waters under the watchful eye of our staff —and just about every single camera on board.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Documenting your voyage so you can take the memories home is a rewarding experience. Our photography guide will help you hone your skills to capture the beauty of the polar regions.

## FLIGHTSEEING

While polar landscapes are spectacular from the sea, they're even more stunning from the air, a view you can enjoy while seated in one of the two twin-engine helicopters stationed on *Ultramarine*. Typically in groups of fewer than 10, you will experience an unforgettable aerial tour of the Arctic during a 10- to 15-minute flightseeing excursion that's included in the cost of the voyage. Additional helicopter activities may also be available for purchase on board. Please note: all helicopter operations are weather- and logistics-dependent.

*Contact your Polar Travel Adviser or your Travel Professional for more information about your Included Activities and Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost.*



# Adventure Options

These off-ship activities cost extra and should be booked in advance.



## PLEASE NOTE

For all paid activities pre-booking is required. We recommend booking early as spaces fill quickly.

### **SEA KAYAKING**

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers. Our Sea Kayaking program is a great way to intimately explore your surroundings. A small group of kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage as an alternative to shore landings or Zodiac cruises.

The number of opportunities to kayak is weather dependent, and will be conducted only during calm conditions. Prior kayaking experience is required, and you must be able to do a wet exit to participate. Beginners interested in kayaking should consider participating in the Paddling Excursion.

### **PADDLING EXCURSION**

If you're interested in kayaking but would like to try something a bit less demanding than Sea Kayaking, you're the perfect candidate to sign up for a one-time paddle on our stable sit-on-top kayaks—perfect for anyone with minimal or no kayaking experience. Small groups of passengers will be taken

out on calm days, with our expert guides always present to provide instruction and help you connect with the polar sea. Two groups of 10 will be pre-booked, and once successfully completed, any subsequent outings will be offered via lottery on board.

### **TUNDRA TO TABLE**

Our ground-breaking Tundra to Table experience offers guests a one-of-a-kind adventure into the culinary traditions of the Inuit in Greenland and Nunavut. You'll savor food made with ingredients direct from the sea and surrounding Arctic land—prepared by local chefs. Enjoy an evening of Inuit storytelling as you dine on traditional dishes of the Inuit of Greenland and Nunavut, including beer-braised muskox served with Greenlandic mashed potatoes, and pickled halibut served with lumpfish dip and bread. Our on-ship Tundra to Table experience is the only exclusively Inuit culinary offering of its kind in the world.








# Departure Date

Under the Northern Lights: Exploring Iceland & East Greenland

ULTRAMARINE

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Days</i>	<i>Start / End</i>	 Sea Kayaking	 Paddling Excursion	 Tundra to Table
ARCTIC 2026					
SEP 19 - OCT 2, 2026	14	Reykjavik	\$	\$	\$

\$ Paid Activities



# Inclusions and Exclusions

## Inclusions

### RATES INCLUDE:

- An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Leadership throughout your voyage by our experienced Expedition Leaders, including shore landings and other activities
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising as per the daily program
- All shore landings as per the daily program
- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage (Please inform us of any dietary requirements as far in advance as possible. Unfortunately, the ships' galleys cannot prepare kosher meals.)
- Complimentary select beer, wines and select cocktails during bar service hours and dinner
- Complimentary coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled
- A photographic journal documenting the expedition
- A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions
- Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- Complimentary Wi-Fi service on one device permitting basic Internet browsing, email, posting on social media and voice applications. (Premium packages are available for more data-intensive applications.)
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Greenland voyages cruise passenger tax

## Exclusions

### RATES SPECIFICALLY DO NOT INCLUDE:

- International airfare
- Arrival and departure transfers in Reykjavik
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned
- Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified
- Phone charges may vary by location
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew
- Additional overnight accommodation
- Adventure Options not listed in Included Activities





## Your Expedition Team

Our Expedition Leaders and their teams bring diverse expertise in subjects as varied as polar history, marine biology, glaciology, ornithology and photography. Their knowledge and enthusiasm will greatly enhance your immersion into the polar environment and further deepen your connection to the Arctic.

With over 30 years of experience bringing passengers to remote polar regions and an industry-leading staff-to-guest ratio, we know how to safely handle the unexpected. Ensuring this hard earned experience is passed on, our expedition staff receive comprehensive training in Quark Academy, which provides hands-on polar expedition training prior as part of our onboarding process as well as ongoing training for experienced staff.



## Raise a Glass and Stay Connected

See below for specifics on our complimentary Wi-Fi and bar service.



# Meals on Board

If there is one constant on board, it is that you'll enjoy delicious meals daily. While meal times may change due to landings and wildlife sightings, you'll always be served three well-prepared meals per day. Most dietary restrictions can be accommodated by letting us know prior to your expedition.

Balena Restaurant, the main diningroom on Deck 5 of *Ultramarine*, features tables that accommodate 2 to 10. Guests can enjoy a quiet dinner with a loved one or join a larger table of new friends. Guests will enjoy views from every seat in addition to direct access to the wraparound deck. Guests can also enjoy a meal in Bistro 487, which offers an indoor/outdoor dining experience—perfect for enjoying the polar landscapes.

Breakfasts and lunches are normally served buffet style, while dinners are served plated. À la carte meals are made at the time of your order, allowing our chefs to prepare each dish to your individual needs, ensuring you receive top-quality meals during the course of your expedition.

Complimentary coffee, tea, cocoa and water stations are available around the clock, while soft drinks and juices are available during meals and when the bar is open—all included in the cost of your package.

Enjoy complimentary select beer, wines and select cocktails during bar service hours and dinner as part of our “Raise a Glass and Stay Connected Free” program. Premium wines and champagne are available at extra cost and can be billed to your shipboard account. The well-stocked bars on the ship are open late morning, afternoon and evening, though hours may occasionally change to accommodate the expedition schedule.







## Possible Excursions

When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. The following sites are a sample of what you may experience on your expedition, whether by ship, Zodiac cruise, or shore landing.

### Iceland

#### REYKJAVIK

Iceland has been ranked by the United Nations as one of the best countries in which to live. Its capital, Reykjavik (which means “Smoky Bay”), was named by the country’s first settler, Norseman Ingólfur Arnarson, who was inspired by the geothermal mist rising from the ground.

### East Greenland

#### BLOMSTERBUGTEN

Known as the Bay of Flowers, Blomsterbugten boasts a colorful and lush landscape that is quite different from other Arctic regions. Expect spectacular fall colors, with a possible hike to Noa Lake.

#### BOTANIKERBUGT

In King Oscar Fjord, this bay is home to a variety of flora. It is on the south coast of mountainous Ymer Ø (Ymer Island), part of Northeast Greenland National Park.

#### BJORNE ISLANDS (BEAR ISLANDS)

Encounter stunning icebergs at this group of small, rugged islands, which offer stupendous views of Scoresby Sund and Øfjord. If conditions allow for a landing, take a short hike to an archaeological site.





## HOLM BAY AND ELLA Ø (ELLA ISLAND)

Toward the northern end of Scoresby Land is King Oscar Fjord. Holm Bay is a common landing site here, offering panoramic views of the fjord and surrounding area. Within the fjord, and hence within Northeast Greenland National Park, lies Ella Ø (Ella Island). The legendary Danish navy unit Sirius Sledge Patrol operates here in summer. Muskoxen may also be spotted.

## ITTOQQORTOORMIIT

Around 360 people call this northern settlement home. Ittoqqortoormiit is the picturesque and very welcome port of call for expedition cruise ships exploring the north-east coast of Greenland during summer. Focal points include the church and the small, local museum whose historical costumes, tools, and pictures tell the story of lives lived in remote and

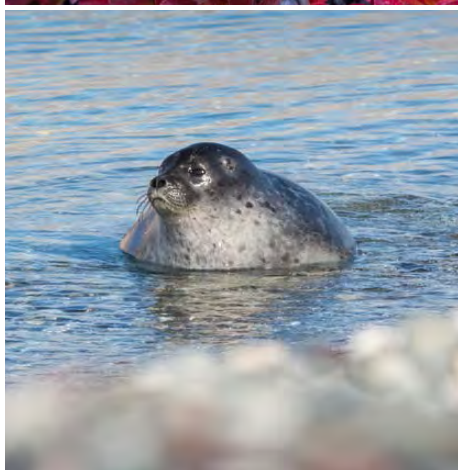
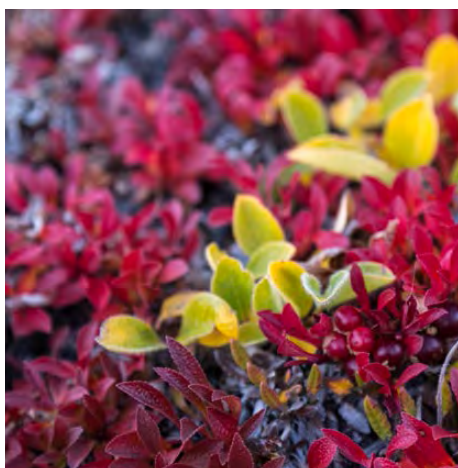
harsh conditions. Visitors can also enjoy discovering the vibrantly green football (soccer) field set in an endless landscape of rock and snow, and wandering between the colourful houses soaking in the atmosphere of Greenland's most isolated town.

## KING OSCAR FJORD

Also known as Kangerluk Kong Oscar, King Oscar Fjord is a major fjord system in Northeast Greenland National Park, with the main fjord stretching 110 kilometres in length and anywhere from 10 to 25 kilometres wide. The fjord system marks the northern border of the Scoresby Land Peninsula. Many visitors remark on the bright sandstone of King Oscar Fjord. When conditions allow, Quark Expeditions' guests have the opportunity to hike in Skipperdal Valley at Kong Oscar Fjord.

## EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, the ice and the weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you'll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife sightings as described are expected, but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not a guarantee.





# What to pack on your Greenland expedition

## BY SEA AND AIR

All transfers ship to shore, helicopter flights and Zodiac/ship cruising.

- ☐ Waterproof pants (mandatory for every Zodiac and helicopter ride)
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic top\*    ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece bottom\*
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic bottom\*    ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece top\*
- ☐ Warm hat that covers ears (bring an extra)
- ☐ Scarf, buff, or other face protection
- ☐ Warm wool or synthetic socks (keep a dry pair in your bag, and bring extras for layering)
- ☐ Waterproof gloves or mitts (bring an extra, lighter pair for hiking)
- ☐ Glove liners\*    ☐ Hand and feet warmers\*    ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Polarized sunglasses with UV protection (consider bringing an eyewear retainer: string/clip etc.)
- ☐ Sunscreen    ☐ Ski goggles (for Zodiac cruising on snowy or windy days)
- ☐ Waterproof, lightweight backpack or dry sack and/or rain sleeve for camera or a waterproof phone case (to keep camera & gear dry)

\*recommended layering depending on the conditions of the day and reflecting your personal thermo-regulation comfort levels.

## BY LAND (Shore Excursions and Hiking)

In addition to the gear requirements (as above) mandatory for the transit from ship to shore, it is recommended to bring:

- ☐ Worn-in Hiking footwear: While Muck-boots are provided and encouraged for most shore excursions, additional hiking footwear (Goretex-lined boots or similar water-proof hiking boots) can add to your hiking comfort, especially if you are a keen hiker
- ☐ (Smart) Wool or synthetic hiking socks for above footwear (bring an extra pair)
- ☐ Lightweight and quick-dry, trekking pants that may or may not convert to zip-off shorts\* (\*depending on your thermo-regulation)
- ☐ Breathable waterproof pants\* and rain jacket\*\* for outdoor activities in inclement weather (\*can be the same pair you use for Zodiac operations / \*\* can be outer shell of complimentary Quark 3in1 Parka)
- ☐ Comfortable long or short-sleeve shirt for hiking either synthetic/quick-dry or merino (smart) wool
- ☐ (Hiking) gloves (medium thickness, waterproof preferred)
- ☐ Hat, buff or scarf (for wind and weather protection)
- ☐ UV protection (hat, polarized sun glasses, sun block, lip balm)
- ☐ Collapsible walking sticks for hikes (if required)  
Quantities are available to borrow on every vessel
- ☐ Additional reusable thermos or water bottle  
(in addition to the reusable collapsible water bottle provided)

**WHAT TO BRING** Packing for the Polar Regions doesn't have to be daunting, and to make it easier for you, all Quark Expeditions voyages include a Quark parka to keep, and a loan of insulated waterproof boots. Additional suggested items include:

## TO WEAR ON BOARD

- ☐ Comfortable casual clothing like lighter shirts, pants or jeans, etc. (in case the ship gets warm)
- ☐ Comfortable non-slip closed-toed, heelless shoes (flip flops, sandals or slip-on shoes should not be worn on board due to safety concerns)
- ☐ Workout attire (for the fitness center and other indoor activities)
- ☐ Swimsuit for the Polar Plunge. Some vessels may also have a pool, hot tub, sauna and/or steam room. See your ship book for details.

**Just a reminder:** No formal evening wear required on our voyages but if you would like to bring something a little more dressy for the Captain's welcome and farewell cocktails you may certainly do so.

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Passport, visas, immunization records, travel documents, etc. as required
- ☐ Camera gear—complete with charger, storage medium, transport & cleaning kit (lens cloth etc.) and extra batteries
- ☐ Waterproof cell phone case or rain sleeve for camera
- ☐ Earplugs and eye masks for sleeping
- ☐ Voltage converters and plug adapters (see ship book for details)
- ☐ Moisturizer for face and hands (skin dryness due to wind and temperature changes)
- ☐ Seasickness, indigestion, headache, or other medications
- ☐ Small amount of local currency (see pre-departure book for more details)
- ☐ Insect repellent    ☐ Mosquito netting

## WEATHER CONDITIONS & TEMPERATURES

Polar weather is extremely variable; temperatures may hover around the freezing mark and winds can be strong. The extended daylight warms sheltered areas so that you may sometimes find it warm enough for t-shirts. However, you may encounter rain, snow squalls, fog and white-outs during an expedition and should be ready for any conditions.