



alumniUBC

## Three Arctic Islands Expedition Cruise

GREENLAND, ICELAND AND SVALBARD

July 26 – August 8, 2018

This all-encompassing Arctic expedition touches the wildlife-rich Svalbard in Norway's Svalbard archipelago, the fjord-lined coast of East Greenland and the elemental, yet highly sophisticated Iceland just south of the Arctic Circle.

This is a realm of big space, big mammals and a storied history of Arctic exploration punctuated by startling successes and devastating failures. During our 13 days at sea on the comfortable, ice-strengthened Ocean Adventurer where onboard presentations and discussions from Polar experts add illuminating context to augment our collective experiences on the ship deck and at our numerous landing points.

Svalbard has numerous sites where large mammals can be readily observed. Svalbard is considered the best place in the world to see Polar Bears during the summer as summer temperatures diminish sea ice and force many Polar Bears to shore to scavenge or even venture among formidable Atlantic Walrus at haul-out sites. Off shore, Ringed and Bearded Seals break the waters surface or rest atop ice floes.

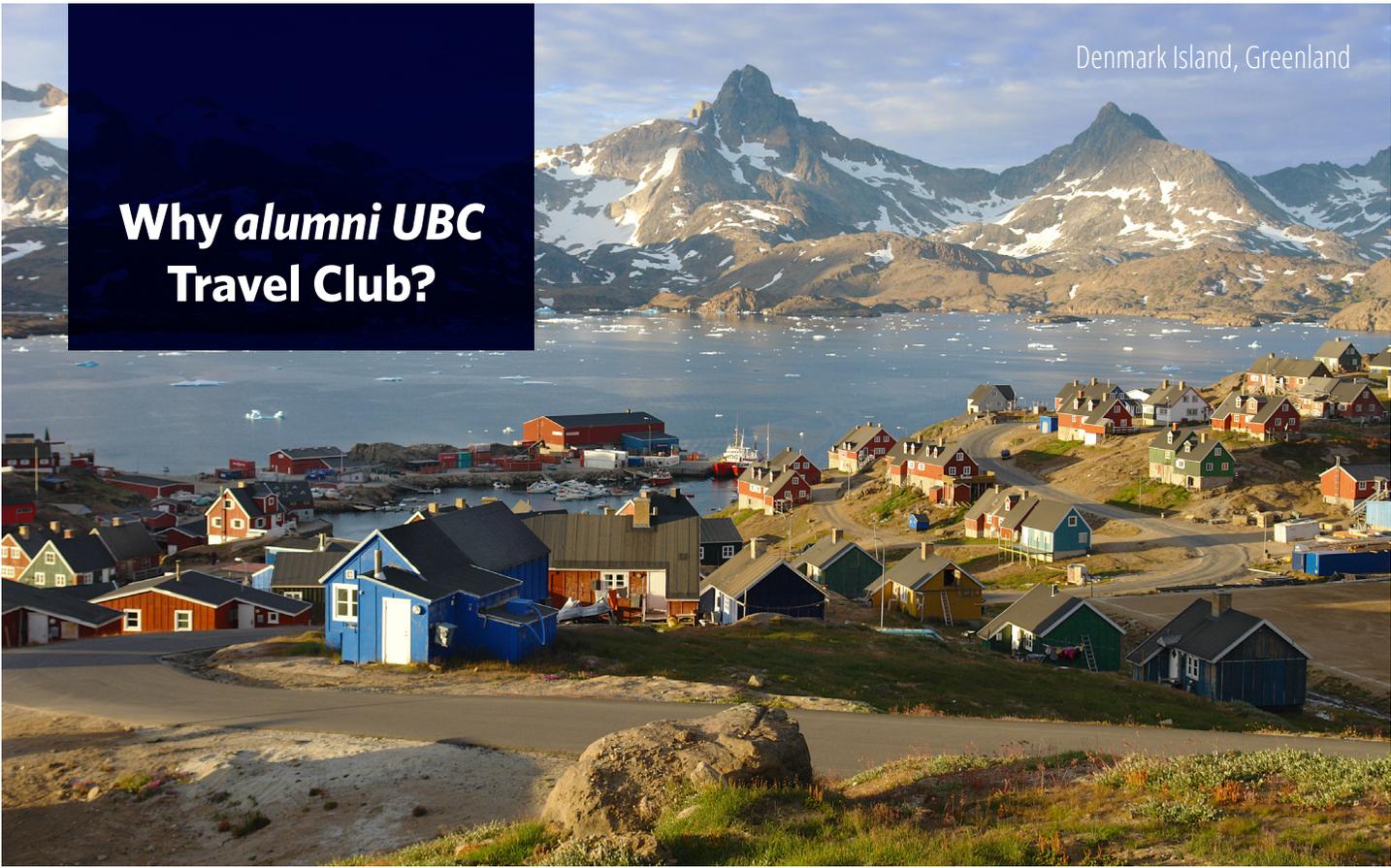
East Greenland is a place of deep fjords and spellbinding expanses of geological and glacial marvels. This land of extremes has a hardened beauty that is especially evident in the iconic Scoresby Sound. Hardy birds such like Rock Ptarmigans and Snow Buntings and mammals like Muskoxen endure on the rolling tundra.

Completing our voyage in Iceland takes us to the edge of Arctic to a geologically young island that continuously evolves under the influences of constant volcanic activity.

This award-winning route is an all-encompassing Arctic experience that will engage your sense of exploration and wonder. Post-trip extension opportunities will be available in Iceland.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

WorldwideQuest  
Alumni Expeditions



Denmark Island, Greenland

**Why alumni UBC  
Travel Club?**

- Watching Polar Bears on Svalbard's ice floes
- Exploring East Greenland's spectacular coastline
- Photographing beautiful Arctic birds and wildflowers
- Hiking on the High Arctic tundra
- Looking for whales in Iceland's longest fjord



**STUDY LEADER**

**Jean Iron** is a past president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists and retired school principal, and is active writing for nature publications and participating in wildlife surveys for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Jean is a veteran of our Polar expedition cruises in the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, and Svalbard, and both land and circumnavigation tours of Iceland. Jean will accompany our group with a minimum of 14 travellers.

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Thursday, July 26: Arrive in Longyearbyen

Our journey begins as we arrive in Longyearbyen, Svalbard from Oslo. After some time to settle in we will meet our tour leader for our Welcome Dinner as she sets the stage for our wonderful journey ahead.

\*See "Joining Instructions" in "What To Expect" below for detailed information and recommendations on arrivals.

*Meals: Welcome Dinner*

*Overnight: Radisson Blu Polar or similar*

### Friday, July 27: Embarkation Day in Longyearbyen

This morning after breakfast we will have a chance to wander about Longyearbyen at leisure. By 1500 we should be ready for embarkation. We'll transfer to the vessel and begin our voyage!

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

*Overnight: Ocean Adventurer*

### Saturday, July 28 – Tuesday, July 31: Exploring Spitsbergen

Over these four days, we explore Spitsbergen: the largest of the Norwegian-ruled Svalbard islands. This High Arctic archipelago that stretches to 80° North is especially rich in wildlife, and we have many excellent opportunities to observe Polar Bears and Atlantic Walruses. Svalbard Reindeer – the smallest subspecies of reindeer – can be observed from the ship deck or on our land excursions. The same goes for hardy Arctic birds like Long-tailed Duck, Ivory Gull and Arctic Tern. Depending on ice and weather conditions, we plan to explore these specific sites:

#### LONGYEARBYEN

Eighteen hundred people inhabit the administrative capital of Svalbard, which is situated on the shore of Isfjorden. The settlement was founded in 1905 by John Munroe Longyear, the majority owner of the Arctic Coal Company of Boston.

#### LILLIEHÖÖK GLACIER

Named for His Serene Highness Prince Albert I of Monaco who in 1906 visited Lilliehöök Glacier to conduct scientific investigations, this glacier is the site of another scientific investigation 100 years later from its namesake's great-great-grandson, HSH Albert II. Albert II sought to study the long-lived (100+ years) Arctic Clam. It has been discovered that the growth rings of a single clam's shell contain evidence of the chemicals encountered by the clam, thus mapping variations in water temperature and pollutant levels.

#### MONACO GLACIER

Monaco Glacier honours Albert I's 1906 expedition, and is a prime Polar Bear viewing area.

#### HORNSUND

Part of Sør-Spitsbergen National Park, Svalbard's southernmost fjord is a particular wildlife hotspot with often mist-shrouded mountain peaks that give the area an ethereal quality. Caribou feed here on lichens, while Arctic Foxes seek small mammals, birds, and carrion. Ringed Seals often bask on the offshore sea ice, which attracts the attention of summer-starved Polar Bears. This is also an excellent place to witness calving of glaciers amid drifting pack ice. A Polish research station has operated on the northern shore of Hornsund since 1957.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> OF JULY GLACIER

In the Krossfjord bay on Spitsbergen's northwest coast are two small glaciers that have joined to become one. The magnificent cliffs host a nesting colony of Thick-billed Murres (Brünnich's Guillemots). Closer to shore, Arctic Terns fervently defend their nesting colonies, and nimble Purple Sandpipers feed among shoreline rocks. Elegant Barnacle Geese and Common Eiders make for excellent photographic opportunities. Also be sure to scan the water's surface for Ringed and Bearded Seals.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

*Overnight: Ocean Adventurer*

#### Wednesday, August 1 – Thursday, August 2: Sailing the Greenland Sea to Greenland

En route to the next of our three high latitude islands, Greenland, we sail through the historic waters of the Greenland Sea. We recommend spending some time on the ship deck to watch for whales, seabirds, and other wildlife. Each ice floe warrants a look for hunting Polar Bears. Should we encounter a bear on a seal kill, there is a good chance that hulking Glaucous Gulls or an immaculate Ivory Gull will not be far behind as they scavenge for carrion. These two days at sea offer great opportunity to hone your marine observation skills alongside tour leader Jean Iron who has spent many hours searching for and spotting wildlife from ship decks in the Arctic.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

*Overnight: Ocean Adventurer*

#### Friday, August 3 – Monday, August 6: Exploring East Greenland

Greenland's sparsely populated eastern coast has some of the world's most dizzyingly impressive fjords and is the birthplace of many of the glaciers we will have passed in the Greenland Sea. Like in Spitsbergen, our landing sites during these four days will largely be dictated by ice and weather conditions:

#### RØDEFJORD

The Red Fjord, or Rødefjord, is named for the colourful sandstone located on its western side, which has been "stained" red by hematite – a marked oddity in this part of Greenland.

#### SCORESBY SOUND

The world's longest and largest fjord system may well be its most beautiful. Its name harkens to the remarkable efforts of William Scoresby Jr. who mapped more than 400 miles (640 km) of Greenland's coastline.

## DENMARK ISLAND

A hike to Demark Island leads to humbling views of Scoresby Sound and Fønfjord below. This is another place to possibly witness calving as we drift slowly past icebergs that could range in size from tiny bergy bits to massive tabular bergs.

## C. HOFMANN HALVØ

40% of the world's Muskoxen live on Greenland, and this is typically the best location for getting close views. Sharing the sweeping tundra land are Snow Buntings and Northern Wheatears – two of the Arctic's precious few breeding songbirds. Amid tundra wildflowers – some in full bloom and others in seed – we'll watch for cryptically-coloured Rock Ptarmigans. Red-throated Loons quietly patrol small tundra lakes and pools in between ventures to the ocean in search of fish.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

*Overnight: Ocean Adventurer*



## Tuesday, August 7: Sailing the Denmark Strait towards Iceland

As we sail south through the Denmark Strait towards Iceland, spend some more time on the ship deck looking for wildlife on ice floes and at the water's surface. As we cross the Arctic Circle, we soon enter Iceland's longest fjord, Eyjafjörður, and the city of Akureyri. This is a fantastic area for whales.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

*Overnight: Ocean Adventurer*

## Wednesday, August 8: Land on Iceland, departure

Our ship is scheduled to arrive back at the pier in Akureyri, 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 the airport for the return charter flight to the domestic airport in Reykjavik – Iceland's trendy capital city. If you have booked a post-tour accommodations or an extension with us, we will provide a transfer to a central downtown location.

\*There is a strict luggage limit of 44 lbs (20 kg) checked luggage and 11 lbs (5 kg) cabin baggage on the flights between Akureyri and Reykjavik.

\*Weather conditions can always delay our arrival, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Booking –flexible tickets is always encouraged, as we cannot be held responsible for delays due to unforeseen circumstances.

As such, a post-expedition hotel night is recommended.

*Meals: Breakfast*

## Please note

Specific sites visited will depend on ice and weather conditions experienced and the itinerary will be updated throughout the voyage in order to take advantage of favourable conditions. We put safety first and that means that weather, ice, wildlife, political, or other conditions may require us to modify the itinerary as we go. We consider this to be a big part of the intrigue of Polar exploring.

## Add-ons



## Kayaking

The most intimate way to experience the Arctic is by kayak. In small groups of 10 people, guided kayak excursions are conducted during calm weather conditions. To participate, we recommend you have some prior kayaking experience, including the capability to do a wet exit. Contact us for further information about adding this to your expedition.



Icebergs near Svalbard

## TOUR DETAILS

**Tour Cost (per person):** Main Deck cabin with twin beds and windows: US\$12,475\*

\*Other cabin types may be available upon request. Please contact Amanda for more information.

Single Supplement: Additional 50%

*If you are travelling on your own and would like to share accommodation, we would be happy to try to match you with a suitable roommate. If we are unable to do so, the single cost applies.*

### Group Size:

Our *alumni UBC* group is on board a 132-passenger vessel.

### What's Included:

- Accommodation based on double occupancy in selected cabin
- One pre-cruise night's accommodations in Svalbard based on double occupancy
- Your flight from Akureyri to Reykjavik in Iceland
- All meals and snacks on board
- All excursions while on board
- All on board activities
- Port dues and taxes
- Transfers from meeting point to ship and from ship to airport
- The services of seasoned Polar tour leader Jean Iron

### Not Included:

- Return airfare from your home to Winnipeg
- 5% Goods and Services Tax
- Fuel surcharge, if applicable
- Extra hotel accommodations in Winnipeg if needed
- Optional activities such as helicopter ride
- Phone calls and items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation

### Payment Details:

A non-refundable deposit of US\$2000 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A second deposit may be required. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. We accept payments by VISA and MasterCard. We would also like to let you know that we offer a 1% discount when the balance of payment is paid by cheque. Please let us know if you would like to take advantage of this discount.

### How to Book

Please contact Amanda  
at the Worldwide  
Quest Office.

1-800-387-1483

# OUR SHIP



## Ocean Adventurer

Our Quest Nature Tours group will be onboard the new and improved Ocean Adventurer, designed to carry 132 travelers in comfort to the most remote corners of the world. Originally built in Yugoslavia in 1976, this nimble, ice-strengthened ship is undergoing a refurbishment to outfit it with state-of-the-art facilities and technologies.



### Your Cabin

Each Main Deck Twin Window cabin has two lower berths, a private washroom, and two windows with exterior views. The average square footage is 139 (13 square metres). Cabins will also have just been renovated with new washrooms and soft furnishings. In-room music, hair dryers and temperature controls are also included for maximum comfort.



Cabin bathroom



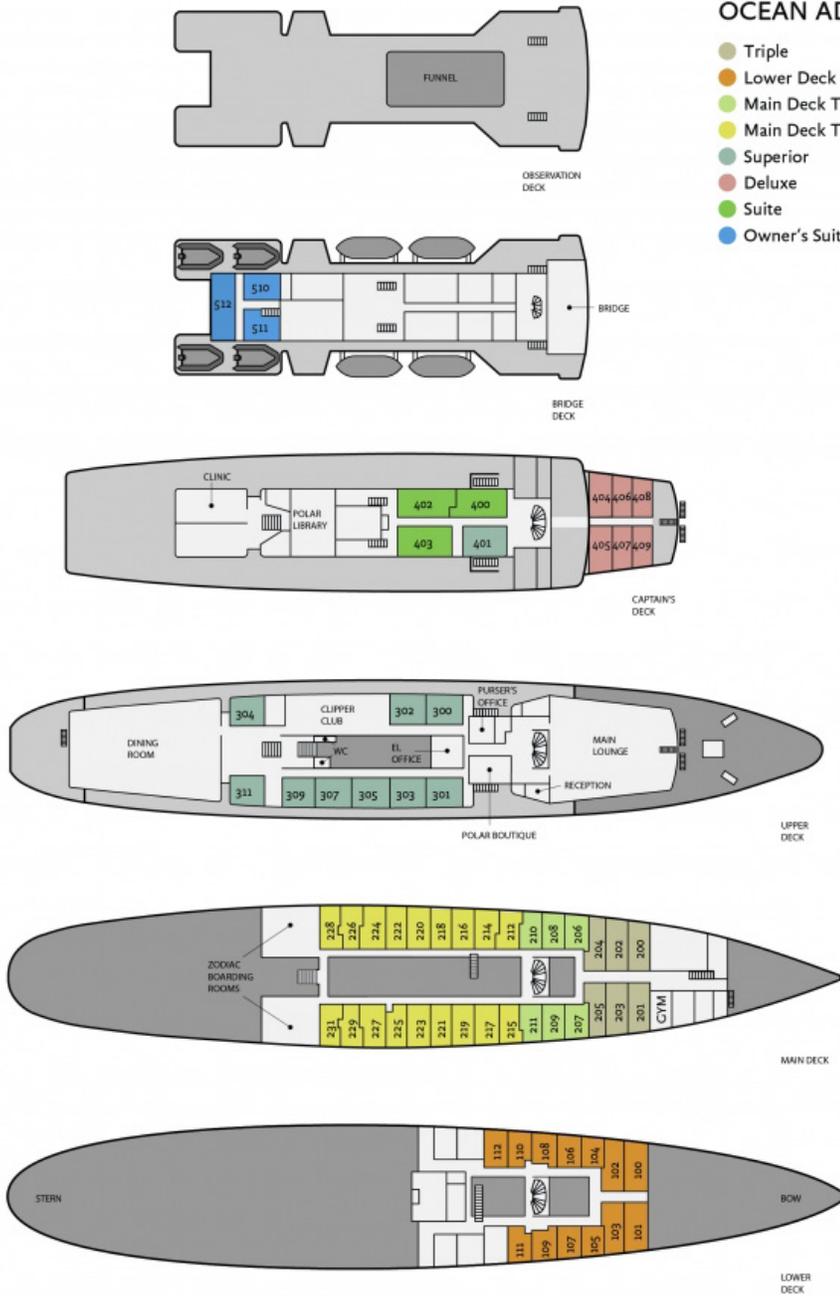
Club lounge



Dining room

# OCEAN ADVENTURER

- Triple
- Lower Deck Twin
- Main Deck Twin Porthole
- Main Deck Twin Window
- Superior
- Deluxe
- Suite
- Owner's Suite



# WHAT TO EXPECT

# ADDITIONAL INFO

## Joining Instructions

Please be sure to arrive prior to 1600 on Day 1. Based on the arrival information you send us, we will arrange a transfer from the airport to our hotel. On Day 2, your luggage will be collected at the hotel and delivered to your cabin on board the ship. **Tour leader Jean Iron** will provide specific instructions at the Welcome Dinner on Day 1.

Pre-expedition hotel nights are not included, but we would be happy to assist you with booking. If you choose to book independently, please provide us with the hotel name and address and any other arrival details that can help us arrange a smooth transfer for you.

## Level of Activity: Moderate

We have had a very wide range of participants on our expedition voyages ranging from people in their twenties to others in their mid-eighties. All have had a normal level of fitness that permits them to get in and out of Zodiacs, with assistance from the expedition staff and sailors, and the ability to walk on pebble beaches and uneven ground. Shore landings usually last for up to three hours at a time, but Zodiacs will be available to transport back to the ship at any time. Should you have any questions about your ability to take part in this tour, please give us a call.

## Weather

This expedition ranges from about 64°N in Reykjavik to potentially as far as 80°N in Spitsbergen. Throughout most of the expedition, prepare for temperatures between -5°C to 5°C. Wind chill is a major factor, especially on the ship deck, so we recommend dressing in many layers. In Iceland, daytime highs of 10°C are typical, and can rise as high as 16°C. A mix of sun and cloud can be expected throughout; rain and snow are possible.

## Travel Documents

You will need a passport for this expedition. Please ensure it is valid for six months beyond your date of return. Canada and USA passport holders do not require visas to visit Norway, Denmark or Iceland for stays of up to 90 days.

## Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).

## Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

## Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.

## Travel with *alumni UBC*

### It's your travel experience.

Indulge your curiosity as we take you to unique places you've always dreamed about.

UBC experts and knowledgeable local hosts provide context. That allows you to develop a deep connection to the people you meet and the cultures, cuisines and landscapes you're exploring.

- Best value in educational travel
- Meaningful local experiences
- Thoughtful itineraries

See our complete list of tours at:  
[WorldwideQuest.com/alumniUBC](http://WorldwideQuest.com/alumniUBC)



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