

1-888-966-8687 FOR RESERVATIONS

A Voyage to Iceland's Wild West Coast and East Greenland

12 DAYS

FROM \$11,896 WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS

Trip Type



Expedition Cruise

Activity Level



Group Size

Light or Moderate

Max 126

Service Level

Premium

EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

- Aboard the *National Geographic Endurance*, trace the voyages of Viking sailors as you explore Iceland's wild Westfjords region and Northeast Greenland National Park, the largest national park in the world.
 - Venture by Zodiac and kayak into Scoresbysund, the world's longest fjord system, and discover this stunning coastal landscape of soaring peaks, vibrant blue seas and glittering icebergs.
 - Spot iconic Arctic wildlife—including polar bears, walruses, musk oxen and Arctic foxes—and get a glimpse of life below the ice using underwater cameras.
 - Capture the ethereal beauty of the northern lights with a National Geographic photography expert by your side.
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EXPERTS ON THIS TRIP

Accompanying each expedition is a diverse team of experts—from naturalists to regional specialists—who will share their knowledge and insights into the wildlife, landscape and local culture. Select a member of the expedition team below to see their bio and dates.



Tommy Heinrich

Adventurer, Photographer

ITINERARY

Voyage from the western cliffs of Iceland to the seldom-seen shores of northeast Greenland aboard the Polar Class 5 *National Geographic Endurance*. Discover the historic towns and natural wonders of Iceland's Westfjords region. Cross the Denmark Strait and spend several days venturing into the bays and fjords of Greenland's rugged east coast, where few travelers have set foot. Navigate by kayak and Zodiac between towering ice floes and seek out legendary

Arctic wildlife, including polar bears. Follow the paths of early Arctic explorers and visit a remote settlement situated on the longest fjord system in the world.

DAY 1: REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND / EMBARK

Fly overnight to Reykjavík. Upon arrival, explore the city's colorful historic quarter, where Iceland's first street was constructed in the 18th century. Discover landmarks including the lofty Hallgrímskirkja Church, completed in 1986, with its distinct tower that can be seen from anywhere in the city. Visit the National Museum of Iceland, featuring treasures from Viking settlements, medieval monasteries and contemporary artists. In the evening, settle into your accommodations aboard the *National Geographic Endurance*.

Meals Included: Day 2: Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations *National Geographic Endurance* for the entire voyage

DAY 2: FLATEY ISLAND

Explore Iceland's wild western coast, where the world of the Icelandic sagas comes to life. View jagged rock spires rising toward the clouds and spectacular waterfalls flowing over the hills. Visit Flatey island, a centuries-old fishing and trading post, and walk the town's only street amid roaming sheep. Meet local families who have called this remote region home since their Viking ancestors first settled in Iceland in the 9th century. Later, cruise up the coast by Zodiac to see where Erik the Red is said to have set sail in 982 A.D. on his first voyage to Greenland.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3: CROSSING THE DENMARK STRAIT

On this day, the *National Geographic Endurance* crosses the Denmark Strait, where the East Greenland Current carries ice south from the Arctic Circle. Enjoy presentations from experts and be on the lookout for seals; humpback whales; and seabirds such as fulmars, kittiwakes and terns. Take advantage of onboard amenities by relaxing in the sauna or browsing in the library. In the evening, keep an eye out for the ethereal northern lights, which can be seen at this time of year.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAYS 4-10: EXPLORING NORTHEAST GREENLAND NATIONAL PARK AND SCORESBYSUND

You'll spend the next several days exploring the rugged coast of Northeast Greenland National Park, the world's largest national park. The park covers over 375,000 square miles of pristine wilderness and has no permanent human population except for an elite dogsled patrolling team. Weather and ice conditions will dictate your route, and each day's itinerary remains flexible in order to make the most of exploration opportunities. Your ice-class expedition ship, equipped with state-of-the-art sonar and a reinforced hull, will allow you to forge through the ice smoothly and comfortably.

As you travel along the coast, venture out by kayak or Zodiac to explore the astonishing ice-dotted landscape at water level, paddling past sheer cliffs and jagged mountains rising from the sea. Watch for polar bears stalking the ice floes, Atlantic walruses feeding and pods of elusive narwhals. Our National Geographic photography expert will help you capture images of wildlife and breathtaking panoramas. Glimpse the

fascinating marine life and geological features below the surface via underwater cameras and remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) deployed by undersea specialists. The northern lights put on a spectacular show at night—weather permitting—and illuminate the sky in shades of pink and green.

Your course will take you south to Scoresbysund, the largest and longest fjord system on Earth, named for the Arctic explorer William Scoresby, who first mapped the area in 1822. At the entrance stands an isolated settlement—home to a few hundred native Greenlanders who have maintained their traditions for generations. In Scoresbysund, kayak between blue-tinted icebergs and learn the various terms to describe ice formations—from pinnacle to dry-dock. Hike through a dramatic landscape of striated stone outcroppings that conceal the secrets of Earth’s geological history, and spot Arctic hares hiding among the rocks. In the evenings, enjoy dinner as the late summer sun sets over the water and hear presentations from the expedition team.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11: EXPLORING THE WESTFJORDS

After returning across the Denmark Strait, venture into Iceland's remote Westfjords region, located just south of the Arctic Circle. Accompanied by knowledgeable naturalists, hike through wildflower-sprinkled meadows and walk over basalt crags carved during the last ice age. Board a Zodiac or kayak to voyage up fjords inaccessible to most cruise ships. With guidance from a National Geographic photography expert, train your lens on local wildlife: soaring sea eagles, snowy owls, seals basking on the rocks and whales breaching offshore.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12: REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND / DISEMBARK

Disembark in Reykjavík and enjoy a morning excursion. In the afternoon, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT TO EXPECT

In keeping with the nature of an expedition, we keep our schedule flexible to take advantage of the unexpected, adapting our course to the conditions and opportunities that arise. Your expedition experience can be tailored to the activity level you choose—whether it's light or moderate or a little of both. Travelers should be in good health, comfortable walking or standing for extended periods of time and over uneven surfaces, and able to get in and out of unstable expedition landing craft. Daily activities may include Zodiac cruises, easy hikes, walking tours and visits to cultural or historic sites, with options for more physical activities such as longer hikes, biking or kayaking, depending on the conditions. All departures are family friendly.

Expedition Team

A National Geographic expert or a National Geographic photography expert joins the expedition team on all departures.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers upon arrival/departure for guests booked on recommended group flights
- Accommodation aboard the world-class expedition ships of the National Geographic-Lindblad fleet or a luxury chartered ship
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Daily activities and excursions as indicated in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages
- Gratuities

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to and from destination, as well as internal airfare where applicable
- Trip cancellation insurance or any other **travel insurance**
- Visas

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