

Disko Bay and Inuit villages

From **7/9/2020**
to **7/16/2020**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Kangerlussuaq**
to **Kangerlussuaq**

This **PONANT** itinerary is your chance to embark on an **8-day expedition cruise to Greenland**. In Kangerlussuaq, aboard **L'Austral**, you will embark for an unforgettable journey in the heart of the most magnificent Arctic landscapes.

After first calling at **Sisimiut**, Greenland's second largest city, a colourful port nestling between undulating hills, the world of ice will open up to you during this cruise along the north-west coast of Greenland.

You will cross **Disko Bay** for the first time to reach the edges of the **Eqi Glacier**, an icy giant with crystalline reflections, and the Paul-Emile Victor research station.

Disko Bay and the **colourful villages** of Uummannaq encircled by mountains and basalt formations will welcome you next with their majestic **icebergs** – some of the largest in the Northern Hemisphere. This is the ideal opportunity for meeting the local population and learning about Greenland's **Inuit culture** before reaching the steep cliffs where nest many birds in Evighedsfjorden, the **fjord of Eternity**.

During your cruise and Zodiac® outings, you will have many opportunities to admire an abundant and varied marine fauna with **seals** and whales, not to mention the many species of seabirds.

Subject to ice and weather conditions. The expedition highlights and itineraries described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



Flight Paris / Kangerlussuaq +
transfers + flight Kangerlussuaq /
Paris



The information in this document is valid as of 2/20/2020

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

KANGERLUSSUAQ

Embarkation 7/9/2020 from 15h00 to 16h00

Departure 7/9/2020 at 17h00

From 1941 to 1992, the town of **Kangerlussuaq** in Greenland was home to an American military base. Nowadays, thanks to its international airport, it has become a transit point for travellers seeking adventure in the Far North. Located to the north of the Arctic Circle, this town is the starting point of magnificent discoveries surrounded by **unspoiled nature**. Indeed, just a few dozen kilometres from there it is possible to get close to the Greenland ice sheet, the largest **body of ice in the Northern Hemisphere**. From Kangerlussuaq, admire also the superb landscapes of tundra in autumnal colours, where Arctic hares, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, reindeer, falcons and eagles live.

SISIMIUT

Arrival 7/10/2020

Departure 7/10/2020

During your cruise, we invite you to discover **Sisimiut**, founded in 1756 and the second largest town in Greenland. This small town is typical of Greenland, boasting bewitching panoramas: here and there, **colourful stilt houses** dot the **undulating landscape**, and the small fishing port stands as the gateway to an icy realm. As for the town centre, it is home to a number of historic buildings, a small church and a museum which retraces the history of the Inuit people, as well as many craft shops. When your ship drops anchor here, you will set out to meet the locals in a typically arctic atmosphere.

PAUL-ÉMILE VICTOR BASE CAMP, EQI GLACIER

Arrival 7/11/2020

Departure 7/11/2020

"The most beautiful place in the Arctic" is how Paul-Émile Victor described Greenland, a land of great icebergs and of towering ice formations calved by the giant glaciers of the polar ice cap. **The Eqi Glacier** is one of the region's most impressive sights. Here, the silence is broken only by the roaring and cracking of the ice. It is impossible to know if one is shivering from cold or from the sheer thrill of being here... Imagine the vast outline of a glacier, its **translucent crystals** glowing with an ice-blue fire in the sunlight. Paul-Émile **Victor's shelter** cannot be overlooked; it was from here that the French Polar Expeditions' anthropological and geographic explorations set off in the 1950s.

AKULLEQ

Arrival 7/12/2020

Departure 7/12/2020

In the curve of Uummannaq Bay, opposite a narrow passage between two islands, you will discover the **moonscape** of the small desert island of Akulleq. The **ochre yellow and orange** of this mineral site look ablaze under the sunshine of the polar summer. From the island's summit you will be able to contemplate a panoramic view of the bay's magical landscape and its huge icebergs with surprising shapes.

UUMMANNAQ

Arrival 7/12/2020

Departure 7/12/2020

The **"heart-shaped" rock** overlooking it is what inspired the name of the island and village of Uummannaq, where the locals will welcome you with their incredible sense of hospitality and humour, essential to their survival in these northern lands. Seven **Inuit villages** also dot this territory where people still get around on dog sleighs or in kayaks. Mingling tradition, respect for nature and modernity, the **authentic and lively atmosphere** that reigns nowadays in this region inhabited since the 15th century will win over visitors, as will the magnificent landscapes that compose it, a mix of peninsulas and of peaks standing more than 2,000 metres tall.

DISKO BAY

Arrival 7/13/2020

Departure 7/14/2020

To the east of Baffin Bay, discover Disko Bay, scattered with countless icebergs produced by the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From your ship, admire the majestic ballet of these ice giants as they slowly drift across the dark waters. This site is a natural marvel of Greenland, and is also renowned as an observation point for the region's many humpback whales. The encounters with wild fauna and stunning landscapes in the heart of this spectacular and fragile nature will be pure moments of wonder for you.

KUANNIT COAST

Arrival 7/14/2020

Departure 7/14/2020

Opposite Ilulissat, sailing for a few hours between the majestic icebergs of Disko Bay will allow you to reach the southern coast of the large Disko Island and admire the fields of angelica and the spectacular sculptures formed by the **huge volcanic cliffs** of Kuannit, where numerous sea birds find refuge. Combining glaciers, snow-capped peaks, flowery valleys, lakes, beaches and volcanic formations, the island's exceptionally lush environment has inspired local beliefs. The island is believed to have a **legendary and distant origin**: it is said to have been towed back from the country's south by fishermen in kayaks, fastened to "the hair of a child".

QEQERTARSUAQ

Arrival 7/14/2020

Departure 7/14/2020

On the southern coast of **Disko Island** lies Qeqertarsuaq, one of just two small villages on this island the **size of Corsica**. Its isolation makes it an observation post popular among naturalists since the beginning of polar exploration and the set-up, in 1906, of the Arctic Centre research facility. This site is a natural marvel of Greenland, and is renowned as an observation point for the region's many humpback whales. The possible encounters with wildlife and stunning landscapes in the heart of this spectacular and fragile natural environment will be moments of sheer wonder for you, particularly from the top of the **Lyngmark Glacier**, which offers breathtaking views of the stunning and varied landscapes of Disko Bay and Disko Island.

KITSISSUARSUIT (DOG'S ISLAND)

Arrival 7/14/2020

Departure 7/14/2020

The Dutch were the first to come and hunt whales on this island they called "**isle of dogs**" - Kitissuarsuit in Greenlandic. Indeed, when they arrived there in the summertime, the inhabitants had left the island, leaving behind their dogs, and moved to the neighbouring fjords for a season of fishing. Kitissuarsuit is considered to be the larder of the small town of Aasiaat, which is further away from the fishing areas, and the **villagers still live self-sufficiently** thanks to the marine resources, while trying to keep their age-old traditions alive.

EVIGHEDSFJORDEN

Arrival 7/15/2020

Departure 7/15/2020

Your ship glides slowly along the water towards the west coast of Greenland, to enter **Evighedsfjorden**, just a few kilometres south of Kangerlussuaq. Evighedsfjorden means "**the fjord of Eternity**", and for good reason: just when you think you've reached the end of this stretch of sea measuring over 100 kilometres in length, it seems to go on forever, as though to bring even more pleasure to those sailing in it. The spectacular scenery ranges from glaciers to **tundra** with an abundant flora, and jagged cliffs where **numerous bird species** have taken up residence. Take the time to observe the white-tailed eagles and the colonies of seagulls and black-legged kittiwakes flying overhead in the area.

KANGERLUSSUAQ

Arrival 7/16/2020 early morning

Disembarkation 7/16/2020 at 07h00

From 1941 to 1992, the town of **Kangerlussuaq** in Greenland was home to an American military base. Nowadays, thanks to its international airport, it has become a transit point for travellers seeking adventure in the Far North. Located to the north of the Arctic Circle, this town is the starting point of magnificent discoveries surrounded by **unspoiled nature**. Indeed, just a few dozen kilometres from there it is possible to get close to the Greenland ice sheet, the largest **body of ice in the Northern Hemisphere**. From Kangerlussuaq, admire also the superb landscapes of tundra in autumnal colours, where Arctic hares, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, reindeer, falcons and eagles live.