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## 12 DAYS LUXURY GREENLAND CRUISE - NUUK TO REYKJAVIK

Wake each day to fresh views of Greenland's stunning scenery. Explore the world's largest island in-depth, sailing into Ilulissat Icefjord and feeling the thrill as Sermeq Kujalleq and Eqip Sermia calve mighty icebergs. Fall for Uummannaq's heart-shaped peak, hike Disko Island's black-sand shores to its basalt columns, then cruise scenic Prince Christian Sound. Sail for Iceland's Vestmannaeyjar, home to volcanic drama and the world's largest Atlantic puffin colony.



### ITINERARY

Days 0 - 1 - Pre cruise & Nuuk (Godthab)

\_\_\*\*Pre Cruise Benefits - Hotel, Charter flights\*\*\_\_

In the bustling capital city of Greenland, you could be forgiven for forgetting you are in such a vast and isolated country. Nuuk is Greenland's economic and social hub, home to more than a third of Greenland's population, and although it feels like a world capital, scratch the surface, and a uniquely Greenlandic



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character can be found underneath. Nuuk Cathedral overlooks the gorgeous old Colonial Harbour district and the Greenland National Museum, resting place of the legendary Qilakitsoq mummies, the true highlight of the museum's archaeological collection. Above the Colonial Harbour sits downtown Nuuk, with lines of Scandistyle apartments, a bustling shopping district, the Greenlandic Parliament, Nuuk City Hall (which welcomes visitors to see its artwork), and even outdoor cafes selling locally produced food and beer. These nods to modernity compete for space with local artisan boutiques, the meat market selling the catch from Nuuk's vast fjord-lands, and the stunning Katuaq Cultural Centre, where blockbuster movies, as well as local and foreign performers, entertain the people of Nuuk. Although Nuuk has long been a melting pot of Danish and Greenlandic ideas, this is a city where Greenland displays its sophistication, with the Country's only traffic lights, roundabouts, and University. Most of all, expect to find a multitude of friendly people who are proud of who they are, and equally proud of the city they call home.

### Day 2 - Sisimiut

Sisimiut ("The People of the Fox Holes") is Greenland's second city, the largest Arctic City in North America, and a hub between the warmer South and the frozen North of the country. With a young, dynamic population, including students from all over the country, Sisimiut is one of the fastest-growing cities in Greenland. Inhabited for more than four and a half thousand years, the Danish Colonial Era saw the rapid development of the city into a trade center, and the old buildings and artifacts can be seen at Sisimiut Museum, a collection of beautifully restored buildings displaying everything from ancient turf houses to modern Inuit art. The local artisans are considered some of the

best in Greenland and often sell their wares direct from their communal workshop in the harbor, where they barter with hunters for raw materials. Today, modern industry focuses on processing seafood and shipping; KNI, the state-run chain of general stores operating in even the most remote settlements is based in Sisimiut. Most residents still live in the colorful wooden houses Greenland is so well known for. Sisimiut's vast backcountry offers excellent opportunities for hiking and fishing, and the locals often use sled dogs or snowmobiles to get around their vast mountainous playground during the long winters. In the summer, one can walk as far as Kangerlussuaq International Airport, a trail also used for the grueling Polar Circle Marathon, one of the toughest endurance events in the world.

### Day 3 - Ilulissat

Known as the birthplace of icebergs, the Ilulissat Icefjord produces nearly 20 million tons of ice each day. In fact, the word Ilulissat means "icebergs" in the Kalaallisut language. The town of Ilulissat is known for its long periods of calm and settled weather, but the climate tends to be cold due to its proximity to the fjord. Approximately 4,500 people live in Ilulissat, the third-largest town in Greenland after Nuuk and Sisimiut. Some people here estimate that there are nearly as many sled dogs as human beings living in the town that also boasts a local history museum located in the former home of Greenlandic folk hero and famed polar explorer Knud Rasmussen.

### Day 4 - Eqip Sermia Glacier

Scattering chunks of sea ice like confetti, Eqip Sermia Glacier's 2-mile-wide wall of ice is alive with thrilling activity. Known as the Calving Glacier, this immense formation towers up to 550 feet above the surface. Cracks and rumbles echo through the air

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from Eqip Sermia Glacier, one of the most active in the Northern Hemisphere. Enjoy the show, as dramatic collapses send mini-icebergs tumbling across the surface and the ship rolls gently on the ensuing waves. Explore this incredible glacier up close, immersed in pure silence, with only the calls of seabirds and the murmurings of the ice breaking the quiet. Eqip Sermia Glacier is retreating quickly, and this rapid movement drives the frequency of its calving events. Found at the terminus of Eqi Fjord, the compacted flow of ancient ice mass spills down through black and white mountains from its roots in the Greenland Ice Sheet - the second-largest body of ice in the world after Antarctica, covering 80% of the island. The deep blues and turquoise hues are caused by centuries of compression. Icy sculptures from Eqip Sermia Glacier and nearby Jakobshavn Glacier and Kangilemgata Sermia Glacier drift toward Disko Bay, where fin, humpback, and minke whales breach and roll through the lively waters.

### Day 5 - Qeqertarsuaq

During the morning Silver Cloud will ply the Disko Bay en route to our destination along Disko Island's east coast. Our exploration of the Disko Bay area will head to an area north of the village of Qeqertarsuaq, which is named after Disko Island's local name - meaning "large island". With more than 3,300 sq. miles Disko Island is Greenland's second-largest island.

### Day 6 - Evighedsfjord

Evighedsfjord (Eternity Fjord) is a large fjord northeast of Kangaamiut in southwest Greenland. The fjord has a length of 75 kilometers and several branches with numerous glaciers coming down from the Maniitsoq Ice Cap to the north can be seen. The Evighedsfjord has several bends and whenever the ship reaches the supposed end the fjord continues in another

direction and seems to go on forever. Qingua Kujatdleq Glacier is at its southeastern end. At the northwestern end, a U-shaped valley has seven glaciers coming down from the mountains but not reaching the water. The glaciers had their maximum extent around the year 1870 and have gone through several cycles of advance and retreat. The mountains on either side of the fjord can reach in excess of 2,000 meters and the fjord has a depth of up to 700 meters. Evighedsfjord's snowline is at 1,100 meters and the Evighedsfjord region is famous as one of Greenland's best heli-skiing areas.

### Day 7 - Paamiut

Paamiut, in southwestern Greenland, is definitely an off-the-beaten-track destination but well worth the journey! The brightly colored houses dotted around the port bring warmth to the arctic scenery. The history of the community dates back to 1500 BC but it was in the 18th Century that Paamiut evolved into a major trading hub within Greenland. Seal fur, whale products, and soapstone carving made it prosperous. Today the draw is the opportunity to immerse yourself in such an unspoiled, majestic landscape and to observe the rare wildlife within. During the warmer summer months, minke whales, fin whales, and humped back whales are all common visitors and with sharp eyes, can be seen from the shore. Craggy mountains, ethereal glaciers, and clear fjords offer endless possibilities for hiking and kayaking. Rare sea eagles - Nattoralik, have made their home in these remote parts, and seeing one is said to bring you good luck. Guardians of this incredible natural legacy are the Paamiut people who are justifiably proud of their culture and extremely welcoming to visitors. There is a small museum where you can learn about the fascinating local customs, traditions, and way of life.

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### Day 8 - Hvalsey

18 kilometers northeast of Qaqortoq, Hvalsey is part of Qaqortukuloq, one of the five sites of the UNESCO World Heritage Arctic farming complex Kujataa. Between Eriksfjord to the north and Einarsfjord to the south, the Hvalseyfjord branches off from Einarsfjord. Although Hvalsey is better known for the well-preserved ruins of one of the sixteen churches in the Norse's Eastern Settlement, the church was in a farmstead known as Thjodhild's Stead. This farmstead at the northeastern end of the fjord included a large building with living quarters, a hall, and livestock pens, as well as other livestock pens, a storage building, and a warehouse - the ruins of which can still be seen. The Norse farming laid the foundation for the Inuit farming in later centuries, leading to the UNESCO World Heritage status in 2017. In the 14th century account "Descriptions of Greenland" the abundant fish, a reindeer farm on Reindeer Island, and Hvalsey's name "Whale Island" clearly indicate that the Norse had ample food sources at that time. The church was built in the Anglo-Norwegian style of the 13th century, but is known to have been built over an older graveyard. The farmstead is mentioned in the Icelandic "Book of Settlements" as property of the Kings of Norway, and the last documented event of the Norse in Greenland is a wedding, which took place in the church in September 1408. After almost 600 years of abandonment, conservation work had to be done to prevent the seaward wall from collapsing.

### Day 8 - Qaqortoq (Julianehåb)

The largest town in southern Greenland, Qaqortoq has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Upon arrival in this charming southern Greenland enclave, it's easy to see why. Qaqortoq rises quite steeply over the fjord system around the city, offering breathtaking panoramic vistas of the surrounding mountains,

deep, blue sea, Lake Tasersuag, icebergs in the bay, and pastoral backcountry. Although the earliest signs of ancient civilization in Qaqortoq date back 4,300 years, Qaqortoq is known to have been inhabited by Norse and Inuit settlers in the 10th and 12th centuries, and the present-day town was founded in 1774. In the years since, Qaqortoq has evolved into a seaport and trading hub for fish and shrimp processing, tanning, fur production, and ship maintenance and repair.

### Day 9 - Cruise Prince Christian Sound

The transit through the Sound is one of this voyage's highlights. Connecting the Labrador Sea with the Irminger Sea, Prince Christian Sound - or "Prins Christian Sund" in Danish - is named after Prince (later King) Christian VII (1749-1808). 100 km (60 miles), long and at times just 500 meters (1,500 feet) wide, this majestic and spectacular fiord throws you back into a Viking era - flanked by soaring snow-topped mountains, rock-strewn cliffs, and rolling hills, it is as if time has stood still and one easily forgets that this is the 21st century. As you marvel at the sheer size of the mountains that surround you, with the Arctic waters lapping deceptively at the hull, revel in the silence enveloping you. Icebergs float serenely by, carrying with them the ages of time. Be sure to wear warm clothing as this is one spectacle that you do not want to miss.

### Day 10 - Day at sea

Days at sea are the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind, and catch up with what you've been meaning to do. So whether that is going to the gym, visiting the spa, whale-watching, catching up on your reading, or simply topping up your tan, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to busy days spent exploring shoreside.

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### Day 11 - Reykjavik

The capital of Iceland's land of ice, fire, and natural wonder, Reykjavik is a city like no other - blossoming among some of the world's most vibrant and violent scenery. Home to two-thirds of Iceland's population, Reykjavik is the island's only real city, and a welcoming and walkable place - full of bicycles gliding along boulevards or battling the wind when it rears up. Fresh licks of paint brighten the streets, and an artistic and creative atmosphere embraces studios and galleries - as well as the kitchens where an exciting culinary scene is burgeoning. Plot your adventures in the city's hip bars and cozy cafes, or waste no time in venturing out to Iceland's outdoor adventures. Reykjavik's buildings stand together - below the whip of winter's winds - together with the magnificent Hallgrimskirkja church, with its bell tower rising resolutely over the city. Iceland's largest church's design echoes the lava flows that have shaped this remote land and boasts a clean and elegant interior. The Harpa Concert Hall's sheer glass facade helps it to assimilate into the landscape, mirroring back the city and harbor. Its LED lights shimmer in honor of Iceland's greatest illuminated performance - the northern lights. Walk in the crusts between continents, feel the spray from bursts of geysers, and witness the enduring power of Iceland's massive waterfalls. Whether you want to sizzle away in the earth-heated geothermal pools or hike to your heart's content, you can do it all from Reykjavik - the colorful capital of this astonishing outdoor country.

#### Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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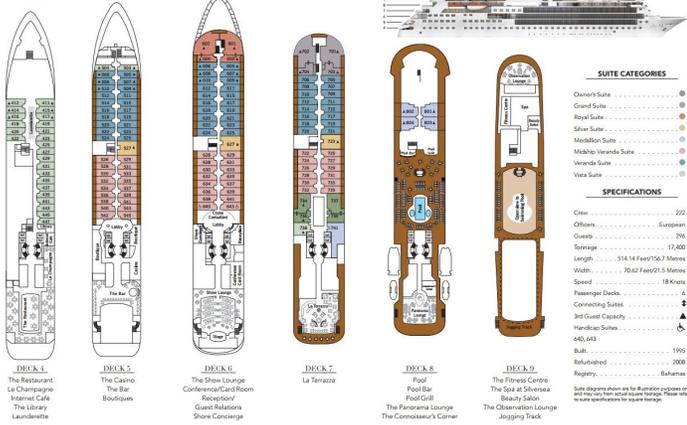


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