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EAST & SOUTH GREENLAND EXPLORER – AURORA BOREALIS EXPEDITION CRUISE

Southeast Greenland offers many historic sites relating to ancient Thule, Norse, and Moravian culture while also allowing us to walk in the footsteps of famed polar explorers like Fridtjof Nansen. Glaciers, icebergs, and fjords make for a dazzling environment where we may see polar bears, and the crossing to Iceland will give us a great opportunity to observe migrating whales and seabirds. Along the way the Northern Lights is guiding our way.

ITINERARY

Day 1: On the Iceland road

Your journey begins in the morning - the scent of adventure is on the air! By request, you can transfer via chartered bus (T) from the bus stop at Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre at Austurbakki, Reykjavik (the meeting point), to the ship in Akureyri (the embarkation point). You arrive in the afternoon after a six-hour drive through the beautiful landscapes of Northern Iceland.

PLEASE NOTE: This transfer (T) must be booked and paid for in advance. In the early evening, the ship departs from the port of Akureyri, sailing north toward the Denmark Strait.

Day 2-14: Sailing to East Greenland

Sailing to east Greenland

While sailing north, you will likely see various bird life, including fulmars, kittiwakes, gannets, and common guillemots. You then cross the Arctic Circle, possibly spotting whales. By evening, the first icebergs flash into sight with your approach to the east Greenland Blossville coast, a wild, remote, and dramatic area. With a fresh breeze in the air, your Arctic adventure has truly begun.

A myriad of mighty fjords and valleys

Sailing southward along the East Greenland coast, we enter several fjords competing in beauty: d'Aunay, Nansen,

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Kangerlussuaq, and possibly either Ikarsuaq or Kangertitsivaqmiit. Most of these fjords feature glacier front at the head, and any one of them can offer us a chance to spot polar bears and narwhals. The head of Mikis Fjord provides good possibilities for a long hike. The landscapes you will see in this area are typical of this part of Greenland and are especially beautiful.

Smalltown Greenland

Tasiilaq, once known as Angmagssalik (about 2,000 inhabitants), is our next port of call. This charming town is the center of East Greenland, boasting a museum where you can learn about the colorful local history of this incredibly remote area.

In the steps of Nansen

We next sail south to land at Umivik, an accessible bay where the explorer Fridtjof Nansen ascended the Greenland ice sheet during his pioneering 1888 Greenland expedition. Nansen and his party crossed the Greenland ice sheet, reaching Godthaab on the west coast, where they remained for several months before being picked up. In Umivik, you may even be able to trace his footsteps with a short walk in the area.

The valley of Mariedal

Today, we circumnavigate Skjoldungen through one of the most spectacular fjords of southeast Greenland. We then land at Qornoq to see the remains of houses from the Thule culture. We will then visit Mariedal, a beautiful valley once frequented by

Greenlanders, to collect berries in autumn.

Exploring Greenland's settled past

Moving on to Timmiarmiut, we can see an abandoned Greenlandic settlement and, weather-dependent, possibly sail into the fjord. Polar bears have sometimes been spotted here. As an alternative, we may visit Igutsait, another fjord just to the south.

Prins Christian Sund mountains

One of the highlights of the voyage is our westward passing of the Prins Christian Sund, surrounded by mountains of over 1,000 meters (3,300 feet). We may land at Svaerdfiskens Havn or, in the evening, at Ikigait, once known as Herjolfsnes, a former Norse settlement.

Hot springs and Moravian mission

We will then try to get to Uunartoq, where we can bathe in a large, hot natural spring surrounded by icebergs. Across the bay, at Vagar, we find the remains of a Norse homestead. Later, we reach Lichtenau, a lovely, though nearly deserted, Greenlandic village where the Herrnhuters established and maintained a religious mission in the 18th century. Some of their large German-style buildings still remain.

Erik the Red's base

In Eriksfjord, we land at Ittileq, in a bay from which we can walk 4 km (2.5 miles) into Igaliku (Gardar). In this small Greenlandic

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village, we can see the remains of a 13th-century Norse church and other ruins. Then, in the afternoon, we plan to visit Bratthalid, the base of Erik the Red, the famous Norse explorer who was the first European to found a settlement in Greenland. This sub-Arctic area has birch trees, agriculture, and cattle - not common across much of Greenland. Later that evening, we will arrive at Narsarsuaq for the final night of our voyage.

Day 15: Saying goodbye to Greenland

On the final day of your journey, you will disembark the vessel in Narsarsuaq, concluding your Arctic adventure. From the nearby WW2-era airport, you may choose to fly to destinations such as Copenhagen, Keflavik, or Nuuk, or opt to continue exploring Greenland at your own pace. While the voyage comes to an end, the unforgettable moments and discoveries will stay with you forever.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: PLANCIUS

YOUR SHIP:	Plancius
VESSEL TYPE:	Expedition
LENGTH:	
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	

M/V "Plancius" was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named "Hr. Ms. Tydeman". The ship sailed for the Dutch Navy until June 2004 when she was converted into an expedition cruise ship..The vessel was completely rebuilt as a 114-passenger vessel in 2009 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/v "Plancius" is classed by Lloyd's Register in London and flies the Dutch flag. "Plancius" accommodates 114 passengers in 53 passenger cabins with private toilet and shower in 4 quadruple private cabins, 39 twin private cabins (ca. 15 square meters) and 10 twin superior cabins (ca. 21 square meters).All cabins offer lower berths (either two single beds or one queen-size bed), except for the 4 quadruple cabins (for 4 persons in 2x upper and lower beds).The vessel offers a restaurant/lecture room on deck 3 and a spacious observation lounge (with bar) on deck 5 with large windows, offering full panorama view. Plancius has large open deck spaces (with full walk-around possibilities on deck 3), giving excellent opportunities to enjoy the scenery and wildlife. She is furthermore equipped with 10 Mark V zodiacs, including 40 HP 4-stroke outboard engines and 2 gangways on the starboard

side, guaranteeing a swift zodiac operation.M/v "Plancius" is comfortable and nicely decorated, but is not a luxury vessel. Our voyages in the Arctic and Antarctic regions are and will still be primarily defined by an exploratory educational travel programme, spending as much time ashore as possible. The vessel is equipped with a diesel-electric propulsion system which reduces the noise and vibration of the engines considerably. The 3 diesel engines generate 1.230 horse-power each, giving the vessel a speed of 10 - 12 knots. The vessel is ice-strengthened and was specially built for oceanographic voyages.M/v "Plancius" is manned by 17 nautical crew, 19 hotel staff (6 chefs, 1 hotel manager, 1 steward-barman and 11 stewards / cabin cleaners), 8 expedition staff (1 expedition leader and 7 guides-lecturers)



and 1 doctor.

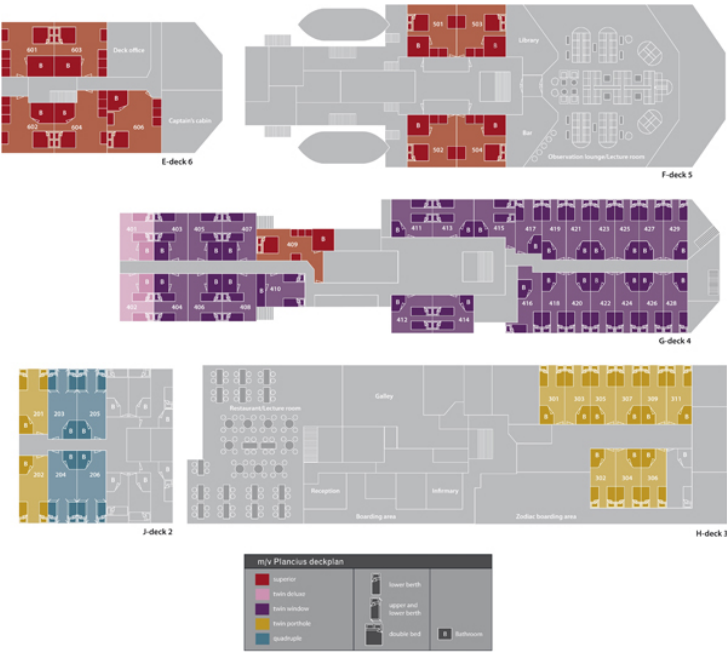


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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Quadruple Porthole



Superior



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Twin Deluxe



Twin Porthole

Twin Window



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