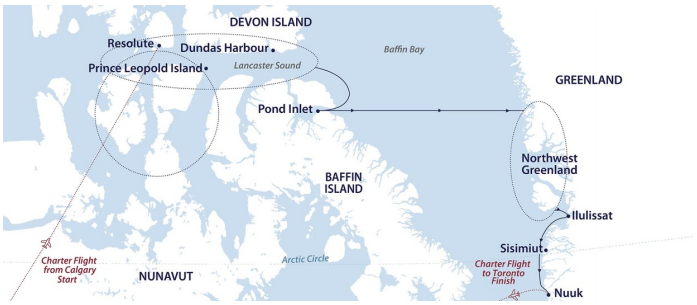


NORTHWEST PASSAGE - THE NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPEDITION

Welcome to Aurora's Northwest Passage expedition. The labyrinthine channels of the legendary Northwest Passage have enchanted explorers and adventurers for centuries. Get a glimpse into the world that captivated early explorers such as Franklin, Amundsen, and Larsen, by exploring a portion of the fabled Northwest Passage. Visit the final resting places of some of the legendary explorers who ventured here and experience the archipelago of islands and channels that make up Canada's High Arctic region. Learn about the region's ancient history and culture from the locals who, along with their ancestors, have thrived in this remote wilderness homeland for millennia. Watch for enigmatic Arctic wildlife as we navigate variable sea ice that once prevented ships from traversing the Northwest Passage, adding a compelling element of adventure, integral to any genuine expedition. As the darker nights return, there is also the chance to witness the ethereal beauty of the northern lights dancing across the Arctic sky, a truly unforgettable highlight of this special voyage.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Calgary

Having made your way to Calgary, you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to our group hotel located in downtown Calgary. Upon arrival at your included hotel, please visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk to collect your luggage cabin tags and to speak with our ground operations team, who may have information to share with you about pre-embarkation procedures and the charter flight to Resolute tomorrow. You will receive Aurora Expeditions cabin tags for your luggage. Please clearly label the tags with your name and ship cabin number.

The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense.

Accommodation: Residence Inn by Marriott Calgary Downtown/Beltline District (or similar)

Day 2 Fly to Resolute for embarkation



Please ensure that your luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Any valuables or personal items should be kept on you throughout the day. Your luggage will be delivered to your cabin ahead of your arrival on board.

After breakfast at the hotel, board our charter flight to Resolute, where the Sylvia Earle awaits. After boarding, there is time to settle into your cabin before our important safety briefings. This evening, meet your expedition team and crew.

Days 3-7 Expedition cruising

In genuine expeditionary style, our itinerary for the following days is heavily dependent on weather conditions and unpredictable sea ice. The following places are some that we hope to visit.

Elwin Bay (Ikpiarjuk)

Situated on the southeastern coast of Somerset Island, Elwin Bay is a breathtaking, wide inlet famous for its wildlife, particularly polar bears. This area was historically used by hunters and today remains an important habitat for bears who hunt along the ice edge and swim between the scattered ice floes. During summer, beluga whales are sometimes seen offshore, and the rocky beaches may reveal evidence of Arctic foxes and seabird colonies. The surrounding landscapes offer stunning contrasts, from rolling tundra to rugged limestone cliffs. Elwin Bay's rich natural history and raw beauty make it a highlight for wildlife photography.

Port Leopold

Port Leopold, a barren, windswept bay on the northeastern corner of Somerset Island (Inuktitut Kuuganajuk), is steeped in history. Here, the crews of HMS Enterprise and Investigator were forced to endure a harsh winter while searching for the lost Franklin expedition. Their presence is indelibly marked on a rock engraved with "1849" and the ships' initials. The desolate landscape is punctuated by a lone Hudson Bay Company hut, a failed trading post from the 1920s.

We hope to hike and explore the coastline, discovering the historic Hudson Bay Company house and intriguing Inuit archaeological sites. Be amazed by the otherworldly formations shaped by the region's freezing and thawing cycles, which our expedition team will detail during recap. Nearby, a cairn marks the spot where Ross's rescue expedition left vital supplies.

Prince Leopold Island (Appait)

On the southern side of Lancaster Sound from Beechey Island lie the towering bird cliffs of Prince Leopold Island (Appait), a historic site where in 1848, English explorer James Clark Ross overwintered during the search for the missing Franklin expedition. Prince Leopold Island is the most important bird sanctuary in the Canadian Arctic, with approximately 500,000 birds nesting here in summer. Ringed seals are often spotted on the sea ice around the island and polar bears often lurk nearby.

Radstock Bay

Just a short distance away, Radstock Bay offers a captivating



contrast to the open sea. Here, we'll disembark via Zodiac onto a beach strewn with remnants of the past. Explore the ruins of a Thule village nestled beneath the imposing Caswell Tower, where well preserved stone dwellings coexist with artifacts from later explorers. Witness the stark beauty of this remote bay, characterised by its dramatic cliffs, gravelly beaches, and the scattered remains of whale skeletons that have shaped the landscape and the lives of those who called it home.

Beechey Island (Iluvilik)

At the western end of Devon Island lies Beechey Island (Iluvilik), where we plan to land. Named after Frederick William Beechey, the island is a designated Canadian National Historic Site. During the Franklin expedition of 1845-46, Franklin attempted to sail through the Northwest Passage with HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, with perilous results - three of his men are buried here. Roald Amundsen landed at Beechey Island in 1903, during the first successful voyage by ship to fully transit the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

Maxwell Bay (Tasiujaq)

Maxwell Bay is a broad, sheltered inlet that offers outstanding opportunities for exploration both on land and by sea. The surrounding tundra landscapes provide excellent hiking, with sweeping views of the rugged coastline and inland valleys. Wildlife is abundant in this remote area: muskoxen and caribou roam the open terrain, while polar bears are occasionally seen along the shoreline or on ice floes. The sheltered waters of Maxwell Bay are a haven for marine mammals, including harp seals, ringed seals, and bearded seals. Walruses are sometimes spotted hauled out on the ice or rocky beaches, adding to the rich wildlife experience. Birdlife is also notable, with seabirds such as glaucous gulls and northern fulmars often seen soaring overhead. The bay's numerous coves and inlets create a sense of discovery at every turn, making it a rewarding destination for Zodiac cruises and shore landings.

Devon Island (Tallurutit)

At a latitude of almost 75° degrees north, we are now truly in the High Arctic. Here, nutrient-rich waters support an abundance of wildlife, giving the area the moniker 'wildlife superhighway' of the Arctic. Devon Island (Tallurutit) is the largest uninhabited island on Earth and features stunning geology, with flat-topped mountains and glacial valleys giving Devon Island its unique character. We hope to visit Dundas Harbour to enjoy offers walks on undulating tundra, and perhaps some birdwatching. A dilapidated Royal Canadian Mounted Police outpost and remnants of a Hudson's Bay Company trading post can be found here. In the bay, walruses are often present.

Day 8 Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik)

Today we hope to visit Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik), a captivating Inuit community nestled on the northern tip of Baffin Island. Surrounded by towering ice-capped mountains, vast glaciers, and pristine fjords, this remote outpost offers an unparalleled wilderness experience. As you step ashore, you'll be greeted by the warm hospitality of the local Inuit, whose deep connection to the land is evident in their culture and lifestyle. Immerse yourself in their traditions through engaging cultural encounters and gain insights into their unique perspective on life in the Arctic.



Day 9 Feacham Bay, Baffin Island

Tucked away on the eastern shores of Baffin Island, Feacham Bay is a spectacular, pristine corner of the Canadian Arctic that offers incredible wildlife viewing and unforgettable scenic beauty. Surrounded by towering cliffs and deep fjords, this remote bay is often a haven for wildlife, where muskoxen and Arctic foxes roam the rocky shores, and seals haul out on the ice. The crystal-clear waters of the bay are ideal for Zodiac cruises, where you may spot elusive polar bears hunting along the coast or perhaps witness whales feeding in the nutrient-rich waters.

Day 10 At sea

We exit Canada and cross Baffin Bay to Greenland. Find a spot in one of our many observation lounges and enjoy the spectacular surrounding landscapes. Our talented and knowledgeable expedition members will present informative and entertaining talks about the region that you're travelling through.

Days 11-12 Northwest Greenland expedition cruising

Explore the remote northern reaches of West Greenland, where traditional Inuit settlements cling to the rugged coastline and towering icebergs drift through the deep, clear waters. Every day presents new possibilities, guided by your expedition team, who will hunt for the perfect location to explore the stunning fjord systems by Zodiac. Vast fjord systems such as Uummannaq Fjord, offers endless opportunities for adventure, every corner revealing jaw-dropping views, monumental icebergs, and vibrant rock formations that beg to be explored. Whether you're cruising silently through the ice-choked waters, hiking across the colourful tundra, or visiting one of the remote communities that dot the coast, the options for discovery are limitless. Kayakers can paddle among the floating icebergs while keeping an eye out for humpback and minke whales. With the spirit of true expedition cruising, this region invites you to immerse yourself in the untamed beauty of Greenland's northern frontier.

Day 13 Ilulissat

In the afternoon we arrive in Ilulissat. Known as the 'birthplace of icebergs', this region produces some of the most dazzling icebergs found anywhere on Earth. Hike to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Icefjord viewpoint and stand in awe of its immensity. Sermeq Kujalleq, also known as Jakobshavn Glacier, is the most productive glacier - not only in Greenland but the entire Northern Hemisphere. It produces 20 million tonnes of ice each day, all floating into the Ilulissat Icefjord and Disko Bay.

Day 14 Sisimiut

After a morning sailing north towards the Arctic Circle, we arrive in Sisimiut, Greenland's second largest town. Sisimiut is located approximately 54 kilometres (33.5 miles) north of the Arctic Circle, meaning that during summer, you can experience the midnight sun here. The town is famous for the old blue church with the gate made of whale bone. In the cosy museum next door to the church, you will find an excellent reconstruction of an Inuit turf house as well as exhibits of local history and early life in Greenland.

Approximately 4,500 years ago, the Saqqaq culture arrived from Canada and settled in the area. They lived here for approximately 2,000 years, after which they mysteriously disappeared from the area. The Dorset culture arrived around 500 CE and stayed until the 1200s until they were replaced by the Thule culture, and today, the majority of the population of Sisimiut are descendants of the Thule culture.



Day 15 Disembark in Nuuk. Fly to Toronto

Disembark in Nuuk, capital of Greenland, where you say farewell to the crew and expedition team and transfer to the airport for our charter flight to Toronto for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: Westin Toronto Airport Hotel (or similar)

Day 16 Depart Toronto

After breakfast, check out of your room and continue your journey. Make your own way to Toronto Airport with the hotel complimentary shuttle.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: SYLVIA EARLE

YOUR SHIP: **Sylvia Earle**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Sylvia Earle made her inaugural cruise in 2022; she honours the highly accomplished marine biologist, oceanographer and explorer, Sylvia Earle. As the first female chief scientist of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and named by Time Magazine as its first Hero for the Planet in 1998 - this vessel pays tribute to Sylvia's long standing conservation efforts for marine protected areas and ocean wildlife. Sylvia Earle will be actively involved in the development of her namesake. The streamlined Ulstein X-BOW® cuts through the swell so you feel fewer vibrations and disturbances, and makes quicker transits through waves. It also helps reduce fuel consumption by up to 60%^. Experience the Glass Atrium Lounge inside the bow, featuring huge windows and superb views to the front of the ship. In between landings, enjoy the heated saltwater open air swimming pool and jacuzzis on board the Sylvia Earle and watch the world go by, or experience our gym, sauna or enjoy a massage (additional cost) in the Wellness centre. Sylvia Earle carries many Zodiacs, which you can board via four dedicated, sea-level launching platforms. These platforms make boarding the Zodiacs as quick, efficient and safe as possible, minimising wait times and getting you closer to the action for longer. Dining One of the most important parts of any expedition is the food! Whatever adventures the day holds, you will be fuelled-up with hearty meals and delicious morning/afternoon teas cooked by our onboard chefs. Meals are a great time to soak up the expedition camaraderie in our open seating dining area. Share stories with your fellow travellers and ask our expedition team questions that may have come up during the day. Tea, coffee and snacks are available 24 hours a day, and our chefs offer different menu options and courses for each meal. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks included with dinner after a long day in the wild. We also invite you to join your captain and expedition team for informal Captain's Welcome and Farewell drinks, with complimentary beverages and cocktail appetisers, followed by a 3 course meal. Responsible Travel We believe that preserving and protecting the environment is of the utmost importance and this is reflected in several features of the Sylvia Earle. The Sylvia Earle will boast one of the lowest polluting marine engines in the world due to low energy consumption, high fuel-efficiency and a streamlined design to deliver an 80% reduction in emissions. The ship can also utilise virtual anchoring to hold its position using a combination of GPS, steering technology, propellers and thrusters. This protects the sea floor and minimises the damage caused by conventional anchors. Compared to Tier





1 engines.

The Small Cruise Ship Collection
www.small-cruise-ships.com

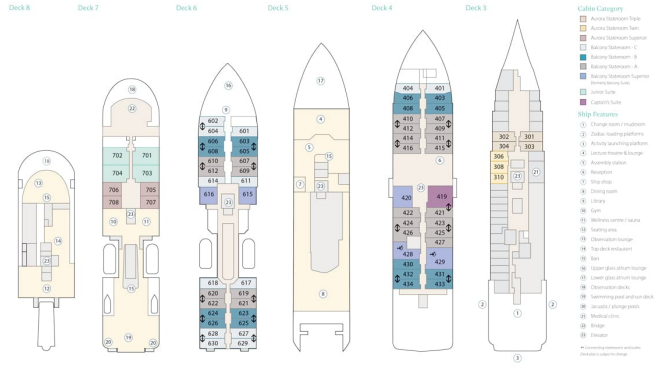
01432 507 280 (within UK)

info@small-cruise-ships.com | **small-cruise-ships.com**



INSIDE YOUR SHIP

The *Sylvia Earle* Deck Plan



Aurora Stateroom Superior



Aurora Stateroom Triple Share



Balcony Stateroom Category A



Balcony Stateroom Category B



Balcony Stateroom Category C



Balcony Stateroom Superior



Captain's Suite



Junior Suite





PRICING

30-Aug-2027 to 14-Sep-2027

Balcony Stateroom Category C	Contact us
Aurora Stateroom Triple Share	£14456 GBP pp
Captain's Suite	£32846 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	£7 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£28796 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	Contact us
Aurora Stateroom Superior	Contact us
Balcony Stateroom Category A	£22046 GBP pp

12-Sep-2027 to 27-Sep-2027

Balcony Stateroom Category A	£19596 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	£18236 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£25596 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior	£16876 GBP pp
Captain's Suite	Contact us
Aurora Stateroom Triple Share	£15516 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	Contact us
Balcony Stateroom Superior	£26748 GBP pp