

THE ARCTIC - THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE 20 DAYS | MS FRAM



TRIP CODE
ACHUNP20
DEPARTURE
30/08/2023
DURATION
20 Days
LOCATIONS
Canadian Arctic, Greenland


INTRODUCTION

We begin in lively Montréal before flying to Cambridge Bay, where our sea expedition into the Northwest Passage begins. We'll spend the next seven days exploring the islands that dot this notoriously difficult territory, which is only navigable for a few weeks of the year. What we see and do will be determined by the sea ice and weather conditions.

You'll see spectacular ice cliffs sculpted by the elements as we sail. Where possible, we'll choose locations for expedition boat cruising with the Expedition Team, such as Gjoa Haven, Fort Ross, Beechey Island, Radstock Bay, Dundas Harbor, and Pond Inlet.

If everything goes as planned, we'll leave the Northwest Passage and cross Baffin Bay to Greenland. You'll spend four days exploring its nature, history, and wildlife, including the breathtaking UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord and Nuuk, the capital. We proceed to Newfoundland and Labrador, where you will see a UNESCO-listed former whaling station in Red Bay and the charming city of Corner Brook. Our expedition cruise concludes in Boston, Massachusetts.

Even if a full transit of the Northwest Passage is not possible due to sea ice, you will still enjoy the raw and remote beauty of the High Arctic, as well as numerous opportunities to spot rare wildlife such as the mighty polar bear.

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ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive & Explore vibrant Montréal

Your expedition cruise begins with an overnight stay in Montréal, the largest city in the beautiful province of Québec. It's a hub of Canadian history and culture, with a cosmopolitan feel and a year-round calendar of events. There's plenty to see and do, from shopping, cuisine and culture to the Basilica of Notre Dame, located among the historic streets of Old Montréal. You'll find a kaleidoscope of colour in the city's Plateau district, and a lively atmosphere in the downtown social hub of Crescent Street. If you'd like to explore more, why not join our optional Pre-Programme, Montréal Sightseeing & Savoir-Vivre Tour, to get a real taste of this unique city in all its glorious colour.



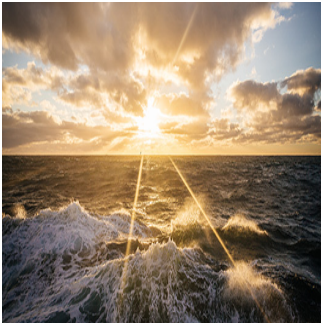
DAY 2: Wildlife of Cambridge Bay

A morning flight from Montréal brings you to wildlife-rich Cambridge Bay. It's home to fewer than 2,000 residents, the Canadian High Arctic Research Station - an important centre for climate change research - and Arctic char, musk oxen and caribou. It's only fitting that your expedition starts here, where Arctic explorers like Roald Amundsen once sheltered before attempting the legendary Northwest Passage. MS Fram will be ready and waiting. Collect your complimentary expedition jacket and meet your Expedition Team, who will talk you through guidelines on protecting wildlife habitats and visiting Arctic communities in a responsible and respectful way.



DAY 3: Sailing across Baffin Bay

Leaving Canada behind, we'll cross the Davis Strait and Baffin Bay to Greenland. Join the Expedition Team for more insightful lectures on your adventures ahead. Topics may include local wildlife, geology, culture, and historic explorers. You can also pick up some photography tips on how to best capture the awe-inspiring scenery all around you. Get your pulse up in the gym or relax in the sauna or one of the outdoor hot tubs. Or just sit back and enjoy the seascape pass you by from the panoramic windows of the Explorer Lounge & Bar.

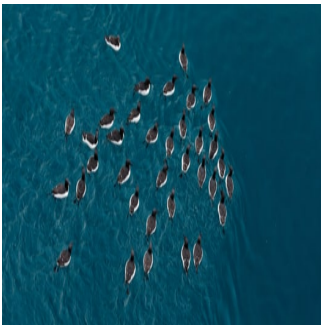


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DAY 11: Sailing across Baffin Bay

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DAY 12: UNESCO-listed Ilulissat

Our expedition cruise reaches Disko Bay – a haven for whales and seals. You’re in for a unique experience. Nestled in magnificent Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is Ilulissat. Against a backdrop of colourful houses is an ever-changing gallery of passing icebergs. Marvel at giant icebergs floating past in the deep blue waters, as they take on different hues of white, grey and blue. With the help of the ship’s photographer, even amateur photographers will be able to capture the nuances of these sculptures of nature.



DAY 13: Spectacular Sisimiut

We reach Sisimiut, Greenland’s second city. It sits in a spectacular location just 25 miles north of the Arctic Circle. This area has history spanning more than 4,500 years. Old traditions are alive and well here, and you can learn more about the ancient Saqqaq artifacts in the local museum. If you're looking for a special souvenir, pick up a scarf, hat or mittens made of qiviut, the inner wool of a musk ox, said to be 10 times warmer than sheep wool. Or why not explore the area by foot and stretch your legs on a hike.



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DAY 14: Colourful Nuuk

Your Northwest Passage expedition cruise continues on to Nuuk, Greenland’s colourful capital. With a population of 18,000, it has a striking mix of old and new buildings. Compare the old buildings – such as Hans Egede House and Nuuk Cathedral – with the ultra-modern architecture of the Parliament of Greenland building. Visit the national museum to gain fascinating insight into life here 500 years ago and see the six Qilakitsoq mummies. Or join a long nature walk through Paradise Valley and around Mt. Lille Malene.



DAY 15: Expedition day

We plan to spend the day experiencing Greenland’s west coast fjords region and its sublime scenery. These fjord landscapes have been carved by ice over millennia. Since conditions can vary, we won't know exactly what's in store until the day itself. Your Captain and Expedition Team will find the best opportunities for adventure. We may take you ashore in our small expedition boats for a hike or launch our kayaks to explore a pretty cove. Be ready for anything!



DAY 16: Crossing the Labrador Sea

Leaving Greenland behind, our expedition cruise continues to Canada across the Labrador Sea. We'll enter the Davis Strait, named after English explorer John Davis, who led expeditions here in the 16th century. The Expedition Team will continue their onboard lectures on topics such as the wildlife of Northern Labrador, Inuit culture and the history of Arctic exploration. The strait is known for its abundance of seals, whales and cod. Why not take part in one of our Citizen Science programme projects, helping photograph and track whales, or observe the clouds to help scientists study our climate by contributing to the GLOBE Program.



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DAY 17: The history of Red Bay

Look out for humpback or minke whales as we approach Red Bay – the very creatures that drew whalers to this harbour in the 17th century. The ice-cold waters around Red Bay hide a number of wrecked chalupas – or small whaling boats – and galleons, making it one of the world's most important underwater archaeological sites. Visit the local museum to see a 26 ft. chalupa and look for whale bones in the protected Red Bay National Historic Site. Why not search for pirate captain Kidd's buried treasure around Tracey Hill; you may not find gold doubloons, but you will be rewarded with a fantastic view.



DAY 18: Classic Corner Brook

We'll follow in Captain James Cook's footsteps as we sail into the Bay of Islands towards the traditional city of Corner Brook. Discover the area's fascinating history and collection of artifacts at the Corner Brook Museum. Take in great views from Crow Hill or take a guided hike along the Corner Brook Stream trail. You can also opt for a visit to Gros Morne National Park and the picturesque Lobster Cove Head lighthouse, which also features a scenic drive. Before we depart, we'll enjoy a performance by local folk music performers and storytellers.



DAY 19: Coming to a close

It's our final day at sea and your cruise with us is fast drawing to a close. You might like to spend this day at sea just fully unwinding from the excitement of the past two weeks. Your thoughts might naturally turn to home, or maybe you'll find that you'll have already left your heart back in one of the special places you've visited. Today will be a good time to spend reflecting on and taking stock of all the wonderful experiences you've had. The Expedition Team will likely be in a similar mood as you, and you can join them as they fondly recap the highlights of the thrilling cruise you've shared together. You'll probably also have a few hundred photos of scenic landscapes, activities, and memories to sift through and sort out!



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DAY 20: Arriving in Boston


Your expedition cruise through the Northwest Passage ends in Boston. One of the major cities of the east coast, this thriving city is a fitting place to end your Northwest Passage experience. Boston’s rich history is infused into its many districts, with grand colonial era buildings intermixing with a thoroughly modern city centre. Discover revolutionary history in abundance or visit some of the world’s most respected and influential universities before you head home.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Cabin on board ship

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Inclusions	<p>INCLUSIONS</p> <p>Overnight in Montréal before the expedition cruise including breakfast Economy flight from Montréal to Cambridge Bay Transfer from the hotel in Montréal to the airport before the expedition cruise Transfer from the airport to the ship in Cambridge Bay before the expedition cruise A stay in a cabin of your choice Breakfast, lunch and dinner including beverages* in Restaurant Aune À la carte restaurant Lindstrøm included for suite guests Complimentary tea and coffee Complimentary Wi-Fi on board Complimentary reusable water bottle to use at water refill stations on board English-speaking Expedition Team who organise and accompany activities on board and ashore In-depth lectures and discussions hosted by experts on the Expedition Team Full use of our Science Center, extensive library and advanced biological and geological equipment Citizen Science programme where you can assist with live scientific research Photography tips and techniques for capturing landscape and wildlife from our onboard professional photographer Use of the ship's hot tubs, panoramic sauna and gym Informal gatherings with the crew for daily briefings Escorted landings with small expedition boats Loan of boots, trekking poles, and all equipment for activities Complimentary wind and water-resistant expedition jacket Expedition photographer on hand to assist you</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS International flights Travel insurance Luggage handling Optional shore excursions with our local partners Optional small-group activities with our Expedition Team Optional treatments in the onboard wellness and spa area Visas Personal expenses Any items not mentioned as included Gratuities for tour guides and drivers</p>	<p>TRIP CODE</p> <p>ACHUNP20</p> <p>DEPARTURE</p> <p>30/08/2023</p> <p>DURATION</p> <p>20 Days</p> <p>LOCATIONS</p> <p>Canadian Arctic, Greenland</p> 
	<p>Difficulty Rating</p> <p>2 (light adventure)</p> <p>Single Surcharge</p> <p>Available upon request</p>	

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Notes	<p>Weather and ice conditions could affect planned activities.</p> <p>Programs and excursions are subject to change. Please make sure you meet all entry and boarding requirements.</p> <p>Contact us for more details.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu’s “Pass it on” programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures’ offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure’s internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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