

# EPIC Northwest Passage

West Greenland to Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

August 18 – 31, 2019

 **WorldwideQuest**  
EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL SINCE 1970



## Dear travellers,

Explore the best of the Arctic on this remarkable expedition cruise: sail from the stark, icy landscapes and colourful fishing villages of West Greenland; cross the Davis Strait to the stunning fjords of Baffin Island; and voyage into the remote Northwest Passage.

Follow in the footsteps of the early Arctic explorers such as Franklin, Amundsen, and Larsen, penetrating the archipelago of islands and channels that create Canada's High Arctic region. Become immersed in the history of exploration as you visit defining sites, hear stories depicting contemporary life, and learn about the consequences of those adventures.

This region is home to the legendary polar bear, muskox, bowhead whale, and walrus, all of which we will search for. All the while, you will be surrounded by fascinating geology and glacial history.

Since 2011, close to 500 Canadian university alumni association travellers have explored Canada's North on this biennial, exclusively chartered voyage. Travelling in the company of some of the very best study leaders from Canadian universities, participants have enjoyed an experience of unprecedented richness. In 2019, we are aboard the *RCGS Resolute*, a purpose-built polar expedition vessel perfectly equipped to guide you on your quest to explore and discover one of the world's most remote and awe-inspiring regions, in comfort and safety.

Some say that Canada's Arctic is our country's best part. Discover these fantastic landscapes and their many layers of meaning, along with a rare chance to visit Greenland too!

**Laurielle Penny and Justin Peter**

Directors, Worldwide Quest and Quest Nature Tours

# OUR TEAM OF STUDY LEADERS INCLUDES:

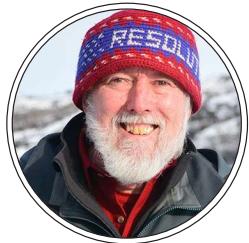
Please be in touch for the full roster of study leaders and experts on board.



**Christoph Richter** is an assistant professor in the department of Biology at University of Toronto Mississauga. A graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland and Otago University in New Zealand, Dr. Richter's research focuses on the impact of human activities - such as fishing, whale watching and oil exploration - on the behaviour of cetaceans. He has taught undergraduate courses on many topics including introductory ecology, animal behaviour, marine mammalogy, and biological diversity.



**John Smol** is the Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change and a professor in the Department of Biology at Queen's University. He studies how ecosystems change over long periods in response to natural and human-induced environmental change with a particular focus on Arctic and alpine ecosystems. For about three decades, he has been leading research in the high Arctic, studying the ecology of polar lakes and ponds and how they have changed.



**John England** is Professor Emeritus of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta. His research spans 53 field seasons and has focused on glacial geology, sea level change, permafrost landscapes and processes, sea ice, and glaciology. A passionate advocate for the protection of the northern environment and for northern science, Dr. England was instrumental in the creation of Canada's northernmost national park, Quttinirpaaq, on Ellesmere Island.



**Catherine LaFarge** is director and curator of the Cryptogamic Herbarium at the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta. Her research in the Arctic has focused on bryophytes (ecological building blocks like mosses and other non-vascular plants), which her team has revived after 400 years in the ice leading to suggestions that they may be ideal as trial balloons for researchers exploring the prospect of survival beyond earth.



**Professor Lee Groat** has been a faculty member at the University of British Columbia since 1989. His main research interests are the geology of gem deposits, pegmatites, the crystal chemistry of minerals, and economic geology. Many of his projects have entailed fieldwork in remote parts of northern Canada. In 2003 Dr. Groat was elected a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America, and in 2009 the new mineral, groatite was named in his honour.



# Expedition Itinerary

## Sunday, Aug. 18: Meet in Ottawa

Participants meet at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel for a briefing and welcome dinner.

## Monday, Aug. 19: Fly to Kangerlussuaq

Depart Ottawa this morning on our charter flight to Kangerlussuaq on the west coast of Greenland. Enjoy a short tour before boarding the ship; then settle in to your cabin and explore the vessel; meet the expedition team and fellow passengers. Excitement is in the air as we cast off and enjoy a welcome cocktail while cruising along Søndre Strømfjord, bound for the fabled Northwest Passage!

## Tuesday, Aug. 20: Sisimiut

Sail into the dramatic fjord behind the town of Sisimiut then go ashore to explore this beautiful location. Characterized by colourful local houses, the town features a towering granite peak as backdrop. We hope to see a demonstration of 'Eskimo rolling' by one of the former Greenland kayak champions and visit the small museum.

## Wednesday, Aug. 21: Ilulissat and the Jacobshavn Icefjord

Today's experience will be all about ice. Truly one of the wonders of the world, the Jacobshavn Icefjord – a UNESCO World Heritage site – spews gigantic tabular icebergs out into Disko Bay. The glacier that creates these stunning monoliths advances at over 40 metres per day, creating something in the order of 50 km<sup>3</sup> of ice annually. Ilulissat was the hometown of Knud Rasmussen, one of Greenland's most famous early explorers.

## Thursday, Aug. 22 – Friday, Aug. 23: Baffin Bay

Set off across Baffin Bay, forging a path along the edges of the ice until we reach the coast of Baffin Island. Our time at sea will be determined by the extent of the ice and the wildlife we encounter. As we transit Baffin Bay, be on the lookout for fin, sperm, sei, and humpback whales as well as the numerous species of Arctic seal and seabird that inhabit these waters. Our university study leaders and expedition team will deliver informative on-board presentations focusing on Arctic wildlife, history, geology, climate, and culture.

## Saturday, Aug. 24: Pond Inlet

Nearing the far north of Baffin Island we enter a broad channel - home to the remote Inuit community of Pond Inlet. A highlight is a visit to the Natinnak Centre, where a fascinating cultural exhibit showcases aspects of daily life, culture, and history of the people of the north. Inuit carvings, jewelry, and other traditional crafts are on display and purchasing such items from the local artisans is a great way to support the community. We enjoy meeting the youth of Pond Inlet and marveling at their athletic abilities as they demonstrate the challenges of traditional Inuit games.

## Sunday, Aug. 25 – Monday, Aug. 26: Lancaster Sound and Devon Island

Leaving the wild landscapes of Baffin Island, we cross Lancaster Sound to Devon Island in the High Arctic. We are now at almost 75° degrees north of latitude. Massive volumes of water from the Atlantic to the east and Pacific to the west and from the archipelago of islands to the north all mix here, combining to make a rich source of nutrients and food for an abundance of Arctic wildlife, living both above and below the water's surface. We plan to visit the old Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) outpost at Dundas Harbour, situated on the southern shores of Devon Island. Muskoxen and Arctic hare are sometimes sighted in the vicinity and there are some great hiking options in the area.



## **Tuesday, Aug. 27: Beechey Island and Prince Leopold Island**

Beechey Island holds great historic importance on our journey through the Northwest Passage. It is here that Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition spent its last 'comfortable' winter in 1845 before disappearing into the icy vastness, sparking an incredible series of search expeditions that would span almost three decades. We plan a trip ashore at Beechey Island to visit the grave markers on a remote windswept beach, a thrilling opportunity for both the history buffs and the uninitiated. We cross the Barrow Strait into Prince Regent Inlet, stopping to view the spectacular bird cliffs at Prince Leopold Island. This is an important migratory bird sanctuary, home to several hundred thousand thick-billed murres, black guillemots, northern fulmars, and black-legged kittiwakes. Given the abundance of food in this vicinity we often sight beluga, narwhal, and bowhead whales here, as well as several seal species and polar bears too.

## **Wednesday, Aug. 28: Fort Ross and Bellot Strait**

Continuing to navigate the ship south into Prince Regent Inlet, we visit the historic site of Fort Ross, a former Hudson's Bay Company fur-trading outpost. Fascinating archaeological sites nearby tell a story of more than a thousand years of habitation by the Inuit and their predecessors. Transit through the narrows of Bellot Strait, aiming to enter at slack tide if possible, in order to avoid a current that roars through the passage at more than seven knots during the peak flow. The mixing of waters in this Strait provides an abundant food source for marine mammals and we keep close watch for harp seals, bearded seals and even polar bears.

## **Thursday, Aug. 29: Coningham Bay**

Emerging from Bellot Strait, we cross the Victoria Strait and arrive at Coningham Bay on the shore of Prince of Wales Island. Here, in the heart of the Northwest Passage, we hope to encounter one of the most remarkable wildlife phenomena in the Arctic; this is a known hotspot for polar bears, which come here to feast on beluga whales often caught in the rocky shallows at the entrance to the bay.

## **Friday, Aug. 30: Victory Point, King William Island**

Heading further into the Northwest Passage, the mystery of Sir John Franklin and his 'lost expedition' begins to unravel. On Victory Point, a lifeboat left abandoned, bits and pieces of copper and iron, cutlery and buttons and a skeleton here and there all tell a story of a desperate race south in search of a rescue that never came. We hope to visit Victory Point and the Victoria Strait, travelling very near the actual location of the wreck of *HMS Erebus*, all the while learning about the quest for exploration that eventually opened up the Arctic. On this, our last night of the expedition, we enjoy a celebratory Farewell Dinner and reflect on our epic voyage.

## **Saturday, Aug. 31: Cambridge Bay to Edmonton**

Our journey is all but complete as we approach the community of Cambridge Bay. This remote outpost is a centre for hunting, trapping, and fishing. The Inuit have had summer camps in the vicinity for hundreds of years. Amundsen spent two winters in this area, learning how to master dog-sledding from the locals prior to his attempt on the South Pole. We say farewell to our crew and make our way ashore by zodiac. A special charter flight returns us to Edmonton.



### **Please note:**

We put safety first and that means weather, ice, wildlife, or other conditions may require us to modify the itinerary as we go. We consider this half the intrigue of Polar exploring. Specific sites visited will depend on ice and weather conditions experienced and the itinerary will be updated throughout the voyage in order to take advantage of favourable conditions. Arctic exploring is not predictable which is one of the many reasons we think it is so special.

# Tour Details

## TRIPLE PRIVATE

Deck 3, 3 single beds (1 converts to seating), small desk, washroom with shower, port holes, 22m<sup>2</sup> | **C\$13495**

## TWIN PRIVATE

Deck 4, 2 single or 1 queen bed, seating area, washroom with shower, small desk, window, 22m<sup>2</sup> | **C\$16868**

## SUPERIOR

Deck 5 forward, 2 single or 1 queen bed, seating area, washroom with shower, small desk, window, 22m<sup>2</sup> | **C\$18995**

## SUPERIOR PLUS

Deck 5 mid-ship, 2 single or 1 queen bed, seating area, washroom with shower, small desk, window, 22m<sup>2</sup> | **C\$19345**

## SHACKLETON SUITE

Deck 6, 2 single or 1 queen bed, upgraded linens, seating area, washroom with shower, small desk, window, 22m<sup>2</sup> | **C\$21245**

## ONE OCEAN SUITE

Deck 6, 1 queen bed, upgraded linens, large seating area, large desk, washroom with shower + tub, 44m<sup>2</sup> | **C\$23595**

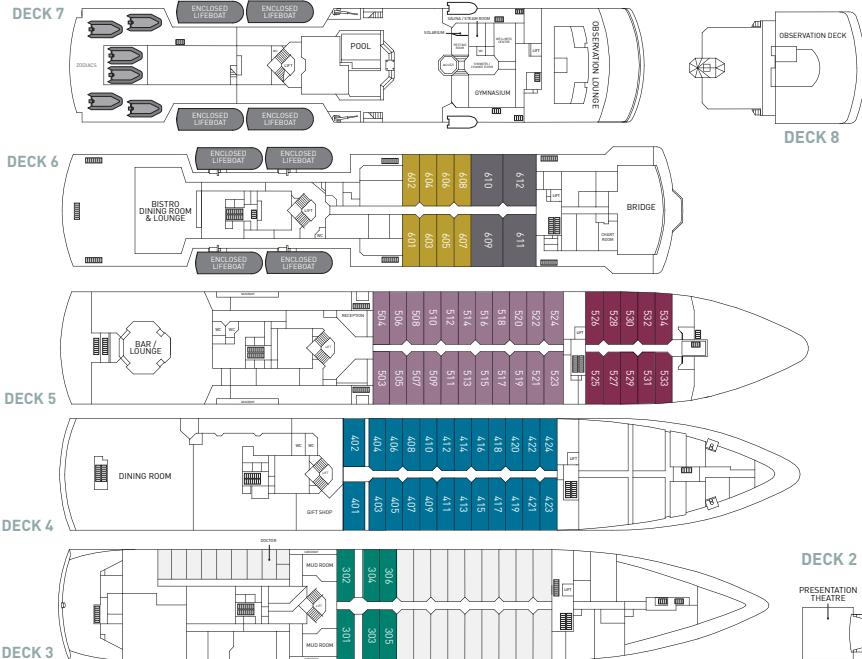
**Plus roundtrip charter flights:** C\$2600 per person

**Note:** HST does not apply as this is an international voyage.

**Tour Cost Includes:** Accommodation for one pre-expedition night in Ottawa, based on double occupancy; accommodation in selected cabin, based on double occupancy; all meals; complimentary soft drinks, house wine, house beer, and house spirits; all excursions and landings; all community visits; all on board activities; full program of on-board presentations by our study leaders; port dues and taxes; transfers from hotel to airport in Ottawa; complimentary use of "All Weather Gear" (gumboots, waterproof jacket and pants, dry bag).

## Not Included:

Charter flights: Ottawa to Kangerlussuaq and Cambridge Bay to Edmonton (C\$2600); airfare from your home to Ottawa and from Edmonton to your home; items of a personal nature; ship board expenses; gratuities on board (suggested: C\$15 – C\$20 per person per day); travel insurance; any item not mentioned in "included features".



**Group size:** Maximum 100 participants

**Payment Details:** A non-refundable deposit of C\$2500 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A second deposit of C\$2500 plus charter airfare is required nine months prior to departure. Final payment is due four months prior to departure.

**Guaranteed Single Accommodation:** If you wish to have guaranteed single accommodation, the single supplement for this trip is 1.5 times the per person cost of twin cabins and 2 times the per person cost for suites. If you are travelling alone and you are willing to share, we will try to match you up with an appropriate roommate. If we can't, the single cost will apply. This will be collected at 90 days prior to departure.

**Travel Documents:** You will require a valid passport.

## RCGS Resolute Specifications

Launched:	1993
Shipyard:	Rauma, Finland
Length:	122.8 metres
Beam:	18 metres
Speed (Max):	15 knots
Zodiac Boats:	14
Electrical Supply:	220 Volts/European Pin
Ice Class:	Lloyds 1AS

### Special Features:

- Outer decks with 360° viewing platforms perfect for wildlife watching, photography, birding and appreciating the expansive Arctic views
- Forward and aft observation lounges and bars
- Wellness Centre with massage therapy, Finnish Sauna, steam room, well-equipped gym
- Well-appointed theatre style presentation room
- Six different cabin categories with expansive panoramic windows
- All cabins with private bathrooms
- Two dining rooms – bistro for light options and full dining room plus outdoor seating

## What To Expect

### Level of Activity: Moderate

This voyage is suitable for any person who is in reasonable health and who has the capability of getting in and out of Zodiacs with close assistance from competent sailors and expedition crew members.

### Weather

Daytime temperatures during our expedition will range from 5° – 8°C with an average of 16 hours of sunlight daily.

### Sea Kayaking

If you have had some previous experience, you can sign up for a kayaking experience through some of the world's most beautiful polar scenery. This great optional activity includes your guide, kayaks, paddles, life jackets, dry suits and an accompanying safety kayak and zodiac. Please ask us for details.

### Shore Walks

Walking the land is the best way to appreciate the immense landscapes of the Middle and High Arctic. In August, the tundra is alive with colourful wildflowers, mosses, and lichen. At each of our landing sites there are options for walks; an invigorating hike across the tundra; a more leisurely exploration with a naturalist or photographer; or a contemplative wander with a historian. Our study leaders are here alongside us to complement our learning.

### Zodiac Cruising

During our expedition, we will visit remote sites only accessible by Zodiac. We will also use our 14 person Zodiacs to cruise narrow fjords and to explore the floe edge on the lookout for wildlife.

### On Board

You are welcome to spend time on the bridge – an excellent vantage point for spectacular views and to observe the officers navigating the ship. Evening recap sessions review wildlife sightings and let you ask questions of our on board experts. Daily presentations by study leaders from the Canadian university community will address a range of topics including history, the environment, geology, marine biology, ornithology, flora and fauna, and contemporary issues in the Arctic.



Forward Lounge



Bistro



Shackleton Suite

# Reserve Your Spot Now

Please contact Worldwide Quest for more information and to book your expedition.

**Toll-free 1-800-387-1483 / Local 416-633-5666** | [travel@worldwidequest.com](mailto:travel@worldwidequest.com)

**Visit [WorldwideQuest.com](http://WorldwideQuest.com) today.**

*Worldwide Quest and One Ocean Expeditions offer a paid internship position to students in the Environmental Technology Program at Nunavut Arctic College. Past participants have enjoyed learning from Nunavut students who are NLCA Beneficiaries. The photo on this page was taken by Angulalik Pedersen, a past intern.*

## Early Booking Bonus

Book by October 1, 2018  
to earn a C\$500 per person  
charter flight credit!



Gyrfalcon, memorial at Beechey Island



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