

## Arctic

### BAFFIN ISLAND & GREENLAND

#### Why join this Voyage?

- Travel up the coast of Baffin Island through seldom visited and uninhabited wildlife refuges, hoping to see polar bears, walrus and seals, along with prolific birdlife
- Crossing the Davis Strait to Greenland and pass some of the world's largest and most active glaciers in Disko Bay, visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ilulissat Icefiord and Jakobshaven Glacier
- Travel aboard the comfortable 96 passenger *Akademik Ioffe*, with an emphasis on customer care, offering many adventure activities and accompanied by enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff



#### Trip Summary

A cruise combining the Canadian Arctic's Baffin Island and the west coast of Greenland. This voyage hugs the coast of southern Baffin Island before heading across Baffin Bay to Greenland UNESCO World Heritage site Jacobshaven Icefjord which calves huge chunks of ice into Disko Bay. This is an infrequently visited area of the Arctic where you can appreciate the immense scale of the ice and fjordlands.

This voyage gives a great overview of the Inuit cultures of both Canada and Greenland, visiting both ancient and modern villages along with Viking sites. You can hope to encounter a wide variety of Arctic wildlife and birdlife including guillemots, kittiwakes, whales, seals, musk Ox and polar bear.

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## Itinerary



### Day 1 London Heathrow/ Ottawa

Fly from London Heathrow to Ottawa, overnight.

### Day 2 Ottawa/Iqaluit

Fly from Ottawa to Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, located at the head of Frobisher Bay, on Baffin Island. Board your expedition vessel by zodiac.

### Day 3 Monumental Island

Sail from Frobisher Bay and turn north along the coast of Baffin Island. Monumental Island is part of a small group of islands south of the Lady Franklin Group and is a great place to find gyrfalcon, peregrine falcon, polar bear and walrus.

### Day 4 Pangnirtung

Nestled in the heart of Cumberland Sound and the gateway to Auyuittuq National Park, Pangnirtung is beautifully situated between the mountains and the sea. The Angmarlik Visitor Centre has a wonderful interpretive display featuring the lifestyle of the Thule and of the modern Inuit.



### Day 5 Cape Mercy

Cape Mercy is an exposed headland jutting out into Davis Strait, the stretch of Baffin coast from Cape Mercy to Cape Dyer is a great place to find polar bears.

### Day 6 Baffin Bay

Crossing of Baffin Bay: Time at sea will be determined by the extent of the ice and amount of wildlife. Pilot whales, as well as numerous species of Arctic seal and seabirds abound in Baffin Bay. Approaching the Greenland coast, you will start to see icebergs calved from the mighty glaciers of Greenland.



### Day 7 Uummannaq Fjord, (Greenland)

Visit the town of Uummannaq after sailing into spectacular Uummannaq Fjord, full of sculpted and castellated icebergs. The town of Uummannaq is set at the base of a cliff on a small island often surrounded by large icebergs. Whales are often seen in this region.



### Day 8 Ilulissat and Jacobshavn Icefjord

One of the wonders of the world, the Jacobshavn Icefjord spews massive tabular icebergs out into Disko Bay. Ilulissat was the hometown of Knud Rasmussen, one of Greenland's most famous explorers and anthropologists, born here in 1879.

### Day 9 Qeqertarsuaq (Disko Island)

Qeqertarsuaq, an island in Disko Bay, is a site of both geologic and historic interest. A possible summer fishing camp for the Viking colonists in Greenland, mineral deposits containing native iron and hot springs are all part of its allure.



### Day 10 Sisimiut

Explore the fjord behind the town of Sisimiut before visiting the town itself.

### Day 11 Kangerlussuaq (Sondre Stromfjord)/ Disembarkation/ Ottawa

One of the world's longest fjords, Sondre Stromfjord cuts into the interior of Greenland. Disembark here and transfer to the airport for the flight to Ottawa.

### Day 12 Ottawa/ London

Fly from Ottawa back to London Heathrow on the overnight flight.

## The Boat

**Akademik Ioffe**  
Capacity: 96 passengers



The Akademik Ioffe, was built in Finland for the Russian Academy of Science in 1988-89. As the pride of the Russian scientific fleet, this ship boasts state-of-the-art technology, having been designed to be exceptionally stable, manoeuvrable, fast and quiet.

Retaining an authentic expeditionary feel, the cabins range from triples with upper and lower berths & shared bathroom facilities, twins with facilities shared between two cabins, through to the spacious suites. All cabins have either (two opening) portholes or a picture window, along with a sofa and desk and ample space for equipment and storage. Onboard there is a dining room with unreserved seating, a well stocked library, a small gym, sauna and plunge pool, a bar and lounge, a spacious passenger bridge and map room along with plenty of deck space for wildlife viewing.

There are two presentation rooms where the expeditionary staff will give informal lectures on the regions, wildlife and its history. There is also a multi media centre that can be used to download digital images and to burn CD's.

The ship carries a large fleet of zodiacs for landings and exploratory cruising, along with a selection of single and double kayaks for optional activities. Parka jackets, over trousers and wellington boots are available on loan during the voyage.

## 2012 Expedition Date

2<sup>nd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> August

## Guide Prices for 2012

**Cabin Type** (price quoted per person)

Triple shared facilities	£4,025
Twin semi private facilities	£4,875
Twin private facilities	£5,750
Superior	£6,400
Shackleton Suite	£7,050
One Ocean Suite	£7,725

Please note that these prices are guide prices and subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

### Includes

- 11 day expeditionary voyage on full board basis with lectures and guided excursions
- Comprehensive pre trip information
- Post voyage expedition log and photographs
- Loan of wellington boots and waterproof clothes for duration of the voyage
- All port duties

### Excludes

- International flights into Iqaluit and returning from Kangerlussuaq (Sondre Stromfjord)
- Any pre or post voyage hotel accommodation
- Gratuities, laundry and drinks onboard ship
- Medical insurance (mandatory)
- Fuel Surcharge, if levied by the ships operator

## Want to discuss this trip?



Please call **Sue** on **01285 880981** for more details or to check boat availability

Having spent the best part of 5 years on my "gap year" working in travel seemed the natural progression. I am most at home travelling to remote wilderness areas of the globe, with a passion for wildlife I love to get up close either by kayak or on foot. My travels have taken me to all seven continents. Most recently to Antarctica, Spitsbergen, Russia and the Canadian Arctic, the Amazon, Baja California and the Yukon. I hope to go in search of Grizzly Bears in Alaska next.

Sue is Country Director for Steppes Voyages  
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