Itinerary

14 Day Discovering Greenland: From Reykjavík to Nuuk Cruise

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Reykjavík, Iceland ~ Embark Ship

Your adventure begins in Reykjavík, the world's northernmost capital – a charming city that effortlessly blends art, culture, and history. Stroll along Laugavegur, the main shopping street lined with boutiques and outdoor stores, admire the striking architecture of Hallgrímskirkja Church, and visit the engaging Reykjavík Art Museum. For those arriving with extra time, consider joining a Pre-Programme to explore some of Iceland's stunning natural highlights before embarking on your voyage.

Later in the day, make your way to the pier where your expedition ship, the MS Fridtjof Nansen, awaits. After embarking, settle into your cabin and take some time to get familiar with the ship's modern facilities. Before setting sail, attend the mandatory safety briefing and enjoy the growing anticipation of the Arctic adventure ahead.

MEALS: Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 2-3: Crossing the Denmark Strait

We set sail from Reykjavík, crossing the Denmark Strait on our way to Greenland – retracing the storied route of Erik the Red, the legendary Viking explorer credited as the first European to settle here. Keep watch from the ship's panoramic decks, as whales are sometimes spotted on this iconic crossing.

During these two days at sea, you'll have ample opportunity to discover the ship's inviting facilities and mingle with fellow travellers. The Expedition Team will host engaging presentations covering the protocols for respectfully visiting Greenland's pristine nature and Indigenous Arctic communities. This is also the ideal time to book excursions and perhaps learn a few words of Greenlandic ahead of our arrival.

Above all, these days are for relaxing and adjusting to expedition life. Savour delicious meals served in the onboard restaurants, attend fascinating lectures, and unwind in comfort as excitement builds for our Greenland adventure ahead – or Kalaallit Nunaat, as it's known locally.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 4-7: South Greenland

Prepare to dive straight into adventure as we embrace four days of full expedition mode, navigating the maze of fjords, channels, and islands in Greenland's dramatic southern region. The itinerary here is dictated by local weather and ice conditions but rest assured—our Captain and Expedition Team have deep knowledge of these waters and will guide us to the most unforgettable spots.

Our landings, excursions, and activities are designed to showcase the very best of southern Greenland: from visits to ancient Norse ruins and majestic fjords shimmering with sculpted icebergs, to community stops in scenic settlements. You might walk the colourful streets of Qaqortoq, pause by its tranquil lake, explore Erik the Red's historic farm at Brattahlíð, and marvel at the sheer scale and beauty of the dramatic mountainous landscapes.

South Greenland's towering mountain ranges rise above lush meadows and intricate fjords—a landscape shaped by ice and time over billions of years. Norse settlers founded communities here more than a thousand years ago, but abandoned them after four centuries due to the region's challenging conditions. Today, in this immense and sparsely populated wilderness, you'll experience a peace and tranquillity rarely found elsewhere. Relax, soak up the pristine nature, and deepen your understanding of what makes this part of the world truly special.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 8-10: Southwest Greenland

Journeying north along Greenland's rugged west coast, we traverse one of the wildest and most remote regions in the Arctic. The vast spaces between scattered settlements are defined by dramatic topography: high mountains draped in ice, deep turquoise fjords, and only a handful of inside passages, making travel here a true challenge and adventure playground for explorers.

Adapting our route to local conditions, we'll explore the landscapes known as Mellembygden—the Middle Settlement once inhabited by Norse settlers. One highlight is the hunt for the ghostly mining town of Ivittuut, where the rare mineral cryolite was extracted but where today only shy musk oxen roam among the abandoned buildings.

We'll sail into striking glacier-carved fjords, their sheer walls and cascading ice telling the story of millennia of natural transformation. Wildlife thrives in these isolated realms; join the Expedition Team for wildlife watches on board or during landings, keeping an eye out for seabirds, nesting colonies, and whales feeding in the icy waters. With a bit of luck, you may even spot one of West Greenland's elusive musk ox herds.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 11-12: Nuuk Fjord

Be on the lookout for both wildlife and history as we venture into the grand fjord system surrounding Nuuk, known locally as Nuup Kangerlua. Here, a network of interconnected waterways fans out beneath the Kangiussap Nunaa peninsula and the mighty ice cap—most notably at the spectacular Nuuk Isfjord.

This area marks the northernmost point reached by Norse settlers in the Middle Ages, forming the legendary Western Settlement. It's believed that it was in Nuup Kangerlua where Viking descendants first encountered the Thule people, giving these fjords immense historical significance.

Scattered throughout the region are ancient Norse ruins and small Inuit settlements; some, like the picturesque Qornoq, have been abandoned, while others, such as Kapisillit, continue to thrive, home to just 88 residents. Although Nuuk is nearby, the communities along Nuup Kangerlua were as isolated as any in Greenland until quite recently.

Over the next two days—weather and ice permitting—we'll explore this intriguing fjord system, admiring the ever-shifting mountain scenery. The itinerary may include reaching the icy headwaters of Nuup Kangerlua and visiting one of the settlements. Throughout, we'll pursue opportunities for nature landings, expedition boat cruising, and wildlife watching, all while immersing ourselves in the wild spirit and vivid history of the region.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen

Day 13: Nuuk, Greenland ~ Disembark Ship ~ Reykjavik, Iceland

Get acquainted with Greenland's small but vibrant capital as we conclude our voyage in Nuuk. After bidding a fond farewell to the ship, crew, and Expedition Team, you'll find the city positively bustling compared to the remote places we've explored—though with fewer than 20,000 residents, it remains far from a metropolis.

Explore the National Museum to delve into Greenland's history and culture, including the remarkable 500-year-old Qilakitsoq mummies. Take time to browse the city's shops—plentiful by Greenlandic standards—and enjoy the cosy cafes and local restaurants. If your schedule allows before your flight home, Nuuk offers a compelling glimpse into modern Greenlandic life, set against a backdrop of stunning natural scenery.

From here, you'll board your flight back to Reykjavík, carrying with you treasured memories and unforgettable experiences from your Arctic adventure.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: 4 Star Hotel, Reykjavik

Day 14: Depart Reykjavík

Enjoy another day in Iceland's stylish capital as your adventure wraps up in Reykjavík. With some extra time before heading home, take the opportunity to explore more of the city's vibrant culture, art, and history. Wander through its creative neighbourhoods, visit local museums and galleries, or relax in one of the city's charming cafes.

If you wish to discover more, consider joining our optional Post-Programme for guided experiences, or simply extend your stay to enjoy Reykjavík's abundant geothermal attractions and scenic surroundings at your own pace.

MEALS: Breakfast