

The Leader in Polar Adventures

ARCTIC 2024

SPITSBERGEN IN DEPTH

Big Island, Big Adventure

POLAR EXPEDITION

REXPEDITION

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Photos captured with a telephoto lens from a responsible distance, following regulatory/AECO guidelines.



Overview

Spitsbergen in Depth: Big Island, Big Adventure

This 14-day journey offers the most extensive exploration of Spitsbergen in the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, including the opportunity to witness iconic Arctic wildlife like walrus, reindeer and polar bears, a glimpse into 16th-century maritime culture at secluded landing sites, and the rare chance to appreciate breathtaking views at the birdwatching utopias 14th of July Glacier and Alkefjellet. If conditions allow, we will also attempt a full circumnavigation of the archipelago during this memorable voyage, including a visit to the remote, uninhabited polar deserts of Nordaustlandet.

The wildlife-viewing opportunities on this trip will leave you with plenty of memories and photos: the walrus with its long tusks and distinctive whiskers; Arctic birds in all their varied majesty; small herds of reindeer loping across the tundra; and that most iconic of Arctic creatures, the polar bear, as it roams the edges of the pack ice. Shore excursions by Zodiac will enable you to set foot in places few humans have. This voyage truly is the big adventure you've been waiting for.

EXPEDITION IN BRIEF



Encounter iconic Arctic wildlife, such as polar bears, walrus and reindeer

View numerous Arctic bird species, like puffins, Arctic terns and purple sandpipers



Take advantage of continuous daylight Explore glaciers, fjords, icebergs and more with included Zodiac cruising



Immerse yourself in the icy realm of the Arctic with optional kayaking adventures

Hike the tundra and polar desert



Itinerary

DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN HELSINKI, FINLAND

Your Arctic adventure begins in Helsinki, renowned for its extraordinary architecture and intriguing mix of eastern and western influences. If you arrive early, explore the many museums, galleries and restaurants, relax at a Finnish sauna or wander the vibrant Design District before retiring at your included hotel.

DAY 2 | FLY TO LONGYEARBYEN, SVALBARD & EMBARK

This morning, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen's largest settlement. As your ship sets sail, enjoy your first view of the island's rugged, glacier-topped mountains rising majestically from frigid waters.

DAYS 3 - 13 | EXPLORING SPITSBERGEN

Expect a new adventure every day as we begin our journey by heading north and around the island of Spitsbergen, exploring smaller, outlying islands. We plan to circumnavigate Spitsbergen, but if conditions are favorable, we will also attempt a larger circumnavigation of the archipelago, including many of the outer islands in the Svalbard archipelago. Every expedition will be different, depending on the weather and ice, but some of the places we may visit include the 14th of July Glacier, Ny-London, Phippsøya, Alkefjellet and the seldom-visited Kvitøya.

These names may seem strange to you, but each site has its own unique appeal. There is no shortage of natural



SPITSBERGEN IN DEPTH: Big Island, Big Adventure Onboard the Ocean Adventurer Flights to/from Helsinki beauty in Spitsbergen, where colorful tundra meadows are complemented by immense glaciers. For birders, 14th of July Bay is home to puffins, purple sandpipers, black-legged kittiwakes, pink-footed geese, and barnacle geese, while Alkefjellet's cliffs are teeming with nesting Brünnich's guillemots (thickbilled murres).

Always on the lookout for wildlife, be sure to have your camera ready to capture reindeer when we visit sites like Ny-London, Sundneset and Alkhornet. Searching for the iconic polar bear is a constant activity for your Expedition Team. Phippsøya and Isbukta are often home to sea ice, the bears' preferred habitat for hunting, which translates into great potential for you to view and capture them in action. A big part of appreciating Spitsbergen comes from understanding the history not just how people live today, but also how this land was first explored. Whaling was a key industry, and you will see remains of outposts from the 16th century, plus other evidence of whaling at landing sites such as Smeerenburg.

DAY 14 | DISEMBARK IN LONGYEARBYEN & FLY TO HELSINKI

Your adventure ends in the frontier-style settlement of Longyearbyen. From here, we'll transfer you to the airport for your return group charter flight to Helsinki, included in the transfer package.

EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice, wildlife, and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you may experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife encounters as described are expected, but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not guaranteed.





Arrival and Departure Details

As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested in your arrival and departure details. Since international air transportation is not included in the cost of your expedition, you have some flexibility in planning your flights. Looking to extend your adventure beyond your polar expedition? On page 13, learn how to add on a pre- or post-expedition stop—or both!—in Helsinki or a nearby region of your choice.

Arrival Day and Embarkation

ARRIVING IN HELSINKI

You may arrive in Helsinki at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary. Your included accommodation will be at the airport hotel, so arrival transfers are not necessary. On arrival at the hotel, you will receive a welcome letter outlining the departure information for the following day's flight. An agent representing Quark Expeditions[®] will be available in the lobby of the hotel that evening to answer any questions about the charter flight(s) scheduled for the following morning.

LONGYEARBYEN AND EMBARKATION

Upon arrival in Longyearbyen (Day 2 of your itinerary), you will be transferred from the airport to a drop off point to have some free time to explore this historic town. Your luggage will be taken directly to the ship, and later you will be transferred from the designated meeting point to the pier. Details of ship transfer times will be provided during your arrival transfer. Due to port logistics, it is possible that you may need to board the vessel by Zodiac, rather than from the pier.



PLEASE NOTE

There is a strict luggage limit of 50 lbs (23 kg) checked luggage and 18 lbs (8 kg) cabin baggage on the flights between Helsinki and Longyearbyen. Should you have additional luggage, it can be stored at the hotel in Helsinki. There is NO option to pay for additional luggage.

Final Day and Departure

DISEMBARKATION IN LONGYEARBYEN AND ONWARD

Your voyage is scheduled to end back in Longyearbyen between 7am and 8am local time. After breakfast, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour and due to port logistics, may involve one last Zodiac ride to the pier. After disembarkation, you'll be transferred to the central shopping area in Longyearbyen, and if you've chosen to continue your time in Svalbard, you will be dropped off at your hotel. If you've purchased the transfer package, your luggage will be transferred to the airport while you enjoy some free time in town. Later you will be transferred to the airport by bus to pick up your luggage and check in for our return charter flight.

DEPARTING FROM HELSINKI

Upon arrival in Helsinki, you may connect directly with your onward flight. Scheduled charter flight times will appear in your final documents, and any additional updates will be communicated on board prior to disembarkation.

Included Hotel Accommodations

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated in your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day and would like help booking a pre- or poststay, please contact your Polar Travel Adviser or travel professional for hotel options. As accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

HELSINKI AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival and departure transfers in Helsinki are not included in the expedition. Your first night's included accommodation will be provided at the airport hotel, so please make your way to the lobby for check-in when you arrive. The voyage concludes on arrival at the Helsinki airport; if you require a transfer to the city, a Polar Travel Adviser or your travel professional can arrange one for you.

If you are flying home right away, you will most likely be able to board a connecting flight on the same day. Please be sure to allow three hours between our charter arrival and your international departure.









Your Ship

Quark Expeditions[®] boasts the largest polar-class fleet of any polar operator, and the ability to offer you this incredible voyage on one of our ice strengthened vessels.

The entire Quark Expeditions® fleet is built for challenging polar environments, allowing us to take you to places ordinary cruise companies wouldn't dream of going.



OCEAN ADVENTURER

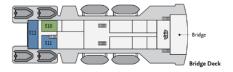
Ocean Adventurer has long been a fleet favorite among guests and crew who've appreciated the charm of this nimble vessel, its ample outdoor deck space, numerous cozy spots to socialize onboard, the outdoor jacuzzi and, of course, the intimacy of a 128-passenger vessel. In 2017, *Ocean Adventurer* underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation including a refreshed look and feel throughout, plus a completely remodeled lounge, dining room and bar. All cabins received brand new bathroom facilities. Six new deluxe cabins, as well as three new suites, were also added. Major technical enhancements featured two new Rolls-Royce engines, which yield increased speed and fuel efficiency, and a minimized carbon footprint.

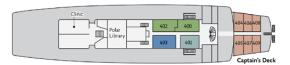
SHIP SPECIFICATIONS:

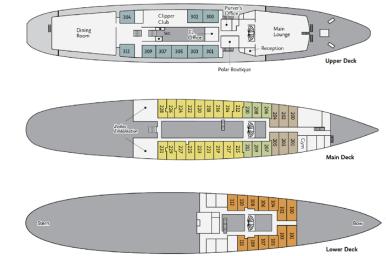
Staff & Crew: 87 Guests: 128 Lifeboats: 4, partially enclosed Ice Class: 1A *Visit QuarkExpeditions.com to view deck plan details.*













Included Activities

Ready for a little adventure beyond your ship? Each Quark Expeditions[®] voyage offers a variety of recreational activities to enhance your polar experience.

ZODIAC CRUISING

Zodiacs are the workhorses of polar expeditions, taking you to places the ships can't access, allowing you to reach remote shorelines, explore shallow inlets and search for wildlife. Expedition staff make stepping in and out of them safe and comfortable, and your Zodiac drivers will provide active interpretation, making the landscape come even more alive.

THIKING

Led by experienced staff, exploring on foot is one of the best ways to appreciate the polar landscapes. Our guides are able to accommodate a range of skill levels to suit every guest.

PRESENTATIONS

Enjoy daily chats with and presentations by our world-class onboard polar experts—expedition guides, specialists, photography guides and other special guests who will introduce you to the fascinating history, biology, ornithology, glaciology and geology of the region, and much, much more.

POLAR PLUNGE

This rite of passage, scheduled only once per expedition, gives you the chance to jump safely into the bracing Arctic waters under the watchful eye of our staff—and just about every single camera on board!

O PHOTOGRAPHY

Documenting your voyage so you can take the memories home is a rewarding experience. Our photography guide will help you hone your skills to capture the beauty of the polar regions. Contact your Polar Travel Adviser or your Travel Professional for more information about your Included Activities and Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost.





Adventure Options



PLEASE NOTE

For all paid activities pre-booking is required. We recommend booking early as spaces fill quickly. Please see your pre-departure book for a list of provided gear for each Adventure Option.

SEA KAYAKING

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers. Our Sea Kayaking program is a great way to intimately explore your surroundings. A small group of kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage as an alternative to shore landings or Zodiac cruises.

The number of opportunities to kayak is weather dependent, and will be conducted only during calm conditions. Prior kayaking experience is required, and you must be able to do a wet exit to participate. Beginners interested in kayaking should consider participating in the Paddling Excursion.

X PADDLING EXCURSION

If you're interested in kayaking but would like to try something a bit less demanding than Sea Kayaking, you're the perfect candidate to sign up for a one-time paddle on our stable sit-ontop kayaks—perfect for anyone with minimal or no kayaking experience. Small groups of passengers will be taken out on calm days, with our expert guides always present to provide instruction and help you connect with the polar sea. Two groups of 10 will be pre-booked, and once successfully completed, any subsequent outings will be offered via lottery on board.



Dates

Spitsbergen in Depth: Big Island, Big Adventure

OCEAN ADVENTURER

Dates	Days	Start / End	÷.	×
ARCTIC 2024			Sea Kayaking	Paddling Excursion
JUL 10 - 23, 2024	14	Helsinki	\$	\$
ARCTIC 2023				
JUL 7 - 20, 2023	14	Helsinki	\$	\$

\$ Paid Activities



Inclusions and Exclusions

Inclusions

RATES INCLUDE:

- Leadership throughout your voyage by our experienced Expedition Leaders, including shore landings and other activities
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising as per the daily program
- All shore landings as per the daily program
- · Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage (Please inform us of any dietary requirements as far in advance as possible. Unfortunately, the ships' galleys cannot prepare kosher meals.)
- Select beer and wine during dinner; and coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock

- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled
- A photographic journal documenting the expedition
- A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions
- An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Emergency Evacuation insurance for all passengers to a maximum benefit of USD \$500,000 per person
- Transfers between Longyearbyen town center and port on embarkation and disembarkation day

Exclusions

RATES SPECIFICALLY DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Mandatory Transfer Package*
- International airfare
- Arrival and departure transfers in Helsinki
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned
- Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified
- Phone and Internet charges (connectivity may vary by location)
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew
- Additional overnight accommodation
- Adventure Options not listed in Included
 Activities

*MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- $\,\cdot\,$ One night's pre-expedition hotel night at Helsinki airport hotel, with breakfast
- Charter flight from Helsinki to Longyearbyen
- + Arrival and departure transfers in Longyearbyen
- $\cdot\,$ Charter flight from Longyearbyen to Helsinki

PACKAGE PRICE: \$995 USD



Your Expedition Team

Our Expedition Leaders and their teams bring diverse expertise in subjects as varied as polar history, marine biology, glaciology, ornithology and photography. Their knowledge and enthusiasm will greatly enhance your immersion into the polar environment and further deepen your connection to the Arctic.

With over 30 years of experience bringing passengers to remote polar regions and an industry-leading staff-to-guest ratio, we know how to safely handle the unexpected. Ensuring this hard earned experience is passed on, our expedition staff receive comprehensive training in Quark Academy, which provides hands-on polar expedition training prior as part of our onboarding process as well as ongoing training for experienced staff.









FROM TOP: Kanavaranta Street; Helsinki's Fortress of Sveaborg; Museum of Finland

Extend Your Trip

PRE- AND POST-EXPEDITION TRIP EXTENSIONS

You can extend your trip by booking extra days to explore other northern cities before or after the voyage. If you're traveling such a long way, you may want to spend extra time in Helsinki. Immerse yourself in Finland's capital with a visit to Helsinki's National Museum of Finland where you can learn about the country's history. Then tour the Fortress of Sveaborg before taking in the panoramic views of historic Kanavaranta Street.

To discover the best options for extending your adventure, get in touch with your Travel Professional or a Polar Travel Adviser for seamless, worry-free booking of all trip extensions.



Meals on Board

If there is one constant on board, it is that you'll enjoy delicious meals daily. While meal times may change due to landings and wildlife encounters, you'll always be served three well-prepared meals per day. Most dietary restrictions can be accommodated by letting us know prior to your expedition.

Breakfasts and lunches are normally served buffet style, while dinners are served plated. À la carte meals are made at the time of your order, allowing our chefs to prepare each dish to your individual needs, ensuring you receive top-quality meals during the course of your expedition.

Soft drinks and juices are available during meals and when the bar is open; beer and wine are served with dinner; and coffee, tea and water stations are available around the clock – all included in the cost of your package. Spirits, premium wines and champagne are available at extra cost which can be billed to your shipboard account. The well-stocked bars on the ship are open to enjoy with your fellow shipmates in late morning, afternoon and evening.





Possible Excursions

When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. The following sites are a sample of what you may experience on your expedition, whether by ship, Zodiac cruise, or shore landing.

Spitsbergen

This cliff is a seabird colony, where Brünnich's guillemots (thick-billed murres) raise their young. An estimated 60,000 breeding pairs reside on the basalt cliffs. The birds do not build nests; rather, they lay eggs on the bare ledges of the cliff. Witness the spectacle of thousands of birds flying to and from their cliff edge, speckling the sky and water, like a beehive on a much grander scale.

DISKOBUKTA

This bay on the west shore of Edgeøya affords a landing site with a box canyon where black-legged kittiwakes raise their young. Arctic foxes have been seen combing the canyon floor to feed on scraps that have fallen from the nests above. Watch for the bones of ancient North Atlantic right whales—evidence that the land is rebounding since the last major glaciation.

ISBUKTA

On the eastern shore of the southern tip of Svalbard is Isbukta, which means 'Ice Bay.' Arctic terns, skuas and bearded seals inhabit the bay. Polar bears are known to patrol the area as well.



KVITØYA

The western part of this island is only 39 miles (62 km) from Victoria Island in Franz Josef Land, which is part of the Russian Arctic. By this definition, this remote outpost is technically closer to the Russian Arctic than it is to Nordaustlandet (50 miles/81 km), though Victoria Island is geologically and geographically part of the Svalbard archipelago, but was omitted by mistake in the Spitsbergen Treaty.

LILLIEHÖÖK GLACIER

In 2005, nearly 100 years after his greatgreat-grandfather conducted scientific investigations here, Prince Albert II of Monaco returned to Lilliehöök Glacier to honor his ancestor's memory. Here, you can take a Zodiac cruise amid labyrinths of sparkling icebergs, and witness breathtaking panoramas of ice. You may even spot bearded seals hauled out on the floes.

LONGYEARBYEN

Home to 2,400 people, the administrative capital of Svalbard is situated on the southern side of Adventfjorden. The settlement was founded in 1905 by John Munroe Longyear, the majority owner of the Arctic Coal Company of Boston. Today as much as ever, this is a true frontier town.

MOFFEN ISLAND

This island is designated as a protected sanctuary for walrus, which are only viewed from the ship—have your binoculars ready!

MONACO GLACIER

Prince Albert I of Monaco, a pioneer of oceanography, led an expedition to Svalbard in 1906. His team used sophisticated photographic techniques to understand the shape and position of several glacier fronts. Monaco Glacier honors the expedition, the prince and the principality over which he reigned. While touring the glacier front by Zodiac cruise,





listen to the crackle and pop of the brash ice, search for seals and have a chance to admire a natural sculpture gallery.

NORDAUSTLANDET ISLAND

This is the second-largest island in the entire Svalbard archipelago, and home to the polar desert. Featured here is Bråsvellbreen, an ice cap connected to the larger Austfonna, which together form a 112-mile- (180 km) long ice cliff. Bråsvellbreen's glacier face makes for an impressive sight during a Zodiac cruise, stretching all the way to the horizon.

HORNSUND

The most southerly fjord in Svalbard offers some of the most spectacular scenery, with dramatic calving glaciers, drifting pack ice and majestic peaks (the highest of which are often shrouded in mist). A Polish research station has operated on the northern shore of Hornsund since 1957. Part of SørSpitsbergen National Park, this pristine area is rich in wildlife—reindeer, Arctic fox and polar bears can be spotted hunting for food, while seals bask on floating ice.

PHIPPSØYA AND MARTENSØYA, SEVEN ISLANDS

This small archipelago is the northernmost land in Svalbard. Englishmen left their mark following key expeditions in 1773 and 1827. The islands are named after naval officers that took part, with the smallest and least significant island being named Nelsonøya, after the lowly midshipman who was promoted over the years to the rank and title of Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson! Featuring austere polar desert landscapes, and often shrouded in pack ice, these islands are closer to the North Pole than anywhere else in Svalbard.

EXPEDITION SPIRIT

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What to pack on your polar expedition

WHAT TO BRING! Packing for the Polar Regions doesn't have to be daunting, and to make it easier for you, all Quark Expeditions voyages include a Quark parka to keep, and a loan of insulated waterproof boots. Additional suggested items include:

WEATHER CONDITIONS & TEMPERATURES

Polar weather is extremely variable; temperatures may hover around the freezing mark and winds can be strong. The extended daylight warms sheltered areas so that you may sometimes find it warm enough for t-shirts. However, you may encounter rain, snow squalls, fog and white-outs during an expedition and should be ready for any conditions.

TO WEAR ON LANDINGS

- □ Base-layer wool or synthetic top
- □ Base-layer wool or synthetic bottom
- □ Mid-layer warm or fleece top
- □ Mid-layer warm or fleece bottom
- □ Warm wool or synthetic socks (keep a dry pair in your bag, and bring extras for layering)
- □ Glove liners
- □ Waterproof gloves or mitts (bring an extra pair)
- □ Scarf, buff, or other face protection
- □ Warm hat that covers ears (bring an extra)
- □ Waterproof pants (mandatory for every Zodiac ride)
- □ Waterproof, lightweight backpack or dry sack
- Polarized sunglasses with UV protection (bring an extra pair)
- Ski goggles (offers extra protection for adventure options or Zodiac cruising on snowy or windy days)
- □ Sunscreen
- 🗆 🛛 Lip Balm

TO WEAR ONBOARD

- Complimentary Quark 3-in-1 Parka provided on board (wear the waterproof shell out on deck, and the removable liner indoors to stay comfortable)
- □ Comfortable casual clothing like lighter shirts, pants or jeans, etc. (in case the ship gets warm)
- Comfortable non-slip closed-toed unheeled shoes (flip flops, sandals or slip-on shoes should not be worn on board due to safety concerns)

Scan this QR code to watch our video on what to pack before you go!



ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Swimsuit (for the Polar Plunge! Some vessels may also have a pool, hot tub, sauna and/or steam room. See your ship book for details.)
- □ Light warm jacket to wear during travel to the ship
- □ Workout attire (for the fitness center!)
- □ Binoculars
- □ Hand and feet warmers
- □ Camera with charger and extra batteries
- Extra memory or laptop with spare storage (for saving photos)
- □ Waterproof cell phone case or rain sleeve for camera
- □ Lens cloth for camera
- Earplugs and eye masks for sleeping
- Voltage converters and plug adapters (see ship book for details)
- Personal alarm such as mobile phone, watch, or alarm clock
- Moisturizer for face and hands (polar air can be dry)
- Extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses
- Reusable waterproof bags or plastic bags with zippers (to keep small items organized and cameras dry)
- Seasickness, indigestion, headache, or other medications
- Hand sanitizer
- Passport, visas, immunization and vaccination records, travel documents, etc. (as required)
- □ Small amount of local currency (see pre-departure book for more details)
- □ Water bottle (a collapsible reusable water bottle will be provided onboard)
- □ Bug spray

For more packing and gear-related info, visit the Quark Expeditions® online Polar Boutique at <u>Shop.QuarkExpeditions.com</u>



The Leader in Polar Adventures

TO BOOK YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE Contact your **Travel Professional** or a **Quark Expeditions® Polar Travel Adviser**

TOLL FREE AND LOCAL NUMBERS:

North America (Toll Free) **1 888 332 0008** U.K. Tel **+44 203 514 2712** U.K. (Toll Free) **0 808 120 2333** Australia Tel **+61 280 155 028** Australia (Toll Free) **1 800 812 855** France Tel **+33-1 80 14 01 05** France (Toll Free) **08 05 08 66 46**

QuarkExpeditions.com

Photos captured with a telephoto lens from a responsible distance, following regulatory/AECO guidelines.

PHOTO CREDITS: (over all Expedition Brochures for the Arctic 2024 season): Acacia Johnson; David Merron; Nicky Souness; Samantha Crimmin; Sam Edmonds; Michelle Sole; Cindy Miller Hopkins; Sue Flood; Hugo Perrin; Peter Lindstrom; Visit Greenland; Nicolas Singh; Rogelio Espinosa; Grange Productions; Fokus Productions; Adobe Stock; iStock

EXPEDITION BROCHURE October 2022