

INTRODUCTION

Arctic 2023

Itinerary: All promoted itineraries are for general guidance. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Landings are subject to site availabilities and environmental concerns per AECO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with AECO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan.

Neoprene boots: Aboard *Plancius*, *Ortelius*, *Hondius*, and *Janssonius* all passengers are provided a pair of sturdy neoprene boots to keep their feet warm and dry for all landings. Sizes can be pre-ordered with Oceanwide Expeditions at least eight weeks prior to departure. A voucher will be sent with final travel documents approximately four weeks prior to departure. Vouchers will not need to be presented onboard. Boots need to be returned to the expedition team at the end of the voyage.

Shore excursions and Zodiac cruising: Our cruises emphasize active wildlife and nature experiences. Guided shore excursions, walks, wildlife spotting, and Zodiac cruises are included in the fare and offered to all passengers during the voyage.

Basecamp (D H K P S): By definition, a basecamp is a temporary storing location from which activities can be carried out. During our designated Basecamp cruises, the ship navigates to carefully chosen areas in North Spitsbergen, staying in fewer locations than it does during our regular trips so that it can serve as a comfortable hub for additional outdoor activities. Hikers (**H**) can embark on vigorous walks in the backcountry, photographers (**P**) can capture the dramatic surroundings in pictures, and kayakers (**K**) can explore waterways through which the ship cannot always sail. Passengers who do not wish to engage in these activities will enjoy our Zodiac excursions and easy to moderate shoreline walks that focus on wildlife. All activities are free of charge. Diving on select departures will be the only supplemented activity on these trips. See also chapter on Polar Diving (**D**) below.

Science Basecamp: Exploring polar science

On select departures we offer Science Basecamp. Our Science Basecamp activities are all about exploring polar science. During this exciting program, you'll divide into groups and take part in various research activities led by our scientist-guides. One group might collect various samples from nature, another might make observations of nearby glaciers, and yet another could study rock formations.

Birding: on selected departures we will have at least one dedicated expedition guide in our team who will share their expert knowledge about bird species and who will be available to help you identify, photograph on deck and learn more about the birds that we see. In addition to outdoor sessions, our guide will focus on species and related information on the birds of the Arctic in re-caps and lectures onboard. Finding birding trips is easy: the theme is mentioned in the voyage title in the day-by-day itineraries and dates & rates. The participation in the birding sessions is free of charge. We appreciate you sign up in advance.

Language-assisted voyages (LA): For groups exceeding 50 passengers, English is the language of the ship. But some expedition staff will be on board to assist language groups (min. 50 passengers) speaking French, German, Spanish, or Chinese (max. 2 languages other than English). Please inquire for concept details and to find out which language will be spoken.

Bilingual (B): English is the primary language of the ships, though some German- or French-speaking expedition staff will be on board for bilingual voyages (English, German-English, and French). Welcome presentations and safety briefings, announcements, daily briefings, and recaps are provided in English, German, or French. Lectures in different languages may vary in content. Simultaneous translations of lectures will not occur, but a summary in the secondary language may be given at the end of a lecture. Guidance during on-shore activities will depend on the group each passenger chooses according to their own physical ability. In the Arctic we aim to split into three hiking groups: a strenuous walking group, a medium-paced group with more time for photography, and a leisurely group. A German- or French-speaking staff member will not necessarily be available for each group. During Zodiac cruises, the driver/guide of each boat will likewise not necessarily be bilingual.

German Speaking (G): Voyages marked with G are full German-speaking voyages. All guide-lecturers on the team speak German.

Polar diving (D): Polar divers must be experienced in dry-suit, cold-water diving. We hope for 1 – 2 dives per day, parallel to other activities. Diving depends on local ice and weather conditions. Dive masters and guides are responsible for safety during dive operations. Basic equipment (scuba tanks, compressors, weights, diving essentials) is offered, but divers must bring their own personal gear. For prices, please refer to our Dates & Rates. For more details, please refer to the Activity Manual.

Hiking (H): During hiking voyages, we expand upon our normal shore walking program. In general we plan to offer three possibilities to be active on shore: Easy, moderate, and more demanding walks will be offered in the vicinity of the landing sites. We offer walks to suit everyone's capability. In the Arctic we aim for two hikes per day, each 2 – 3 hours long, during the morning and afternoon landings. We also offer several full-day walks (5 – 7 hours) with a packed lunch. The final plan for these hiking options will be made by the expedition leader on the day of the excursion. We recommend bringing a proper pair of ankle-high hiking boots, gaiters, and walking poles. Hiking is free of charge. We recommend bringing a proper pair of ankle-high hiking boots, gaiters, and walking poles. More details can be found in the Activity Manual and day-by-day itineraries.

Snowshoeing/hiking (S): There is still snow on the hills and mountains during early departures at the beginning of the season. For this reason, we aim to offer hiking excursions with easy-to-use snowshoes on north Spitsbergen voyages. With snowshoes it is easier and safer to walk on snowy surfaces. Snowshoes are provided for all passengers. They fit all boot sizes and can be used in combination with our neoprene boots. Snowshoeing is free of charge. More details can be found in our Activity Manual and day-by-day itineraries.

Hike & Sail (S): Snowshoe hikes will be offered during this trip. Hikes of 2 – 3 hours will be planned, with outings in the morning and/or afternoon. Approx. 200 meters (650 feet) of altitude will be gained and descended per day, sometimes more or less depending on the hike. Hiking groups will return to the ship for lunch. On occasion the expedition leader may offer a long hike for which participants will receive a packed lunch. Our hiking guests (max. 33) will be split into two groups under the guidance of experienced guides. The formation of walking groups will take place on site, taking into account the interests and physical condition of the guests. The hikes cannot be determined in advance, because prevailing weather conditions influence the layout of the final program. The route map in the day-by-day description outlines a possible (but not final) itinerary that serves as a rough guide. The program (walking on land) and the itinerary of the ship (at sea) will be

adapted to the prevailing weather, sea, pack ice, and snow conditions. The daily program may vary considerably from the route described. Availability of landing sites and the presence of polar bears also play a role in the selection of daily outings. The program will be adapted in case of interesting wildlife observations. The final decision about hikes will be made by the expedition leader. For the hiking program, we strongly recommend bringing sturdy, ankle-high hiking boots and gaiters. Hiking poles with snow plates are required. See details in the equipment list.

Kayaking (K): We generally plan to offer four or more days of kayaking. Basic kayak experience is welcome but not required. Physical fitness is essential. Parallel to other activities, there will be kayak excursions during morning and/or afternoon landings. The final plan will be made by the expedition leader on the day of the excursion. Kayaks, PFD's and neoprene wet suits are provided, but kayakers must bring their own personal gear. Kayaking is subject to weather and ice conditions. For prices, please refer to our Dates & Rates. For more details, please refer to the Activity Manual.

Kayak Skills Progression Camp (KSPC): On select departures, we will offer a special, supplemented kayak (KSPC) program. Those who wish to participate need to sign up for this activity in advance:

Ever wanted to join a course that teaches useful and effective kayaking skills? Now there's a chance to learn from the experts. We're now offering our Kayak Skills Progression Camp, in cooperation with TRAK, to an exclusive group of four to eight kayakers. Participants will be split into two groups of four people, and each group will be offered one outing per day (AM or PM) of about one to two hours. We hope for minimum of four activity days, subject to voyage, program and local conditions. Kayaking is a supplemental activity that includes the use of TRAK single-seater kayaks, PFD's and dry suits for the duration of the trip. There will be no supplement for kayakers who bring their own TRAK kayak and dry suit. Basic kayaking experience is helpful but not a requirement. Physical fitness, however, is essential. It can be breezy and cool in the early day, so kayakers must bring their own protective clothes and warm thermal layers. The camp is aimed at beginners and intermediate kayakers who will enjoy kayaking in sheltered fjords, bays, and small secluded harbors. It's a fun activity in a leisurely format, yet the course will focus on education and skills progression. State-of-the-art, industry leading single-seater touring kayaks engineered by TRAK will be provided on the ship. At midday kayakers will return for lunch aboard the vessel, afterward swapping activities with the hiking group. All kayak outings will be under the guidance of an experienced kayak guide who will take into account the experience and physical fitness levels of the participants. Kayak groups will also be escorted by one Zodiac boat for safety. Kayaking routes cannot be determined in advance, because local conditions will have an influence on the final program.

Ski mountaineering (X): This is a technical and strenuous activity for experienced ski mountaineers. The program involves climbing and skiing (using rope parties if necessary) in steep, snow-covered, glaciated, and potentially dangerous alpine environments. Certified mountain guides are responsible for the safety of the group. Experience and good physical condition is essential and must be substantiated by a health statement. Participants must be able to utilize techniques of alpine skiing in rugged, off-track terrain for both their ascent and descent. Each participant must submit a questionnaire to demonstrate their ski mountaineering experience. The maximum ratio of participants per mountain guide is 8:1. Participants must bring their own personal equipment (Randonnee or Telemark skis and boots, crampons, skins, poles, avalanche receivers, shovel, probe, rope, carabiners, harness, ice axe, etc.) and protective outdoor clothes. If interested, please inquire after a personal registration form and equipment list. This activity is supplemental.

Workshop (W): Though most of your time will be spent experiencing the landscapes and wildlife of the polar regions, on m/v *Hondius* and m/v *Janssonius* you will also have the option of partaking in a wide range of onboard interactive workshops and activities. These workshops are as engaging as they are informative, covering a kaleidoscope of subjects that vary based on your particular voyage and embarkation point. Navigation, astronomy, acoustics (analyze enchanting sounds of whales, seals and birds), geology, and botany are just a few of the possible topics offered, along with in-depth presentations that explore the fascinating life of polar whales, land mammals, birds, and the other animals that call these regions home. Naturally, the availability of particular workshops depends on the availability of the experts who guide them.

Photography workshop (P): On select voyages, we offer a free photo workshop for beginners and advanced photographers under the supervision of a photo expert on board. Everybody is welcome to participate, no previous experience required. The workshop group (up to 20 participants per guide during landings, minimum of 20 for the activity while on board) will be accompanied by the photo expert during activity on shore. Participants with a special interest in photography must bring their personal photo equipment. During cruise days, everybody will be able to listen to photo lectures and workshops in order to learn more about objects, exposures, and photo composition.

The workshop does not intend to instruct passengers on how to use specific camera models, but is meant to give insight into better photo results by respecting the basic rules of photography. Photo workshop participants can also take part in other activities on board.

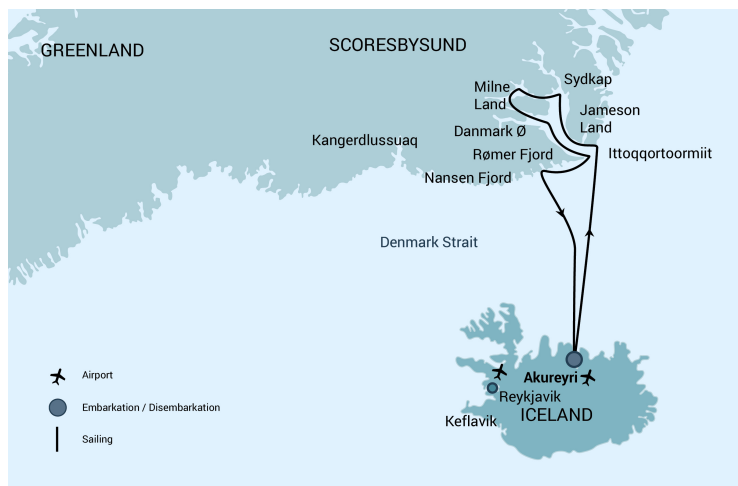
Ostgrönland Scoresby Sund, Nordlicht - Basecamp - Kostenloses Kajakfahren, Wandern, Fotoworkshop (Tauchen gegen Zuschlag)

Erleben Sie das Nordlicht im Scoresby Sund

Tripcode:	Language & activities:	Daten:	Dauer:	Schiff:	Einschiffung:	Ausschiffung:
OTL12a23	EN Kajakfahren Wandern Foto-Workshop Polar-Tauchen	31 Aug - 8 Sep, 2023	8 Nächte	MS Ortelius	Akureyri	Akureyri

REISEROUTE

ZUR BEACHTUNG: Diese Reiseroute dient nur zur Orientierung. Das Programm kann je nach Eis-, Wetter- und Wildtierbeobachtung variieren. Anlandungen sind abhängig von der Verfügbarkeit von Plätzen, Genehmigungen und Umweltbelangen gemäß AECO-Vorschriften. Offizielle Fahrpläne und Anlandeplätze werden vor Beginn der Saison mit AECO festgelegt, aber der Expeditionsleiter bestimmt den endgültigen Fahrplan. Flexibilität ist bei Expeditionskreuzfahrten äußerster Wichtigkeit. Die Durchschnittsgeschwindigkeit unser Schiff ist 10,5 Knoten.



Background on Basecamp cruises: -

On this voyage we will offer free activities (kayaking, hiking, and photo workshop).

Our Basecamp voyages focus on land and near-shore activities with minimal disturbance to local wildlife. If time and conditions permit, the expedition team will also look for wildlife opportunities whenever possible.

By definition, a basecamp is a temporary camp from which expeditions or other outdoor activities can be carried out.

During our designated Basecamp cruises, the ship navigates to carefully chosen areas in the Scoresby Sund, staying in fewer locations than during our regular trips so that it can serve as a comfortable hub for

multiple outdoor activities.

Hikers can embark on vigorous walks in the backcountry, photographers can capture the dramatic surroundings in pictures, and kayakers can explore waterways through which the ship cannot always sail.

Passengers who do not wish to engage in these activities can enjoy Zodiac excursions and easy-to-moderate shoreline walks that focus on wildlife. All activities are free of charge. Polar scuba diving is the only supplemented activity on these trips. See our section on polar diving in the introduction.

Day 1: On the Iceland road

Your journey begins in the morning, where by request you can transfer via chartered bus **(T)** from the city hall of Reykjavik (the meeting point) to the ship in Akureyri (the embarkation point). You arrive in the afternoon after a six-hour drive through northern Iceland.

PLEASE NOTE: This transfer **(T)** must be booked and paid for in advance. In the early evening, the ship departs from the port of Akureyri, sailing north toward the Denmark Strait.

Day 2: Sailing to east Greenland

While sailing north you're likely to see fulmars, kittiwakes, gannets, and common guillemots. You then cross the Arctic Circle, possibly spotting whales. By evening, the first icebergs flash into sight with your approach to the east Greenland coast, near Brewster.

Day 3: Inuit neighborhood of yesteryear

Today you reach Scoresbysund, sailing along the glaciated Volquart Boons Kyst. You may also enjoy a Zodiac cruise past one of the glacier fronts,

along with a visit to the basalt columns and ice formations of Vikingebugt. The afternoon goal is to visit Danmark Island, where you find the remains of an Inuit settlement abandoned around 200 years ago. The circular stone tent rings indicate the summer houses, while the winter houses can be seen closer to a small cape. The sites are well preserved, with easy identifiable entrances, bear-proof meat caches, and grave sites. In the evening you continue sailing the berg-crowded fjords to the west.

Day 4: Colors of the cape

The goal is a Zodiac cruise near Røde Ø, one of the world's most cherished iceberg attractions: The austere blue-white of the icebergs sets sharp against the brooding red backdrop of the sediment slopes. The afternoon plan is to sail through the northern parts of Røde Fjord, with the chance to see musk oxen and warm autumnal foliage.

Day 5: Enormous bergs, Arctic hares

In the morning you encounter colossal icebergs, some over 100 meters (328 feet) high and more than a kilometer (.62 mile) long. Most of them are grounded, as the fjord is only about 400 meters deep (1,312 feet). You then land near Sydkap, with fine views of Hall Bredning and a good shot of seeing Arctic hares.

Day 6: Settlement at Scoresbysund

Today you make a tundra landing on Liverpool Land, in Hurry Inlet. The afternoon stop is Ittoqqortoormiit, the largest settlement in Scoresbysund at about five hundred inhabitants. At the post office you can buy stamps for your postcards, or just stroll around to see the sled dogs and drying skins of seals and musk oxen. In the afternoon you sail south, passing the picturesque landscapes of the Blossville Coast.

Tag 7: Ferne Küste

Turner Sound und Rømer Fjord bieten Ihnen die Möglichkeit, weit ins Landesinnere zu navigieren, da sie oben keine Gletscherfront haben und nicht mit Eis verstopft sind. An diesem Ort haben Sie möglicherweise die Möglichkeit, Narwale zu entdecken.

Day 8: Sea life under the northern lights

A sea day grants you the opportunity to spot whales and seabirds – and at night, the magical northern lights.

Day 9: Journey's end at Akureyri

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. You disembark in Akureyri, where on request you can transfer by chartered bus (T) (a six-hour drive that you must book in advance) to the Reykjavik city hall, taking home memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

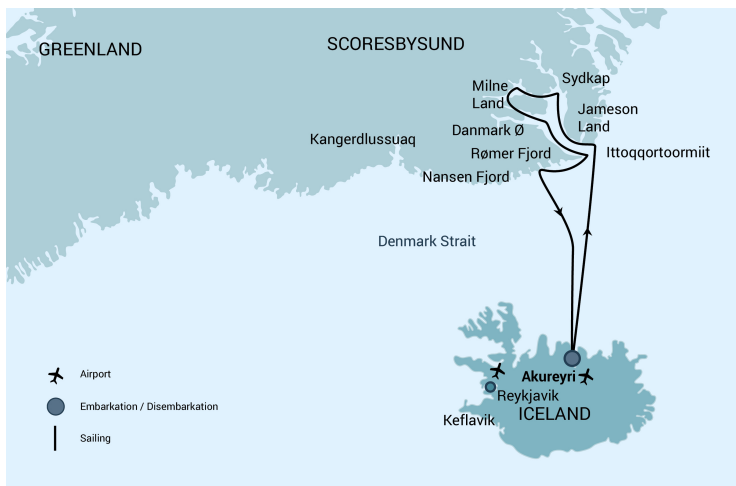
Ost Grönland – Scoresbysund, Nordlicht

Erleben Sie das Nordlicht im Scoresby Sund

Tripcode:	Language & activities:	Daten:	Dauer:	Schiff:	Einschiffung:	Ausschiffung:
PLA13-23	<div style="display: flex; gap: 5px;"> G EN </div> <div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Foto-Workshop</div>	2 Sep - 10 Sep, 2023	8 Nächte	MS Plancius	Akureyri	Akureyri
HDS13-23	<div style="display: flex; gap: 5px;"> EN LA Wandern </div> <div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Foto-Workshop</div> <div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Kayak Skills Progression Camp</div>	9 Sep - 17 Sep, 2023	8 Nächte	MS Hondius	Akureyri	Akureyri

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