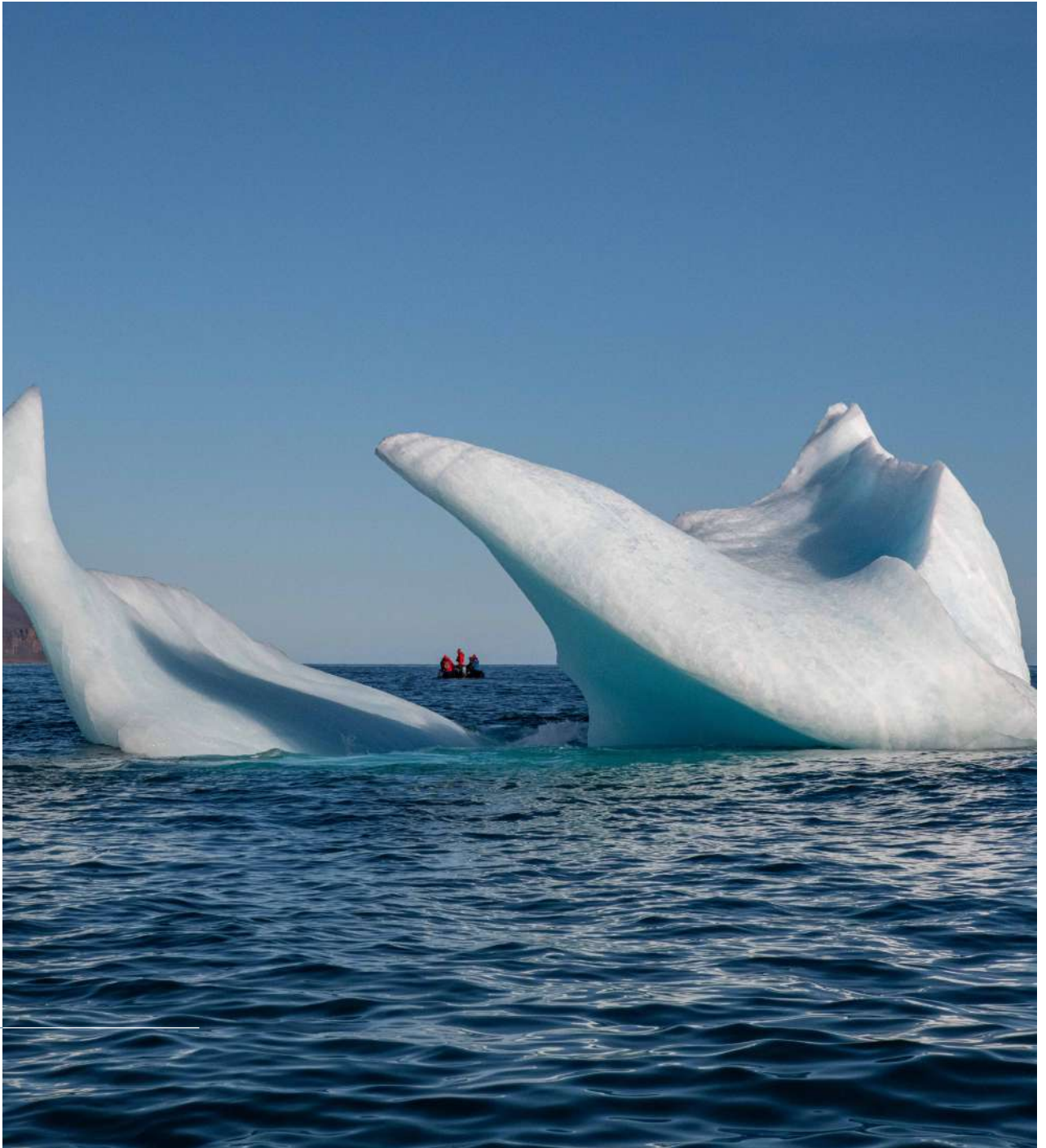


Northwest Passage

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 4 – 18 August 2024





Northwest Passage

4 – 18 August 2024

Resolute Bay

DAY 1 | Sunday 4 August 2024

Latitude:
74°38.36' N
Longitude:
094°48.45' W

Course:
313°
Speed:
5.4 knots

Wind Speed:
12.4 knots WNW
Barometer:
974 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

Hello, fellow Expeditioners, and welcome aboard! What a journey it has been for us these past couple of days.

On 4 August 2024, we left Calgary to catch our flight on Summit Air, travelling to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, the capital of the territory, for a quick fuel stop before making our way to Resolute Bay.

From Calgary to Yellowknife and onto to Resolute Bay we have already travelled over 2,772 kilometres.

From 28 degrees Celsius to 1 degree Celsius, the difference in climate alone is breathtaking. Going from a city with a population of 1.6

million to a hamlet of less than 200 really puts into perspective what different places there are in this world – and we are so happy to have come to see this territory and experience the High Arctic of Nunavut.

Resolute Bay is located in the Qikiqtaaluk region of Nunavut. Nunavut has 25 communities spread between three different regions. The Kitikmeot (western region), the Kivalliq (central region) and the Qikiqtaaluk (the eastern/Baffin region).

Nunavut also has three time zones; mountain time, central time, and eastern time. Resolute Bay is located in the Qikiqtaaluk Region but has the central time zone – which is a little confusing!





At Sea | Beechey Island

DAY 2 | Monday 5 August 2024

Latitude:

74°36.2'N

Longitude:

92°38.4'W

Course:

313°

Speed:

5.4 knots

Wind Speed:

12.4 knots NW

Barometer:

974 hPa

Air Temp:

2°C

The first day of our adventure was marked by calm seas and blue skies. By 9.30am we were anchored in Erebus and Terror Bay, surrounded by the stark beauty of Beechey Island to the west, with Devon Island dominating the north and east. We could just make out the famous gravestones that mark the last resting place of three of Sir John Franklin's sailors, and a crew member of one of the many ships that searched in vain for the lost expedition.

After lunch, we headed out in the Zodiacs for our first landing. In small groups we visited the sombre grave site, contemplating the

bravery of the poor young sailors who lay just a few feet below the permafrost.

We then set off towards the other famous remains on Beechey, Northumberland House. The scene at Northumberland House was quite different from the graves. Remains of the many over-winterings were scattered over a wide area. Rusted barrel hoops and wooden staves, tin cans, an old coal pile, various memorials and graves, and the house itself, now little more than a crumbling foundation, were all that remained of this once bustling site.







Hazard Inlet | Bellot Strait

DAY 3 | Tuesday 6 August 2024

Latitude:
72°34.8'N
Longitude:
91°39.9'W

Course:
270.9°
Speed:
11 knots

Wind Speed:
16.6 knots W
Barometer:
974 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

In the spirit of expeditioning, plans changed from a landing to a Zodiac cruise, when it turned out that there was a bear on land that was spotted by Gaby just as the first Expeditioners hit the shore.

The weather was perfect for boating, even if some of us wished they had brought their fishing rods along. Hazard Inlet turned out to be a great place for spotting not just a bear but other wildlife, including a bearded seal, a pair of soaring gyrfalcon, snow geese, and Canada geese. We were also able to appreciate the sheltered and vegetated shoreline where the settlement had been, and view the remains of houses and graves from the perspective of an *umiak* sewn from seal

skins 700 years ago.

By late afternoon, we were back aboard the ship for an early briefing and recap. Geela introduced us to the first of a small list of Inuktitut greetings with *halu*/hello, *tungasugit*/welcome and goodbye (to one person)/*tavvauvutit*. She also promised a mystery prize for the end-of-cruise test once we have learned a few more phrases. Steve, Scooter, and Adam followed on with a rundown on the Hazard Inlet settlement and PLANKTON!





Hazard Inlet | Prince Regent Inlet

DAY 4 | Wednesday 7 August 2024

Latitude:

72°04.5'N

Longitude:

93°59.3'W

Course:

208.6°

Speed:

6.6 knots

Wind Speed:

19.7 knots SW

Barometer:

974 hPa

Air Temp:

8°C

We headed to Hazard Inlet in our second attempt to land there. The landing site is the remains of an old Inuit settlement, made their living by hunting bowhead whales between 500 and 200 years ago. However, a polar bear was scouted prior to the operations, and we decided to switch to a Zodiac cruise.

The bear, which initially was walking along the shoreline, climbed the hilltop and lay down there. It was a bit too far for sighting, so after a while, we decided to search for something else. When we drove closer to the landing site, we were surprised to see two more bears!

It is always amazing to see such a magnificent animal as a polar bear

in its natural habitat. However, we have to remember that the polar bear is a true marine mammal that is evolutionary designed to live and hunt on the ice. When we see a bear on land, we always must remember that the bear went to land because of the lack of sea ice in the ocean.

In the afternoon, we enjoyed lectures and workshops from our Expedition Team members. Adam and Scooter ran a plankton lab workshop, Stas talked about photography, while Nina spoke about Franklin. After the lectures, we enjoyed a very special Inuit ritual oil lamp demonstration by Geela.





Prince Leopold Island | Barlow Inlet

DAY 5 | Thursday 8 August 2024

Latitude:
74°00.8'N
Longitude:
87°5359'W

Wind Speed:
20.1 knots N/NW
Barometer:
972 hPa

Course:
333.3°
Speed:
0.7 knots

Air Temp:
8°C

The morning began with a 6.00am arrival at Prince Leopold Island, with the amazing sight of the bird cliffs towering 250 metres above us.

Off we steamed across Lancaster Sound with our education program continuing. We had an amazing polar bear talk from Rene, where we were able to gain some context on all the bears we had seen so far during the voyage. Nuka and Phil shared amazing insight on Thule and Dorset homes before we tucked into yet another amazing lunch from the hotel team.

Before we knew it, we had arrived at our destination, Barlow Inlet. The

wind was calm and it was clear enough to operate! As we were eager to explore this new site, Zodiacs full of Expeditioners were brought ashore to stretch their legs. The kayak team also managed to get out on the water and enjoy an upper body workout.

Before too long it was time to head back to the ship to warm up for a hot coffee or chocolate and enjoy the evening's recap, as well as dinner. The ship made its way up towards Resolute, where we made one last stop for some much-needed milk supplies. After dinner, some of the Expedition Team heroically went and collected the milk delivery so we can all keep enjoying our milky coffees throughout the voyage.





Prince Leopold Island | Radstock Bay

DAY 6 | Friday 9 August 2024

Latitude:
74°00.8'N
Longitude:
89°53.7'W

Course:
260°
Speed:
8.1 knots

Wind Speed:
3.2 knots W
Barometer:
974 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

Prince Leopold is one of eleven migratory bird sanctuaries (MBS) in Nunavut and one of 92 MBS in Canada. Prince Leopold Island is located in the Qikiqtaaluk Region (eastern region) of Nunavut.

Kittiwakes are known to eat food scraps on land. A good example is that when we catch fish, we remove the guts and/or head from the fish at the shoreline and leave them for the *nauyaks* to eat.

Another bird we saw was the penguin-*ngujaa* (penguin look alike), the Brünnich's guillemot (*pitsiulaaq* in Inuktitut). However, some Inuit would say '*pitsiulaalaa*' while pointing at the guillemot. We also saw the northern fulmar (*qaqulluit* in Inuktitut), though many in the region refer to them, too, as seagulls (*nauyak*).

In addition to the tens of thousands of birds around us, we were also

lucky to come across a couple of polar bears towards the start of our Zodiac cruise. Unfortunately for the kayakers, it was another outing taken by polar bears, though we all enjoyed some lovely views of these fantastic animals during the morning.

In the afternoon, we visited the historical sites of Radstock Bay and Caswell Tower. The beauty and remarkable architecture of these Thule sites were breathtaking. Looking at these sites gives some perspective of the lives the people who lived here all those many generations ago. That said, as we have been to both Beechey Island and Radstock Bay, we have seen a change in the landscape, which transitioned from predominantly rocky, desolate terrain to more tundra. Alongside the many animals that you can find in the region, it's no wonder that the Thule chose to settle in Radstock Bay.









Croker Bay | Dundas Harbour

DAY 7 | Saturday 10 August 2024

Latitude:
74°36.0'N
Longitude:
83°11.6'W

Course:
320°
Speed:
10.5 knots

Wind Speed:
3.1 knots NW
Barometer:
973 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

Our morning at Croker Bay was blessed once again with perfect conditions for Zodiac cruising with flat, calm seas and a thin cover of high cirrus clouds.

As we set out for our cruise, a polar bear was sighted, lying curled up on a small piece of ice close to the face of the glacier. As we crept slowly by, a second bear was spotted swimming near the first. With one seemingly resting and the other frolicking, it was decided this must be a mother with her cub, perhaps being taught the fine art of hunting, as there were also plenty of seals (the favourite prey of the polar bear) in the water. Our cruise concluded with a visit to

the many sea-carved icebergs grounded along the eastern shore of Croker Bay.

After lunch we repositioned to Dundas Harbour, an old RCMP station a few miles to the east. We were fortunate that the weather continued to hold, as the abandoned settlement sits completely exposed to the wind and waves of the open sea. We boarded the Zodiacs, hoping to stretch our legs on land. Alas, another bear was spotted by the scout boat, walking past the settlement and heading straight for us. Instead of a hike, we set off on another cruise, but not before we sighted the bear for ourselves, climbing into the hills above our intended landing site.









At Sea | Pond Inlet

DAY 8 | Sunday 11 August 2024

Latitude:

72°47.0'N

Longitude:

76°18.9'W

Course:

258.4°

Speed:

8.3 knots

Wind Speed:

4.6 knots S

Barometer:

974 hPa

Air Temp:

8°C

Geela provided a presentation on the forced relocation of Inuit from northern Quebec and Pond Inlet, to Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord, which is such necessary information to be aware of when travelling in the High Arctic.

Pond Inlet, or Mittimatalik, which is the Inuktitut name for the community, is home to around 1,800 people. As we all saw during our visit, there is such beauty in the scenery surrounding Pond Inlet, which includes views of the mountains situated across the bay.

Community guides provided walks around the Pond Inlet, highlighting interesting topics and points of interest in the area.

One of these points of interest was the gazebo on top of the hill with the direction sign showing all sorts of signs pointing to places like Ottawa (3,040 km away), Sydney (14,874 km away), South Pole (18,071 km away), and Longyearbyen (2,392 km away).

That said, the most memorable part of being in Pond Inlet was the beautiful cultural performance put on by the community. The performance included drum dancing, Inuit games, and the lighting of the *qulliq*. But perhaps the moving part of the demonstration was seeing how tradition is taught to younger generations. It was a truly magnificent performance and all we can think is wow!







Buchan Gulf

DAY 9 | Monday 12 August 2024

Latitude:

71°23.9'N

Longitude:

74°39.1'W

Course:

179.6°

Speed:

12.6 knots

Wind Speed:

13.3 knots SE

Barometer:

970 hPa

Air Temp:

10°C

After visiting beautiful Pond Inlet, we journeyed down Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin Island), making our way into the Buchan Gulf and Cambridge fiord. Journeying through these fiords provided gorgeous mountainous views.

In the morning there was opportunity to join the Expedition Team on a Zodiac cruise to see these views up close and soak in the fresh air.

Later in the day, we left to see the rest of the fiord. We eventually made our way eastward to check out another small fiord, with high hopes to see more wildlife and especially with hopes to see narwhal!

Narwhal are whales who travel together in large groups. They are

well known for their grey-and-white speckled look as well as the tusk some of them may grow, which appears to be a tooth that is used for scraping the bottom of the ocean floor, looking for clams and other food.

There are two separate Inuktitut names for narwhal, the first being *qillalugaq* (KEE-LAA-LOO-GAA), which refers to the narwhals without any visible tusks. The second name is *tuugaalik* (TOO-GAH-LICK), which are the narwhal with tusks. Narwhals with tusks are predominately males, though a very small number of females are able to grow a tusk, too.





At Sea

DAY 10 | Tuesday 13 August 2024

Latitude:
71°22.4' SN
Longitude:
66°40.5' W

Course:
129°
Speed:
12.1 knots

Wind Speed:
10.7 knots W
Barometer:
974 hPa

Air Temp:
7°C

After waving a fond farewell last night to Nunavut, we set our course eastward for Kalaallit Nunaat: Greenland.

First up on the docket for the day after breakfast was a lecture from resident marine ecologist, Adam, on the North Water Polynya and its importance for the arctic wildlife that call this region home. After a quick break, we gathered up in the lounge again for a lecture with archaeologist, Steve, on the historical movement of people throughout this part of the arctic.

Following our busy educational morning, we headed over to the restaurant for yet another scrumptious meal that was served up by our excellent galley team. With satiated bellies and full minds after

that busy morning, one would think that it would be time for a post-lunch nap.

However, the Expedition Team had other things in store for the day in the form of two more lectures, this time by naturalist, Dot, on the birds of the arctic and geologist, Gaby, on the glaciology of the Northwest Passage.

The next item on the agenda was a rollicking rendition of the Arctic Games held on our very own *Sylvia Earle*. Thanks to the creation of a custom set-up crafted by our ship's carpenter, we had an opportunity to test out first-hand some of the games we witnessed during the cultural performance in Pond Inlet just a few days prior.





Qeqertarsuaq | Kuannit Basalt Columns

DAY 11 | Wednesday 14 August 2024

Latitude:

69°44.7'N

Longitude:

5046.6'W

Course:

83.4°

Speed:

5.1 knots

Wind Speed:

3.5 knots E

Barometer:

974 hPa

Air Temp:

5°C

After a day at sea, we arrived at Qeqertarsuaq (Disko Island), Greenland's largest island. The destination was the picturesque town of Qeqertarsuaq, a place whose name fittingly means 'the large island.' Home to around 800 residents, Qeqertarsuaq was founded in 1773 by the whaler Svend Sandgreen as a whaling station.

As we walked around, we were greeted by a town adorned with colourful houses, contrasted by the presence of enormous icebergs floating nearby. The morning began with heavy rain, but as the day progressed, the rain ceased, leaving the skies overcast. Low clouds draped themselves over the surrounding mountains, adding a moody ambiance to the already stunning landscape.

Some opted for a hike, venturing towards a waterfall that had been

recommended as a must-see. Unfortunately, they took the wrong track at first, and not many managed to see the waterfall up close. Despite this, the views they encountered along the way were still breathtaking, offering glimpses of the island's rugged beauty. Meanwhile, others chose to spend their time exploring the town and visiting its museum, soaking in the rich history and culture of Qeqertarsuaq.

The afternoon held more adventures, with the Expedition Team preparing to take everyone out for a Zodiac cruise and kayaking outing. The scenery was nothing short of majestic, with mountains showcasing intricate geological structures that left everyone in awe. One of the highlights was passing through a natural arch of columnar basalt rocks in the sea – a rare and exhilarating experience.









Eqip Sermia

DAY 12 | Thursday 15 August 2024

Latitude:

69°44.7'N

Longitude:

50°46.6'W

Course:

83.4°

Speed:

5.1 knots

Wind Speed:

3.5 knots E

Barometer:

974 hPa

Air Temp:

5°C

The morning started off in the beautiful area of Eqip Sermia (Eqip Glacier). Due to the superb conditions, we decided we would do a Zodiac cruise instead of a landing, and explore the waters in between all the bergy bits and icebergs.

Once on the water, our guides slowly, but safely, navigated through the brash ice, interpreting the glaciology, geology, and biology of the region as things kept unfolding in front of us. Ice of all shapes and sizes, birds of different species, and interesting rock formations all came together into one epic scene, much like a Monet painting.

As the afternoon activity was closing in, it was clear to us that the rain and fog made it impossible to safely get on land, so we were informed that we would do a ship's cruise through the fog, to the

nearby Eqip Sermia.

Captain Jorge skilfully navigated the ship through thick fog and past huge icebergs as we slowly approached one of Greenland's most active glaciers. Even though the fog prevented us from seeing the glacier right away, we could certainly hear it in the form of thunder-like sounds making their way through the mist.

But then it appeared: Taller than the ship itself, located between stunning peaks, there was the glacier flowing into the glassy water below like a river of ice. Every few minutes, we could see new icebergs being born as the glacier calved. The sound and tremors that came from the glacier's calving were truly magnificent.





Ilulissat

DAY 13 | Friday 16 August 2024

Latitude:
69°13.5' N
Longitude:
51°07.3' W

Course:
1.2°
Speed:
At Anchor

Wind Speed:
7 knots SE
Barometer:
974 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

Those of us wishing to go ashore early were on the Zodiacs at 8.45am, ready to explore the town then head on out to the Icefjord Centre. The Icefjord Centre is an amazing building, set in a beautiful landscape with a boardwalk leading out to the icefield.

Within the Icefjord Centre, we could see a screening of a film showing the development of Jakobshavn Glacier (Sermeq Kujalleq), a massive calving and the resulting icebergs, which served as a great introduction to what we would see at the waterfront.

The Jakobshavn Glacier calves over 30 billion tonnes of ice each year.

Many of the icebergs are so large they are stuck on the sea floor near the face of the glacier for over a year.

Many of us also partook in a local boat trip into the icefjord. We were picked up from the ship for a two-hour trip through the icebergs, and it is amazing how much ice there was to see. The icebergs were definitely the largest all of us had ever seen. While keeping a safe distance, we weaved through the icefjord, enjoying nature's artwork, waterfalls, and enjoying the beauty all around us.







Sisimiut

DAY 14 | Saturday 17 August 2024

Latitude:
67°49.0'N
Longitude:
54°22.9'W
Course:
178.2°
Speed:
11.0 knots

Wind Speed:
10.3 knots N/NW
Barometer:
974 hPa
Air Temp:
6°C

Three bridge tours were scheduled for the morning. During the tours, we got the chance to visit the bridge and chat with some of our deck officers about their work and what goes into navigating a ship in the polar regions. The morning ended just in time for our final lunch in the onboard restaurants as our trusty ship pulled into the harbour in the city of Sisimiut. Over the PA system we were told there was a surprise in store for us before our Zodiac shuttle to shore.

Our surprise? A Greenland kayaking champion from Sisimiut had paddled up to our ship to give us a paddling demonstration. An action-packed demonstration full of a series of truly impressive rolls

and movements that highlighted the beauty, grace, and skill required to paddle a kayak.

Following the kayak demonstration, we loaded up into the Zodiacs for our last outing of the expedition. The afternoon's schedule included some free time to walk around Sisimiut as well as a bus tour around the city. Many of us also took the opportunity to do some shopping in the city for some locally made crafts to take home as a souvenir from this wonderful journey that we have been on these last two weeks.





Kangerlussuaq

DAY 15 | Sunday 18 August 2024

Latitude:
66°56.2'N
Longitude:
50°59.8'W

Wind Speed:
8.6 knots NE
Barometer:
974 hPa

Course:
043.5°
Speed:
10.4 knots

Air Temp:
5°C

Here we are at the end of our adventure! Thank you for joining us on this magnificent Northwest Passage voyage and we hope to see you again on the high seas some day.



BBQ



Polar Plunge









Kayaking Log

with Kayak Guides: Liz MacNeil & Gabby 'Scooter' Bruce

05 August 2024, PM – Beechey Island, Nunavut 2 km

What a glorious first paddle! We set off with a plan to land with the Zodiacs, check out the grave sites of the Franklin Expedition and hear Nina give a history talk, and share a moment of silence for the fallen men of the expedition.

After that, Liz and Scooter (Gabby) had arranged the kayaks to launch from the beach and head down towards the Northumberland house. The water was calm and beautiful with a slight tail breeze to push us along the water.

Before we knew it, we were below towering limestone cliffs in the Zodiac, exploring the coastline before heading to the beach to explore the next historical site. Everyone hopped off onto Dot's Zodiac to get a ride into shore and explore the monuments and derelict historical remains of an old house used by search parties looking for the lost Franklin Expedition.

06 August 2024, PM – Hazard Inlet, Nunavut 1.5 km

Sailing down the eastern side of Somerset Island, we came across bowhead whales before making our way towards Bellot Strait and Hazard Inlet. The sun was shining as we loaded onto the Zodiac heading towards the shoreline. The waters were glassy, clear and aquamarine as we paddled towards the largest settlement of Thule ruins in Nunavut for a landing and exploration. We had 15 minutes of glory before our paddle was skunked by a polar bear sighting. Being on expedition, plans change all the time and the day was no different for us. Once Gaby called in a polar bear she saw along the ridge, our paddle was over. Liz always says, better to be skunked by wildlife than by weather! Loading up, we transferred into Scooter's Zodiac who took us on a cruise looking at pteropods and ctenophores, the Thule ruins, arctic birds, and our big skunk... the polar bear!



Number of Kayakers: 8
Total Paddle Outings: 11
Total Distance Paddled: 43.5 kms

Kayakers:
Mark Chellew
Margie Chellew
Robin Dyer
Hellen Dyer
Jaime Wight
Ken Gibson

Saunders Carmichael-Brown
Phil Verreault

08 August 2024, PM – Barlow Inlet, Nunavut 8.2 km

Barlow Inlet was our full paddle and what a bonus outing it was. After getting onto the water, the wind picked up and we were working off our lunch and going for double desserts at dinner! It was amazing how the weather changed so quickly with the katabatic... nevertheless, we were all ready for the challenge! Into the bay we went, enjoying the landscape as we ferried across to the other side. Making a 180-degree turn, we took a break, paddling downwind and around the corner into the lee and navigated through the ice and down the shoreline. Looping back to the ship we finally had our first big paddle – no polar bears, no landings, just pure paddling and we were ready for our double dessert!

09 August 2024, AM – Prince Leopold Island, Nunavut 1.2 km

We're back! For round two of Prince Leopold Island after the first attempt was horrifically windy, calling off all operations. Today,

however, was glassy enough for us to get out for a kayak. We got organised to get away from the ship first and off we went, jumping into our kayaks from the Zodiac just off from the ship.

We began paddling our way towards the magnificent towering cliffs, which were caked with birds nesting and flying above. As we approached just 300 metres offshore of the island, Scooter noticed a polar bear looking right at us... yet again we were skunked by another polar bear! We all rafted together and one by one got into the Zodiac as we couldn't be on the water with a bear in sight. Of, course we were happy to see another bear but sad to stop kayaking.

The bear made its way along the shore unbothered by our presence, and we continued our journey as a Zodiac cruise, marvelling at the amazing cliffs and abundance of birdlife! There were great conversations and laughter shared as we cruised and eventually made our way back to the ship after bear watching and getting the occasional splatter of bird poop, it was

truly a fantastic morning regardless of the short kayak.

09 August 2024, PM – Radstock Bay, Nunavut 6.8 km

Yay, Radstock! We started out launching from the ship and paddling towards the landing site to where we had the chance to see the old Inuit ruins made of bowhead whale bones and rocks. Having a true Indiana Jones moment, Steve gave us an enthusiastic description about the sites as we walked around among the vast landscape.

Launching from shore, we were back in our kayaks and the water was glass... reflections of the sky, clouds, and Caswell Tower made it hard to tell where the water ended and the sky began. As our kayaks glided around the tower, we were on our own, witnessing the beauty and majesty of the landscape and enjoying the silence of the moment. As the time passed we weren't ready to get off the water... but we knew we had to, or we may have become the next residents of Radstock Bay.

10 August 2024, AM – Croker Bay, Nunavut

Croker Bay delivered us amazing sights as we sailed in during the morning. The kayakers were eager to get back on the water and we geared up to explore the glacial front and surrounding icebergs. Off we went in the Zodiac with Kevin and Scooter, but just as we were about to start loading into the kayaks we hear over the radio 'there is a polar bear on the ice' within 1 kilometre of us... skunked by a bear... AGAIN! Luckily, we only had to stay in the Zodiac and continue on with a Zodiac cruise. We watched the bear at a distance and noticed another bear that was swimming in the water! We gave them plenty of space and began to cruise over the other side of the bay to explore some icebergs, leaving the bears to hunt and rest. Again we shared more laughs and saw some interesting shapes within the ice; mushrooms, *Star Wars* droids and more... happy to say we had an excellent time on the water, even though the bears had skunked us once more...



12 August 2024, AM – Buchan Gulf Fjord, Baffin Island, Nunavut 6.1 km

The winds were howling as we approached the fiords on Baffin Island. Our plan was to sail in and find a nice, sheltered area to kayak/Z-cruise. The views were incredible on our ship's cruise in; the towering cliffs, spectacular waterfalls and hanging glaciers loomed above in the mystical clouds. We finally arrived where we wanted to operate, to find calm winds and otherwise flat conditions.

We made our way out with our boats in tow ready to kayak, scouting for bears (we were hoping not to see one!) Luckily, we didn't and we had an amazing paddle with some challenging wind, but nothing we couldn't handle. The highlight being the amazing waterfall towering above us, which we were able to have a beautiful Zen moment underneath. All the kayakers were very happy to finally get in a paddle without being skunked by wildlife!

14 August 2024, PM – Basalt Cliffs, Qeqertarsuaq, Greenland 4.5 km

Today was the day! Scooter and Liz's favourite place to kayak in west Greenland... Disko Island!! Known for its amazing geology, towering basalt cliffs, caves and waterfalls, it is truly a kayaker's dream! We set off after our community visit in Qeqertarsuaq exploring the cliffs, which looked to be an ancient explosive episode of lavas solidified. We paddled through archways and ducked into caves, trickling waterfalls were overhead with an optional shower available for those who were willing.

As we kayaked along the coast, the rock began to change into the most extraordinary ballast columns; however, these are not your typical columns. These formations were twisted and curved in beautiful directions, indicating the presence of water interfering with the cooling process of the columns. It was truly amazing to marvel at and I think everyone now understood why Scooter and Liz were so excited about kayaking in this amazing place.

15 August 2024, AM – Eqip Sermia, Greenland 6.5 km

Our first proper paddle among glacial ice, navigating large bergs of glacier and Liz's favourite, brash ice! After leaving the ship we dodged and weaved our way through the minefield of ice, admiring the large bergs, bergy bits, growlers and more! We paddled along and Scooter demonstrated how capable our kayaks are as ice dozers... breaking through brash that was clumped together and sliding like seals. As we explored we heard the glacier front calving, crashing and tumbling even though it was still over 13 kilometres away!

The water was calm and we enjoyed an amazing Zen moment listening to crackles, pops and crashes as bergs tumbled and rolled. What a truly amazing feeling. On our way back we spotted some suspicious dark-coloured objects that looked to be laying on the ice... we paddled towards it... upon closer inspection turns out it was sediment, which we named sediment seals...

16 August 2024, PM – Ilulissat, Greenland 6.8 km

Our very last kayak of the voyage ended with a bang. What a spectacular paddle! We explored the gigantic icebergs of Ilulissat towering above us, making us feel very small. The waters were calm and the sun was almost peeking through, making for truly stunning lighting. Scooter was leading us around into some amazing places where we felt very insignificant compared to our surroundings. The loud cracks and occasional calvings of the glacial ice was amazing to experience and being in a kayak made it so much more significant and almost felt as though we were a part of this amazing place.

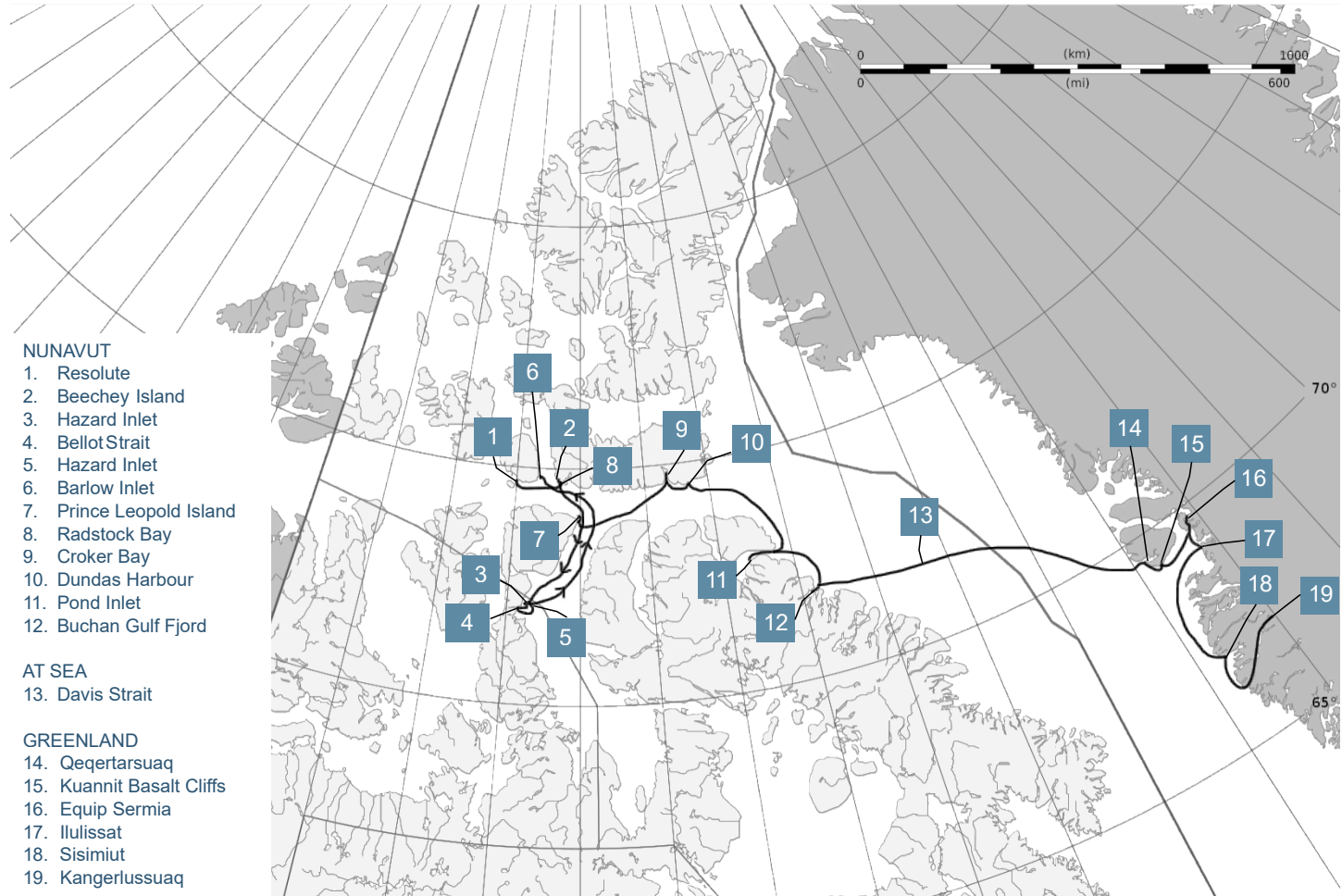
After some group photos and, of course, our last Zen moment together in the kayaks, we loaded up and zoomed back to the ship, taking in every last moment we could before we had to leave this life-changing environment.







Map



Northwest Passage

4 – 18 August 2024



Our Expeditioners

Carl Ainsworth

Betty Ainsworth

Adrian Bass

Eric Benson

Sally Benson

Don Berry

Francis Burek

Joyce Burek

Saunders Carmichael-
Brown

Margie Chellew

Mark Chellew

Jolanda Corona

Victoria Cozens

Luz Maria De Alba
Fernandez

John de Vries

Karen de Vries

Luz Maria DeAlba Guerra

Vincenzo Dettori

Danny Du

Claudine Dutil-Berry

Hellen Dyer

Robin Dyer

Jeannie Giacchino

Ken Gibson

Richard Hanlon

Mark Heilala

Caron Hill

Angela Holbrook

Burt Holbrook

Damon Hood

Xiaoyang Huang

Robert Keiter

Linda Keiter

Terry Lilley

Barbara Lister

Gary Lister

Denise Loewen

Bryan Lorber

Nicolas Madge

Jeremy Mashburn

Penelope Mashburn

Beverly McEachern

Noel McKay

Bruce Mcleod

Stephen Mills

Nuka Olsen-Hakongak

Mark Pearson

Sue Pearson

John Pittenger

Helen Pollock

Geela Qaqqasiq

Glenda Ramsay-McKay

Martin Ratcliff

Brydon Rempal

Carole Rodden

Margrid Schindler

Kim Stindt

Steve Tilmann

Phil Verreault

Jamie Wight

Clare Wilkie

Zhaopei Yang

Karen Yori

Ruth Zumbuehl

Special Guests

Inuit Community Ambassador & Very Special Guest:

Nuka Olsen-Hakongat

Phillip Verreault

Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Alex Cowan

Assistant Expedition Leader: Elena Wimberger

Onboard Expedition Manager: Samantha Deer

Onboard Expedition Assistant: Reza Rusooly

Photography Guide: Stas Zakharov

Firearms Manager: Rene Olsen

Geologist / Glaciologist: Gaby Pilson

Marine Biologist/Citizen Science: Adam Pope

Naturalist: Dot Robertson

Cultural Specialist/Local Inuk Guide: Geela Qaqqasiq

First Responder / Medic: Solvi Jensen

Zodiac Manager: Serghei Hincu

Historian: Nina Gallo

Permitting Archaeologist: Stephen Mills

Lead Kayak Guide: Liz Macneil

Kayak Guide: Gabby Bruce

Musician/Expedition Guide: Kevin Closs

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Jorge Ferdinez

Chief Officer: Andrey Gilevskiy

Third Officer: Bryan Salem

Safety Officer: Andrus Pruul

Bosun: Francisco Flores

Ship Doctor: Gloria Gonzalez

Chief Engineer: Srdan Jakovic

1st Engineer: Peter Alyenkov

IT Officer: Rene Reyes

Hotel Director: Balvant Singh

F&B Service Manager: Narendra Seeram

Head Bartender: Juan Carlos Gonzalez

Chief Purser: Jonalyn Galve

Executive Chef: Ronwaldo Reyes

Sous Chef: Alexander Mungcal

Hotel Controller: Alfredo Jr. Laquian

Receptionist: Kutsi Vazquez

Receptionist: Angeli Perona

Head Stateroom Attendant : Alexander Bartolome

Able Seaman: Rosendo Cruz

Able Seaman: Rajiv Rauinyar

Able Seaman: Anthony Brosas

Able Seaman: Muhammad Karier

Able Seaman: Lexter Fradiquela

Able Seaman: Eduardo Aloyan


Photography thanks to:

Stas Zakharov





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