



Your expedition cruise through the
**NORTHWEST
PASSAGE**

© KARSTEN BIDSTRUP

Dear guest

Thank you for choosing to travel with us. We are as excited as you are about your expedition through the awe-inspiring Northwest Passage. This isolated and wild sea route is an adventure like no other.

In this document, you will find important information about things you need to do before you go, what we recommend you pack, the experience when on board, and what to expect with wildlife and landings.

Clicking on the underlined links in the document will take you to our website, where you can find further details. Please make sure that you have an internet connection to do this.

You will receive one more mail from us approximately 2-4 weeks before your departure. This will contain your tickets for your itinerary and flights.

We very much look forward to welcoming you on board. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions:

Reservations: +1 (866) 552-0371

Email: us.expeditions@hurtigruten.com

Web: hurtigruten.com/expeditions/

Kind regards
Your Hurtigruten team

Contents

Before you go	2
Practical information	3
Your haven to the horizon/ loving local food	4
Your active adventure	5
Expect the unexpected	6
Explore the Northwest Passage	7
The search for the Northwest Passage	8
Discover wildlife	9
Sustainability/ Hurtigruten Foundation	10

[Frequently asked questions »](#)

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BEFORE YOU GO

There are a few mandatory steps to complete before your expedition cruise through the Northwest Passage.

- 1 Fill in and return the Ship Manifest Information Form to Hurtigruten**
- 2 Check your passport**
Please ensure your passport has a minimum of 6 months remaining validity at the end of your cruise.*
- 3 Entry requirements (visa)**
Please make sure that you have the correct visa travel document that is required at the time of your expedition.
- 4 Check your travel insurance**
A comprehensive travel/health insurance policy that also covers medical evacuation is recommended.
- 5 Complete the Medical Screening form**
Our expeditions to the Northwest Passage require a Medical Screening form for boarding.

For your convenience, we have gathered all required forms and important information about entry requirements on one web page.

[Entry requirements »](#)

Weather and packing

Definitely check the weather forecast at your destination before you leave to ensure you pack the appropriate clothes. Make sure to pack clothes suitable for the weather you're returning home to, as well.



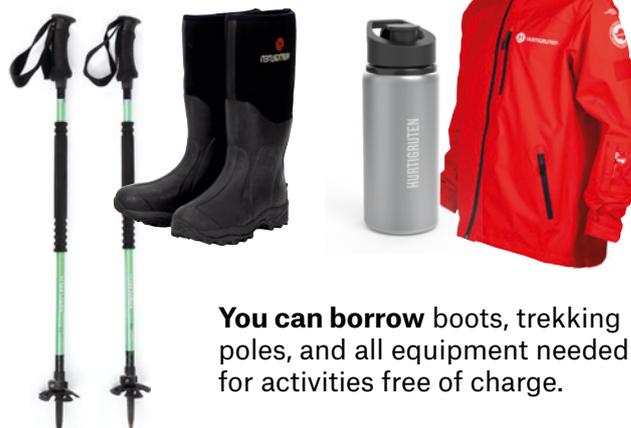
Help protect the pristine Arctic Environment from the threat of non-native species and follow the [AECO biosecurity guidelines »](#) before packing.

We recommend you pack:

- Woolen underlayers and second layers
- Warm socks and gloves
- Polarized sunglasses and sunscreen
- A camera (in a waterproof bag)
- A memory card with a large capacity
- Wind- and water-resistant pants
- A warm hat that covers your ears, and a scarf
- Worn-in walking boots to use outdoors
- A warm winter jacket
- Extra batteries for your camera
- A pair of casual shoes for onboard use

[What to bring on your trip »](#)

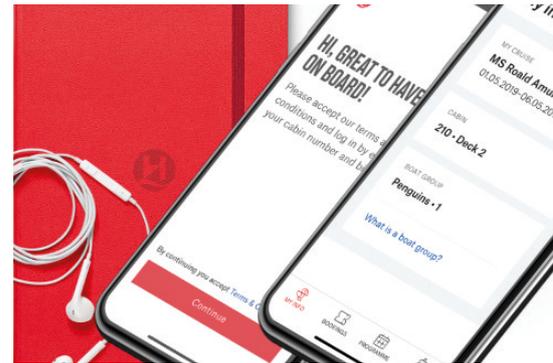
You will receive a complimentary Helly Hansen expedition jacket and a re-usable aluminum water bottle.



You can borrow boots, trekking poles, and all equipment needed for activities free of charge.

*In addition, passport validity must be in accordance with national requirements in the country/countries you are traveling to.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Hurtigruten App

is your digital travel companion on our expedition ships.

Everything you need to know about your cruise, including your bookings, daily programme, restaurants and services on board, essential information about available excursions is at hand at any time.

It will be possible to log in once you are on board with your date of birth and your cabin number.

[Download the app »](#)

Your adventure is safe with us



We care deeply about your safety, health and wellbeing. This is as true now as it has always been ever since we first began sailing in 1893, perhaps even more so. We've introduced several new procedures throughout all our ships, designed to keep you safe.

Wish to be more prepared?

From laundry and onboard Wi-Fi to prohibited items not allowed on board - here's everything you need to know before your expedition with us.

[Practical information »](#)

Hurtigruten ships have been a fixture on the Norwegian coast since 1893. Today, our ships sail to the Arctic and Antarctica, and many destinations in between. On each ship you will find modern facilities carefully blended with true character.

[Discover our fleet »](#)

[Our safety policy »](#)

YOUR HAVEN TO THE HORIZON

Your expedition ship is your home away from home; casual, comfortable, and complete with everything you need for your adventure and more.

If you pictured an expedition as being on a rusty old frigate with faded décor, prepare to have your expectations blown away. From the get-go, you'll see that life on the ship is relaxed and the atmosphere calm and informal. Each public area of the ship has been designed with your viewing pleasure in mind. As you set foot on exotic shores together, you'll naturally grow closer with your fellow explorers. Enjoy swapping stories in the various seating areas dotted around the ship which usually have great views.



© AGURTXANE CONCELLON

LOVING LOCAL FOOD

Prepare your tastebuds for mouth-watering meals on board.

These will often be inspired by the region's unique flavours and cooking styles. Then add in Signature Seafood Evenings and tastings that really showcase specialties of the local cuisine. Wherever possible, ingredients are sourced at local businesses in the ports we visit, reducing food miles and supporting coastal communities.

You'll also be spoilt for choice with sophisticated plant-based menus of gorgeous 'green' food, potentially healthier for you and for the planet too.



© ANDREAS KALVIG ANDERSON

YOUR ACTIVE ADVENTURE



Landings

As wind, waves, and sea ice allow, our Expedition Team experts will escort you safely ashore for a variety of highlights.

Small boat cruising

Even though your expedition ship is small, there are limits on where it can go due to its size. This is where our small boats (RIBs) come in. Launching from the ship's tender pit, these small boats (RIBs) are small and agile, allowing you to experience pristine wilderness up close.

Hiking*

Our experienced guides will take the lead on optional hikes to areas of natural beauty.

Lectures

Exciting new discoveries generate questions—many of which will be answered at our informative

onboard lectures. Topics range from tectonic activity, glaciology, and local history to culture, wildlife, and photography. The knowledgeable Expedition Team members aim to enhance your appreciation for your surroundings and inform you ahead of upcoming landings.

[Science Center »](#)

The ship's Science Center is a hub for information and education. You'll have access to scientific equipment such as advanced geological microscopes, as well as an extensive library. Learn about the Arctic wildlife and ecosystems or participate in ongoing scientific research with the Citizen Science program.

Kayaking*

The kayak, translated as the 'man's boat', originated in the Arctic region. Channel the Inuit kayaker of

centuries past as you glide silently through the still Arctic waters, with icebergs and glaciers towering in the distance.

Experts in exploration

Your Expedition Team are your passionate and knowledgeable hosts. They'll ensure you enjoy exciting and informative experiences safely and sustainably. Experts in their fields and adventurers in their own right, they deliver engaging lectures and talks, organise a variety of onboard activities, accompany you on landings, and take the lead on handpicked hikes.

The Expedition Team »

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



An adventure can be summed up into two things: journeying somewhere exciting and being adaptable to whatever comes our way. Both apply on your expedition cruise with us.

© NASA/JEFF SCHMALZ

When you embark on an expedition with us, you'll be travelling to some of the most remote and pristine places on our planet. It's an adventure to beautiful coastal areas where nature is at its most raw, wildlife roam free, and where the elements rule. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

Open exploration

Itineraries on our expedition cruises are therefore not completely set in stone. This gives us the flexibility of responding to challenging elements and to grasp new opportunities for exploration as they arise. Whether wind or waves block our way or we see whales we want to observe for a while, the option to divert from our

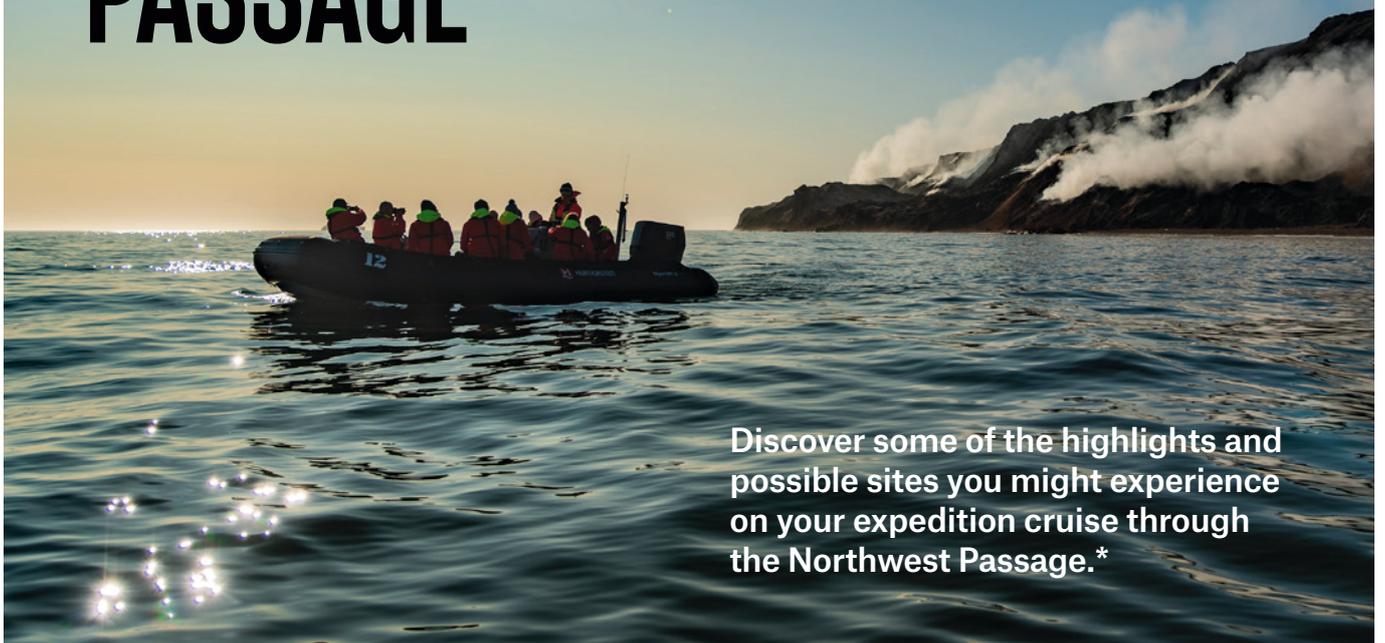
course is an essential and exciting aspect of expedition cruises.

Our plans may sometimes need to be altered slightly or even changed completely, bringing us to places and surprises not originally on our route, but which will still be just as impressive. Certain days on several of our itineraries even have multiple possible sites we can visit. You can trust the ship Captain together with the Expedition Team to pick the best option, based on the conditions on the day.

It is this unpredictability and adaptability that are at the core of any expedition, and what makes it an adventure so different from

a standard cruise. Embark on a journey with us; a journey where you'll embrace pure adventure, become real explorers, and expect the unexpected. Together, we'll create unique and unforgettable experiences, working with nature, never against it.

EXPLORE THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE



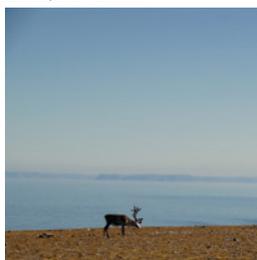
Discover some of the highlights and possible sites you might experience on your expedition cruise through the Northwest Passage.*

© KARSTEN BIDSTRUP/HURTIGRUTEN/CAMILLE SEAMAN/SHUTTERSTOCK



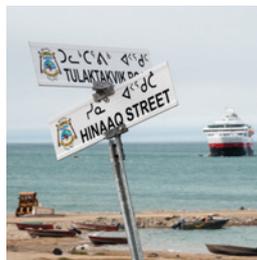
Smoking Hills

Named by explorer John Franklin, the smoke from the cliffs is a result of the spontaneous combustion produced when the mix of brown coal and pyrite is exposed to oxygen.



Cambridge Bay

The Inuinnaqtun name for Cambridge Bay is 'Iqaluktuuttiaq', meaning 'A Good Fishing Place'. This is thanks to the Ekaluk River, which attracts Arctic char (along with muskoxen and caribou).



Gjoa Haven

Named after his ship Gjøa by Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen who wintered here in 1903. He was in close contact with the local Netsilik Inuit people, who taught him about survival in polar regions.



Beechey Island

Declared a Territorial Historic Site in 1975, this is the final resting place for three members of the lost Franklin expedition, which sailed into the Northwest Passage in 1845, never to return.



Pond Inlet

The traditional Inuit village on Baffin Island boasts amazing views of the Eclipse Sound and the mountains of Bylot Island.

The highlights »

Did you know?

Baffin Island is the world's **fifth**-largest island and is home to the endangered Baffin Island wolf (*Canis lupus manningi*), a subspecies of the gray wolf.

The **first** crossing of the Northwest Passage took three years, from 1903 to 1906. Roald Amundsen became the first explorer to successfully cross the route.

There are more than **36,500** islands that must be navigated through in the Canadian Archipelago portion of the Northwest Passage.

The route is **2,500** miles shorter than the regular shipping route from Europe to Asia if you take the shortcut and use the Northwest Passage.

Since **1997**, Houghton's Crater in Devon Island has been used to advance Moon/Mars science and exploration. The conditions there are as close to Mars-like as can be had on Earth.

*Please check your itinerary for all stops and highlights, as they vary for our different expeditions. 7

THE SEARCH FOR THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

DISCOVER
with us



© KULTURHISTORISK MUSEUM

For four hundred years, explorers tried to find a way through the Northwest Passage. None succeeded until one Norwegian crew made it through, with a little help from the locals.

A polar history of trial and tragedy

North of the Canadian mainland lies a large group of islands, the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. It was this area 1,700 nautical miles across and made up of approximately 36,500 islands that various European sailors and scientists tried to navigate through in the 15th century, searching for new trading routes to Asia.

With deficient maps and winter temperatures of -40°C or colder, almost all would ultimately have to abandon their attempt, frustrated by the passage's labyrinth of channels which were dominated by ice most of the year. Some expeditions met with a sad end, but there was one which was able to succeed where others had failed.

In 1903, on his small shallow-draft vessel, "Gjøa", Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen set sail with a

small crew of only six men. By this time, based on surveys done decades earlier, it was known that the only navigable route was to stay south as much as possible to avoid the sea ice. Amundsen's aim was therefore to be the first to successfully sail through this passage.

Local survival know-how

No different to previous expeditions, Amundsen's crew came close to catastrophe several times. They managed to sail to King William Island, where they stayed two winters in what was later named Gjoa Haven. The local Netsilik Inuit people who inhabited this area offered to help the beleaguered explorers. Their knowledge of how to survive in the Arctic climate proved crucial for Amundsen and his men.

Amundsen was very impressed by the Netsilik Inuit people. He wrote afterwards that he and his

crew had no problems working in temperatures down to -53°C thanks to the locals' clothing.

Returning in victory

Amundsen finished sailing through the Northwest Passage when he reached Herschel Island in 1906. He then skied 800 km to Eagle, Alaska, to tell the world what he had done, before skiing back to Herschel Island to re-join the ship. In 1906, the expedition returned to Oslo. Amundsen and his crew enjoyed the victory of being the first men to sail through The Northwest Passage with one single ship.

Today, you can explore the Arctic Canada by sailing with Hurtigruten through the Northwest Passage. Join us and visit the local communities to learn more about the traditions and way of life of the Inuit people, trading where great explorers once set foot.

DISCOVER WILDLIFE



The Northwest Passage is an unspoiled oasis in the High Arctic. Its wildlife either migrates to more comfortable climates or adapts to the icy landscape.

© SHUTTERSTOCK

Animals of the High Arctic

The wildlife in the Northwest Passage either migrates to more comfortable climates or learns to adapt to the landscape, enduring bitter winters and periods with little food or sunlight. Herds of musk oxen and caribou roam the tundra, while seals and polar bears can be found in the sea and on the ice.

Whales

The marine giants of the Arctic of course includes the bowhead whale, the longest-living mammal on the planet. It is usually spotted in the Beaufort Sea. Look out for grey whales too, or their more gregarious cousin, the beluga. This distinctively white cetacean usually swims in pods around glaciers and shallow bays.

Mammals on ice

The waters of the Northwest Passage are home to six species of seal. The mighty walrus (closely related to the seal) also lives there, and you can identify them from afar by their big hairless bodies and long ivory tusks.

Polar bears are the natural predators of ringed and bearded seals and are endemic to the North Pole. Polar bears are born on land, but spend most of their lives on the sea ice. With their pale fur and heights of up to ten feet, these solitary bears are a sight to behold.

Herbivore herds

Deep in the tundra live herds of musk oxen and caribou. Caribou are noticeable for their majestic antlers, which stretch out above its head on both sides like tree branches.

Musk oxen are known primarily for two things. One is their thick coat, which is why their Inuktitut name is 'umingmak', meaning 'the bearded one'. The other is the strong musky odor the males emit during mating season, which is the reason for their English name.

Remember that these are natural habitats, so we can't guarantee that certain animals will appear during your trip. Mother Nature will do as she pleases, and no sightings can be set in stone.

Discover wildlife »

SUSTAINABILITY

Exploring our blue planet for more than a century has taught us the importance of being green.

Over decades, our Captains and crew, Expedition Teams and returning guests have witnessed the impact of climate change on vulnerable polar areas with their own eyes. We want the Arctic, Antarctica, and everywhere in between to remain places of pristine nature, pure water and clean air.

Sustainability is therefore at the heart of who we are and what we do. From the beautiful natural world to remote communities, we want to ensure our expedition cruises protect them both. In line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, we're able to offer you greener and more sustainable expedition cruises on and for the planet.

Want to know more?

Visit [our sustainability web page](#) »



© GENNA ROLAND

HURTIGRUTEN FOUNDATION

**Collaborating for change:
Creating a footprint we can be proud of.**

Hurtigruten Foundation is a platform for taking a stance and volunteering in worthwhile causes – together. Working closely with guests, partners and organizations, Hurtigruten believes we make a genuine difference, by minimizing our operational impact and maximizing the positive contribution we make to local communities. Since the Hurtigruten Foundation was established at the end of 2015, a total of 3,200 000 NOK has been donated to date for 34 projects in eight countries.

Hurtigruten Foundation is funded by direct donations and several onboard initiatives, including auctions, fund-raisers, and primarily the "Green stay" programme, where a donation is made for every day you ask us not to clean your cabin, thereby saving energy, detergents and water. We invite you to join us and leave a footprint we can be proud of!

Visit [the Hurtigruten Foundation web page](#) »

