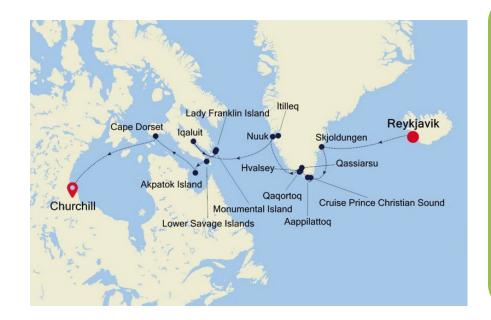
# REYKJAVIK - CHURCHILL

## **Expedition Cruise to the High Arctic**



Few places on earth harness the raw power and beauty of Mother Nature as effectively as Greenland. From the deep fjords and crystal-clear glaciers of East Greenland to the mighty polar bears of Nunavut and beluga whales of Churchill, this is one voyage that defies description. Join our team of experts for a journey that follows the route of the Norse in a region virtually untouched by time.



**DATES:** JULY 20-AUGUST 05, 2020

**DURATION:** 17 DAYS/16 NIGHTS

**EMBARK:** REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

**DISEMBARK:** CHURCHILL, CANADA

SHIP: Silver Cloud

FROM: \$14,940\*

\*After 10% Early Booking Savings

Free Economy Air or reduced Business Class
Pre- and Post-Cruise tour are available.

#### **ITINERARY**

#### **DAY 1 - REYKJAVIK - EMBARKATION**

Departure 7:00 PM

Plan to arrive at least one day early to avoid problems with flight delays, and to see more of Reykavik and Iceland.

Sprawling Reykjavík, the nation's nerve center and government seat, is home to half the island's population. On a bay overlooked by proud Mt. Esja (pronounced eh-shyuh), with its ever-changing hues, Reykjavík presents a colorful sight, its concrete houses painted in light colors and topped by vibrant red, blue, and green roofs.

#### DAY 2 - DAY AT SEA

#### **DAY 3 – SKJOLDUNGEN, GREENLAND**

Located on Greenland's relatively rarely visited rugged east coast, Skoldungen Fjord has enchanting scenery with towering mountains tipped with snow, ice-scraped valley sides and sculptured icebergs in shades of white and blue. At the top of the fjord one can easily see the retreating state of the Thrym Glacier.

### DAY 4 – PRINCE CHRISTIAN SOUND - AAPPILATTOQ (KUJALLEQ), GREENLAND

Christian Sund offers a protected course from southeastern to southwestern Greenland, and is one of South Greenland's most dramatic natural features. The water is generally placid and the crisp scent of ice fills the air. Depending on weather conditions, icebergs that glitter in the sun may be constant companions during the passage. Born of compacted ancient snows that formed glaciers and now calve into the sound at the glacier's edge, each iceberg is different from the next.

Aapilattoq is a small settlement near the western end of Prins Christian Sund in southwestern Greenland. In the local Greenlandic language the name means, "sea



anemone". This small village of 130 inhabitants, hidden behind a prominent rock, offers a good insight into the life of Greenlandic Inuit. A stroll through the village will reveal a small school and a church, along with the likely possibility of seeing a polar bear skin drying in the wind behind a local dwelling. People have lived off the land in the area around Aapilattoq since the 19th century. The tradition continues today as most people here hunt and fish to make a living.

#### DAY 5 - QAQORTOQ - HVALSEY, GREENLAND

The largest town in southern Greenland, Qaqortoq has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Upon arrival in this charming southern Greenland enclave, it's easy to see why. Qaqortoq rises quite steeply over the fjord system around the city, offering breath-taking panoramic vistas of the surrounding mountains, deep, blue sea, Lake Tasersuag, icebergs in the bay, and pastoral backcountry. Qaqortoq is known to have been inhabited by Norse and Inuit settlers in the 10th and 12th centuries, and the present-day town was founded in 1774.

Northeast of Qaqortoq and at the end of a fjord, Hvalsey is one of the best examples of South Greenland's many scattered ruins from the Norse period. Today the area is used for sheep-grazing, but until the 15th century the settlement at Hvalsey, and specifically Hvalsey's church, played an important part. Hvalsey Church was built in the 14th century and is the best preserved of the churches in Greenland from that period.

#### DAY 6 – QASSIARSUK – ITILLEQ, GREENLAND

Qassiarsuk is the newer, Greenlandic name for this small village. Here we tour the foundation remains of the manor house of Erik the Red, who found Greenland after being banished from Iceland and Norway for murder. We will also visit the site of the first Christian church ever built in North America, see a recently unearthed Norse graveyard that contains remains of 144 Norse colonists, and have a chance to admire Hans Lynge's remarkable bronze sculpture of Erik the Red.

Itilleq is an idyllic little village located on a small island about a half a mile off the west coast of Greenland, and only about a mile north of the Arctic Circle. It is one of the most picturesque villages in Greenland with its quaint colorful houses surrounded by stunning rugged mountains and glaciers.

DAY 7 - DAY AT SEA

#### DAY 8 - NUUK, GREENLAND

Nuuk, meaning "the cape", was Greenland's first town (1728). Started as a fort and later mission and trading post some 240 kilometers south of the Arctic Circle, it is the current capital. Almost 30% of Greenland's population lives in the town.



DAY 9 - DAY AT SEA

#### DAY 10 - IQALUIT, NUNAVUT, CANADA

Iqaluit is the capital of Canada's newest territory, Nunavut, which is Inuktitut for "our land". The community is located at the head of Frobisher Bay, an inlet of the North Atlantic extending into southeastern Baffin Island. The Bay is so long that it was first taken to be the possible entrance of a Northwest Passage.

DAY 11 – LADY FRANKLIN and MONUMENTAL ISLANDS
Named in honor of the widow of Sir John Franklin, the
Arctic explorer who died trying to discover the
Northwest Passage. The geology of the island is striking
with vertical rock cliffs. The waters around the island
offer an abundance seabirds, ducks, seals, and walrus.

Monumental Island in Davis Strait was named by Arctic explorer Charles Francis Hall as a tribute to the memory of Sir John Franklin. The island is offshore of Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago of the territory of Nunavut. It is possible to find groups of walruses with their impressive tusks along the shores of the island.

#### DAY 12 - LOWER SAVAGE ISLANDS, CANADA

The Lower Savage Islands are a small group of islands off the southeastern tip of Baffin Island, and a common location for polar bears to be found during the summer months. With plenty of land to roam while giving each other a wide berth, plus opportunities to feed, it seems perhaps bears can be found here as the ice vanishes with the summer season's warming temperatures.

#### DAY 13 - AKPATOK ISLAND, CANADA

Akpatok Island is a remote spot near the northernmost limits of the Labrador Peninsula. Steep and sheer limestone cliffs jut out of icy waters. This uninhabited island lures huge amounts of wildlife, most notably the world's largest population of breeding Thick-billed Murres, estimated at well over a million birds. These auks flock to the bare cliffs of the island between June and September, and murres incubate their single pearshaped egg on the cliff ledges. Akpatok Island is also a favorite summer home for polar bears as they wait for the winter ice to form.

#### DAY 14 - CAPE DORSET, CANADA

Cape Dorset is a small Inuit hamlet located on Dorset Island, off the southern shore of Baffin Island. This is a nature-lovers paradise with breath-taking landscapes and an amazing abundance of arctic wildlife, such as migratory caribou, seabirds, whales, seals and walruses. Captain Luke Foxe, during his attempt to find the Northwest Passage in 1631, was the first European to land here. Since the 1950s, Cape Dorset, the "Capital of Inuit Art", has become an economic mainstay of the community, with more than 20% of it residents employed in the arts.



DAY 15 - DAY AT SEA

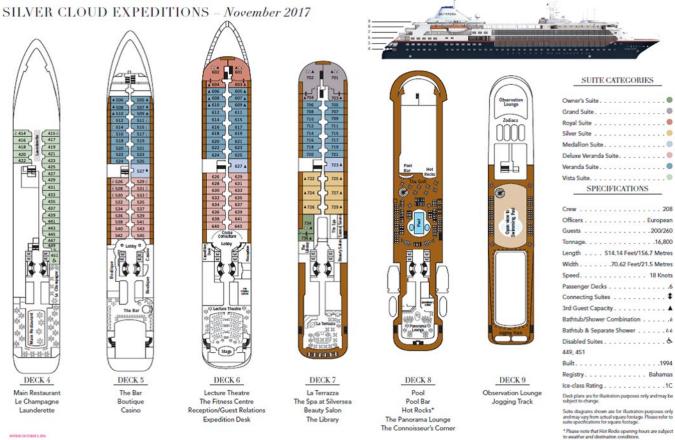
#### DAY 16 - CHURCHILL, MANITOBA, CANADA

Churchill is situated at the estuary of the Churchill River at Hudson Bay. The small community stands at an ecotone, on the Hudson Plains, at the juncture of three ecoregions: the boreal forest to the south, the Arctic tundra to the northwest, and the Hudson Bay to the north. Wapusk National Park is to the east of the town.

#### DAY 17 – CHURCHILL, MANITOBA, CANADA -DISEMBARK

You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.





#### Book early to get 10% Savings, and Free Economy or Reduced Rate Business Class Airfare.

Rates are per person, based on Double Occupancy, and Includes all beverages, gratuities to crew, all excursions, port fees and taxes. **Pre- and Post-Cruise tours are available to suit your interests.** 

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