

# Baffin Bay Secrets

From **12/7/2023**  
to **25/7/2023**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Kangerlussuaq**  
to **Kangerlussuaq**



FLIGHT PARIS/KANGERLUSSUAQ +  
TRANSFERS + FLIGHT  
KANGERLUSSUAQ/PARIS

**PONANT** invites you to set sail aboard **L'Austral** for a memorable **14-day expedition cruise** to the discovery of **Baffin Bay**. You will embark in Kangerlussuaq for an unforgettable journey in the heart of the most magnificent Arctic landscapes.

The first destination is the west coast of **Greenland** which will welcome you with its majestic **icebergs, colourful villages** encircled by mountains and its basalt formations. This is the ideal opportunity for meeting the local population and learning about Greenland **Inuit culture**.

Further north, the **Baffin Bay** will then reveal its **remote villages** of peat houses where the last bear hunters and narwhal fishers live in the middle of the **Arctic tundra** according to their ancestral traditions. You will also see the remains of ancient Inuit civilisations and will discover Savissivik, **the largest "iceberg graveyard" in Greenland**.

During the last days of your cruise, **L'Austral** will sail along the eastern coast of **Baffin Island**, in the **Nunavut**, Canada. With its immense cliffs, bird colonies and fjords, this destination will definitely delight you.

*We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. The itinerary, landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each **PONANT** cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the AECO.*



The information in this document is valid as of 4/12/2021

# Baffin Bay Secrets

## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### KANGERLUSSUAQ

Embarkation 12/7/2023 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 12/7/2023 at 6:00 pm

From 1941 to 1992, the town of **Kangerlussuaq** in Greenland was home to an American military base. Nowadays, thanks to its international airport, it has become a transit point for travellers seeking adventure in the Far North. Located to the north of the Arctic Circle, this town is the starting point of magnificent discoveries surrounded by **unspoiled nature**. Indeed, just a few dozen kilometres from there it is possible to get close to the Greenland ice sheet, the largest **body of ice in the Northern Hemisphere**. From Kangerlussuaq, admire also the superb landscapes of tundra in autumnal colours, where Arctic hares, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, reindeer, falcons and eagles live.

### SISIMIUT

Arrival 13/7/2023

Departure 13/7/2023

During your cruise, we invite you to discover **Sisimiut**, founded in 1756 and the second largest town in Greenland. This small town is typical of Greenland, boasting bewitching panoramas: here and there, **colourful stilt houses** dot the **undulating landscape**, and the small fishing port stands as the gateway to an icy realm. As for the town centre, it is home to a number of historic buildings, a small church and a museum which retraces the history of the Inuit people, as well as many craft shops. When your ship drops anchor here, you will set out to meet the locals in a typically arctic atmosphere.

### DISKO BAY

Arrival 14/7/2023

Departure 14/7/2023

To the east of Baffin Bay, discover Disko Bay, scattered with countless icebergs produced by the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From your ship, admire the majestic ballet of these ice giants as they slowly drift across the dark waters. This site is a natural marvel of Greenland, and is also renowned as an observation point for the region's many humpback whales. The encounters with wild fauna and stunning landscapes in the heart of this spectacular and fragile nature will be pure moments of wonder for you.

### PAUL-ÉMILE VICTOR BASE CAMP, EQI GLACIER

Arrival 15/7/2023

Departure 15/7/2023

"The most beautiful place in the Arctic" is how Paul-Émile Victor described Greenland, a land of great icebergs and of

towering ice formations calved by the giant glaciers of the polar ice cap. **The Eqi Glacier** is one of the region's most impressive sights. Here, the silence is broken only by the roaring and cracking of the ice. It is impossible to know if one is shivering from cold or from the sheer thrill of being here... Imagine the vast outline of a glacier, its **translucent crystals** glowing with an ice-blue fire in the sunlight. Paul-Émile **Victor's shelter** cannot be overlooked; it was from here that the French Polar Expeditions' anthropological and geographic explorations set off in the 1950s.

## AKULLEQ

Arrival 16/7/2023

Departure 16/7/2023

In the curve of Uummanaq Bay, opposite a narrow passage between two islands, you will discover the **moonscape** of the small desert island of Akulleq. The **ochre yellow and orange** of this mineral site look ablaze under the sunshine of the polar summer. From the island's summit you will be able to contemplate a panoramic view of the bay's magical landscape and its huge icebergs with surprising shapes.

## KARRAT FJORD

Arrival 16/7/2023

Departure 16/7/2023

During your cruise along the Greenland coast, we invite you to discover the **Karrat Fjord**. Located in the north of the famous **Uummanaq Bay**, it stretches out towards the ice sheet. As you sail in this exceptional setting, take the time to admire the beautiful **icebergs** that surround you, as well as the **sheer cliffs** that tower along the fjord.

## KULLORSUAQ

Arrival 17/7/2023

Departure 17/7/2023

Well beyond the Arctic Circle, in the majestic landscapes of Greenland's Northwest, you will find the village of **Kullorsuaq**, the last bastion of Greenland's traditional hunters. Here is where you will find Greenland's true character... Vast mineral expanses, **sumptuous mountains**, impressive glaciers and, above all, the local population which still lives off fishing and seal or bear hunting. Hospitality and respect for nature are essential elements in the daily lives of these men, who live an austere life. When we drop anchor in this remote part of the world, set off to discover these friendly people who are also **talented craftsmen**, deftly sewing the furs and skins of marine mammals. This will be a unique and authentic experience.

## SAVISSIVIK

Arrival 18/7/2023

Departure 18/7/2023

Some places in this world are so magical that their beauty cannot be described in words... **Savissivik**, a small Inuit village with less than a hundred inhabitants, is one such place. Rightly considered to be **the biggest iceberg graveyard in Greenland**, it is a stunning sight to behold. During your Zodiac<sup>®</sup> outing, you will sail between these icy giants. Once on land, you can hike to a viewpoint from which to enjoy breathtaking views over these icebergs, which come in an

incredibly diverse range of shapes and colours. Photographers will love it. Savissivik Bay attracts many **bears** and is also known for having been the home of one of the world's biggest **meteorites**, but the latter has now been moved to a museum in New York.

## POND INLET, NUNAVUT

Arrival 19/7/2023

Departure 19/7/2023

On **Baffin Island**, located in northern Canada at the mouth of the famous NorthWest Passage, there is a small Inuit settlement at the very bounds of infinity. To get there, cross the **Arctic Circle**, the imaginary line that separates man from lands of mystery and wonder. It's not so much the way of life that sets Pond Inlet's inhabitants apart, so much as the setting. Snow-capped mountains, **fjords** and **glaciers** combine in a dazzling natural environment that fills space and expands time. Some discoveries change you forever: this is one of them.

## ICY ARM FJORD

Arrival 20/7/2023

Departure 20/7/2023

The east coast of Baffin Island is a real lacework of fjords. Among them, in the north, is the spectacular **Icy Arm fjord**. As you sail these parts, you'll be dazzled by the immense cliffs that are sometimes over 1,000 metres high. This is a paradise for **base jumping** (parachute jumping from the top of the cliffs). During your stop here, you will have the opportunity to hike at the feet of these mountains and within the **glacial valleys**. Keep your eyes open when you get back on your boat: you'll probably get the chance to observe marine mammals, such as **whales, orcas** and even **narwhals**.

## ISABELLA BAY, NINGINGANIQ WILDLIFE AREA

Arrival 21/7/2023

Departure 21/7/2023

Welcome to the kingdom of the cetaceans! Here, those who love the giants of the Arctic won't know where to look. **Isabella Bay** is in fact part of the Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area, one of the finest places to observe **bowhead whales**. From your ship, watch the sumptuous ballet performed by these impressive mammals. With undersea faults over 300 metres deep, Isabella Bay, located on the north-east coast of Baffin Island, attracts cetaceans which come here to feed. In addition to the bowhead whales, the uncontested stars of these parts, the **Ninginganiq Wildlife Area** is also home to ringed seals, narwhals, polar bears, king eiders, little auks and northern fulmars.

## SAM FORD FJORD, NUNAVUT

Arrival 22/7/2023

Departure 22/7/2023

All around you is a raw landscape of spectacular beauty. Nothing seems to want to disturb the silence. You are in the **Sam Ford Fjord**, on the east coast of Baffin Island. Located only a few kilometres away from the Inuit community of Clyde River, this fjord has the kind of **world's end** appearance that only the Arctic lands can offer. From your ship, allow

yourself to be dazzled by the series of **vertiginous cliffs** plunging into the waters of the fjord. These impressively high walls of rock, known worldwide to climbing enthusiasts, are reflected in the waters of the fjord, as though to completely shift perspectives and blur the lines between land and sea.

## AT SEA

Arrival 23/7/2023

Departure 23/7/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

## EVIGHEDSFJORDEN

Arrival 24/7/2023

Departure 24/7/2023

Your ship glides slowly along the water towards the west coast of Greenland, to enter **Evighedsfjorden**, just a few kilometres south of Kangerlussuaq. Evighedsfjorden means "**the fjord of Eternity**", and for good reason: just when you think you've reached the end of this stretch of sea measuring over 100 kilometres in length, it seems to go on forever, as though to bring even more pleasure to those sailing in it. The spectacular scenery ranges from glaciers to **tundra** with an abundant flora, and jagged cliffs where **numerous bird species** have taken up residence. Take the time to observe the white-tailed eagles and the colonies of seagulls and black-legged kittiwakes flying overhead in the area.

## KANGERLUSSUAQ

Arrival 25/7/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 25/7/2023 at 7:00 am

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