

THE ARCTIC - ICELAND TO GREENLAND: TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 17 DAY | OCEAN EXPLORER




INTRODUCTION

Set sail on a once-in-a-lifetime 17-day Arctic expedition, timed to experience the awe-inspiring 2026 total solar eclipse from the pristine waters between Iceland and Greenland. Journey through dramatic volcanic landscapes and remote polar fjords, guided by expert astronomers and seasoned expedition leaders.

ECLIPSE EXPERT

We're honoured to have a world-leading eclipse expert **Michael Zeiler** onboard for the journey. Geographer-turned-eclipse cartographer Michael Zeiler became obsessed with the study of eclipses upon witnessing his first total eclipse in 1991. In his 2009 book, *Modeling Our World*, he explored how advanced GIS technology could be applied to high-precision eclipse maps. After creating his first eclipse map for the total solar eclipse of July 22, 2009, Zeiler launched the web site eclipse-maps.com to showcase new and historic eclipse maps. In 2014, in response to the growing worldwide interest in eclipse-watching, he established GreatAmericanEclipse.com, and subsequently co-authored *Atlas of Solar Eclipses: 2020 to 2045*. Zeiler is a member of the International Astronomical Union Working Group on Solar Eclipses and is honored to have the asteroid (53253) Zeiler named after him.

ITINERARY


TRIP CODE
ACQEIGSE
DEPARTURE
03/08/2026
DURATION
17 Days
LOCATIONS
Iceland, Greenland


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DAY 1: Arrive in Reykjavik, Iceland

Arrive in Reykjavik and transfer independently to your hotel, which is included in the Charter Flight & Hotel Package. Depending on your arrival time, you may wish to explore sites of the fascinating capital, which is known for its mix of modern architecture and Viking heritage. At 64°08’ north, Reykjavik is the world’s northernmost capital of an independent sovereign state.




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DAY 2: Embarkation & Explore the Westfjords - Day 2 to 4

After breakfast on Day 2, you'll have time to explore on your own before your afternoon transfer to the modern, purpose-built ship Ocean Explorer. We set sail for "Iceland's best-kept secret"—the Westfjords. This rugged peninsula, on the remote northwestern tip of Iceland, is dominated by mountains, volcanic rock and fjords. Mountains slope down to the sea in a dramatic fashion, providing plenty of opportunities for incredible landscape photography. We'll spend the day exploring by Zodiac and ship, as well as guided shore landings where possible. The views are diverse: dramatic cliffs, gushing waterfalls, colorful beaches, rolling green hills, high moorlands dotted with rocky outcrops and tiny lakes. You'll likely spot Icelandic ponies and shaggy sheep grazing the hillsides. A few outposts of civilization include small fishing communities at the fjord edges and along the shores of the Denmark Strait. One of the highlights in the Westfjords is a chance to visit Vigur, a private island where guests can delve into Icelandic culture and heritage as far back as the 11th century. Vigur is widely regarded as a capsule of Icelandic heritage. Upon arriving on shore by Zodiac. One of the island's co-owners is polar explorer Felicity Aston, the first woman to ski solo across Antarctica. You'll learn about the Icelandic tradition of eiderdown harvesting, and the wide array of Arctic birdlife and seals that are found in Vigur. It's estimated that Vigur Island is home to over 7,000 breeding ducks, 100,000 puffins, Europe's largest colony of Black Guillemots, and huge flocks of Arctic terns. You'll also have opportunities to ramble about the island, taste local food and visit the island café. Today's adventure options include Zodiac cruising, sea kayaking, paddle excursion program, and, potentially, a guided shore hike. Right across the bay is Mongufoss, one of Iceland's most remote and beautiful waterfalls, which we'll visit by ship. We may also visit Flatey, a small 1.5 km-long island in Breiðafjörður Bay.



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DAY 5: At Sea: Crossing the Denmark Strait

As we sail north across the Denmark Strait between Iceland and Greenland, the Expedition Team will prepare you for the exciting adventures ahead—both on and off-ship. Our team of polar experts will present on a wide range of topics, including Arctic history, wildlife, geology, and climatology. The team will also search for and identify seabirds soaring about the ship—and they’ll most certainly alert you whenever there’s a whale sighting.



DAY 6: Northeast Greenland: Kong Oscar Fjord - Day 6 & 7

Navigating within the boundaries of the Northeast Greenland National Park—the planet’s largest national park covering 972,000 square kilometers—we will sail into Kangerluk Kong Oscar, also known as Kong Oscar Fjord, on the northern border of Scoresby Land. This major fjord system, popular for its famously bright sandstone, stretches 110 kilometers long and 10 to 25 kilometers wide. You will also experience the wonders of nature in Segelsällskapet Fjord, where a spectacular display of “geological art” awaits: alternating layers of limestone and dolomite stretching before you in a stunningly beautiful canvas created over tens of thousands of years.



DAY 8: Exploring the Depths of Scoresby Sund - Day 8 & 9

Our purpose-built vessel will cruise deep into Scoresby Sund, allowing guests to marvel at the overwhelming beauty of the world’s largest fjord system and its vast icebergs. This area offers plenty of opportunities to explore during Zodiac cruises and onshore visits, and, if conditions allow, time to visit Ittoqqortoormiit, the most remote community in East Greenland. There will be a palpable sense of excitement in the air as anticipation builds for our much-awaited eclipse viewing. Behind the scenes, your Expedition Leader and the Ship Captain will work closely together, monitoring sea and ice conditions and meteorological forecasts—particularly cloud cover—to strategically position Ocean Explorer in the best location possible to maximize your views of the solar eclipse.



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DAY 10: Solar Eclipse Viewing: In the Path of Totality

Ocean Explorer will sail further into Scoresby Sund, where the team will identify the most optimal viewing point along the path of totality. With the total eclipse of the sun lasting 2 minutes and 17.2 seconds, this region of the Arctic provides the longest duration of totality along the entire eclipse path. The eclipse will start at 2:34 pm, and totality will begin at 3:34 pm and end at 3:36 pm. The eclipse viewing experience, a duration of 2 hours, 1 minute, and 3 seconds, will conclude at 4:35 pm. Throughout this exciting day, you will have opportunities to learn from our guest eclipse expert, Michael Zeiler. This 2026 eclipse is part of Saros series 126, which is a cycle of solar eclipses that repeats approximately every 18 years. It's worth noting that total solar eclipses in Polar Regions are relatively rare due to the smaller land area and the fact that the sun only illuminates each pole for part of the year. The Quark Expeditions team and our special eclipse expert will continue to research the geography of this region as we prepare for the event. Right up until the day of the eclipse itself, our team will study the mountainous terrain, the angles of the sun in the sky, localized ice conditions and weather patterns to determine the best possible viewing experience. Your Expedition Leader will outline the day's agenda in the days and hours leading up to the eclipse.



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DAY 11: Sailing the Coast of Greenland - Day 11 to 13

You'll have plenty of opportunities during your at-sea days to enjoy the amenities of Ocean Explorer. Guests can relax in Tundra Spa, the gym, the sauna with large windows, and two outdoor Jacuzzis, or deepen your polar knowledge in the light-filled Discovery Library. Almost all suites have verandas, ideal for watching the passing Arctic landscape. Spending time outside on on deck as we transit south along the east coast offers an opportunity to spot icebergs and, as always, we keep our eyes peeled for whales. Remember to check the lineup of polar presentations featuring our learned Expedition Team and guest eclipse expert.



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DAY 14: Aappilattoq and Prince Christian Sund

Tiny and picturesque Aappilattoq, home to approximately 100 permanent residents, is perched on the shores of one of the world’s most scenic fjords, the 100-km long Prins Christian Sund (also known as Ikerasassuaq). Aappilattoq is the second-most southerly settlement in Greenland (after Narsamiit). The name Aappilattoq has been interpreted to mean “sea anemone,” or “red” after the crimson mountain rising above the settlement. The area has been inhabited since the 1800s, but the current village was only established in 1922. The majority of residents rely on hunting and fishing, with local fishermen selling surplus cod and turbot to a small fish factory run by Royal Greenland. Services include a general store, fire station, elementary school, boat service, church and a general repairs workshop.



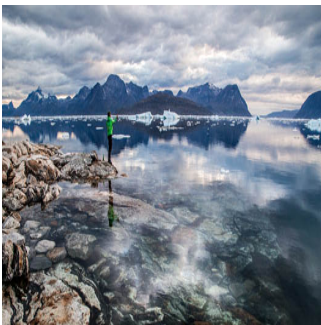
DAY 15: Ivittuut: Norse History and Muskoxen


Ivittuut, formerly known as Ivigtût (“grassy place”), is an abandoned mining town near Cape Desolation in southwestern Greenland, close to the ruins of the ancient Norse Middle Settlement. Historians and archeologists believe this settlement— the least documented Norse settlement in Greenland—once comprised about 20 farms. A handful of miningrelated structures still remain—some dilapidated—including a barracks, a storehouse and a cemetery. The 1987 translocation of muskoxen to Ivittuut from the Kangerlussuaq area is the reason you may see the lumbering beasts in the area. Otherwise, native wildlife consists mostly of Arctic hare and Arctic fox. It’s also possible to spot semi-domestic reindeer from Greenland’s only active reindeer husbandry operation, the Isortoq Reindeer Station, located south of Ivittuut.



DAY 16: Disembarkation in Nuuk

Upon arriving in Greenland’s capital, enjoy one more Zodiac ride to shore for the group transfer to the airport to catch your charter flight to Reykjavik, Iceland. Upon arrival in Reykjavik, we will transfer you to your hotel. Both your hotel and charter flight are included in the Charter Flight & Hotel Package.



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DAY 17: Depart Reykjavik, Iceland

After a restful night at your hotel, make your way to Keflavik International Airport for your onward flight, or spend additional time exploring Reykjavik at your leisure.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Cabin On Board Ship & Hotel

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INCLUSIONS

An official parka to keep
 A pair of special protective eclipse-viewing eye glasses
 Special presentations and keynote address by eclipse experts
 Leadership throughout your voyage by experienced Expedition Leaders, including shore landings and other activities
 All Zodiac transfers and cruising as per the daily program
 All shore landings as per the daily program
 Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
 All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage
 Complimentary select beer, wines and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner
 Complimentary coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
 Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled
 A photographic journal documenting the expedition
 A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions
 Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
 Complimentary Wi-Fi service on one device permitting basic Internet browsing, email, posting on social media and voice applications (premium packages are available for more data-intensive applications)
 All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
 All luggage handling aboard the ship
 Greenland voyages cruise passenger tax
CHARTER FLIGHT & HOTEL PACKAGE INCLUDES:
 One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Reykjavik
 Group transfer from the Reykjavik hotel to the ship on Day 2
 Group transfer from the ship to the Nuuk airport on disembarkation day
 Charter flight from Nuuk to Reykjavik
 Group transfer from Keflavik international
 One night's post-expedition airport hotel accommodation in Keflavik

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

International airfare
 Arrival and departure transfers in Reykjavik
 Passport and visa expenses
 Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
 Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
 Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance - strongly recommended
 Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights
 Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned
 Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified
 Phone charges may vary by location
 Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew
 Additional overnight accommodation
 Adventure Options not listed in Included Activities

Difficulty Rating 2 (Light Adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Available upon request. A supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, and vary from single, quad, triple, and twin cabins. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

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