

Western Greenland Expedition

WILDLIFE, INUIT CULTURE, AND HIKING ON THE ICE CAP



TRIP DATES

2025

July 29-August 5, 2025

August 7-14, 2025

July 28-August 4, 2026

August 7-14, 2026



Wilderness Travel

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With icebergs spilling out of its fjords, humpback whales spouting in its waters, and a unique Inuit culture, Greenland is a visual feast and a magnet for adventurers. We cruise between the steep ice walls of the stunning Western Fjords, walk on the vast Greenland Ice Sheet, and hike the tundra in search of herds of musk ox. In Ilulissat, north of the Arctic Circle, we hike past icebergs on UNESCO-listed Kangia Icefjord and explore an Inuit settlement. Taking an after-dinner boat ride in the golden glow of the midnight sun, we'll watch the play of light and color of the Arctic twilight reflected on towering icebergs. If you want the thrill of experiencing one of our planet's most jaw-droppingly beautiful settings, come to Greenland with WT!



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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE NUUK / NATIONAL MUSEUM / BOAT AND HIKE

Arrive in Nuuk, the tiny but lively capital of Greenland, meet with the group, and enjoy a walking tour of Nuuk's historic waterfront. We also visit the National Museum, with its exhibits of Greenland's traditional Inuit clothing, Norse artifacts, and the world-famous Qilakitsoq mummies. In the late morning, we board our charter boat with our friend, Captain Erik Palo, and head out into the fjords surrounding Nuuk for a warm-up hike in the untouched wilderness. There are no designated trails in this area, and (weather depending) our group will either hike along the coast or inland to enjoy the dramatic scenery. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch on the trail before heading back on board to savor a cup of warm coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. Tonight we gather for our Welcome Dinner. Overnight in Nuuk...BLD

Note: You must arrive in Nuuk the night before the trip. We are happy to book a room for you at our group hotel. Please note that this is an "on your own" expense.

Hiking Details: 3-4 hours

Boating Details: approximately 2 hours

DAY 2

THE GREAT WESTERN FJORDS

After a hearty breakfast, we'll boat into the vast Western Fjords, a wilderness that was once home to more than a thousand Vikings. It's a visual feast and an incredible day for geology as we pass below some of the most ancient rocks on earth—3.8 billion years old! Some walls tower more than 2,000 feet straight out of the ocean's waters, where ice drifts by, humpback whales breach, and waterfalls trace the sheer faces of the granite. We fish along the way (cod and redfish are plentiful in these rich waters), and bring our catch to a "boat-in" lodge at Qooqut Nuan (there are no roads in this immense wilderness). The chef and owner will cook up our "catch of the day." Lunch is served with crisp local beers, extraordinarily tasty thanks to the pristine quality of Greenland's water. A leisurely return through fjords bathed in the long afternoon light brings us back to Nuuk, with time to explore the colorful city. Dinner is on your own this evening and your Trip Leader will be happy to recommend some of Nuuk's local restaurants...BL

Boating Details: approximately 5 hours on the water in a covered boat

DAY 3

KANGERLUSSUAQ / MUSKOX SAFARI

Once a US refueling station during WWII, Kangerlussuaq is now becoming a center for outdoor adventuring. After a quick morning flight to Kangerlussuaq, we'll head out in search of Greenland's iconic muskox, or "Umimmak" in Greenlandic, meaning "long-bearded one." These large, wooly creatures are built to withstand winter's frigid weather and they can weigh up to 880 pounds. The cashmere wool of the muskox is among the warmest and most expensive wools of the world. The animals are elusive, but we've gotten you to the part of Greenland where you have the best chance to see them. We'll set out on



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length: 8 days
Arrive: Nuuk, Greenland
Depart: Ilulissat, Greenland
Lodging: 7 nights simple hotels
Meals: All except 1 dinner
(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

Activity: Cultural Adventures, Hiking / Trekking

Trip Level: 1 2 3 4 5 6
A mix of moderate walks and hikes over varying terrain, 1-8 hours a day, cultural exploration, travel by small boat, access to the Ice Sheet by rough dirt road

HIGHLIGHTS

- Savor the pristine, glacier-carved wonder of the Western Fjords
- Walk on the Greenland Ice Sheet, cross the tundra to look for shaggy musk ox
- Cruise past towering icebergs under the long evening light of the Arctic summer
- Learn about the Inuit, who have thrived in Greenland's extreme environment
- Walk along iceberg-strewn shores to an ancient Inuit settlement

Itinerary (cont'd)



foot with our guides who know the wild herds' movements, and no matter what we see, a hike over the tundra is a fantastic experience. Keep your cameras ready, though, as you may mistake these animals for large brown knolls until the herd begins to move, and when they do move, they move quickly! Tonight, we'll dine at the Roklubben—Rowing Club of Kangerlussuaq just outside of "town" (we catch a transfer on an old school bus!). Overlooking a lake where US servicemen rowed during the summer months, the restaurant's cuisine offers a fantastic seasonal menu, prepared with wild-grown herbs. Overnight at Hotel Kangerlussuaq...BLD

DAY 4

HIKE THE GREENLAND ICE SHEET

Today we head up to the Greenland Ice Sheet itself! The ride up to the Ice Sheet is on very slow miles of rough, bouncing dirt road, and we'll need to hike about a mile to get to the edge of the ice for our hike, but it is an extraordinary—and a bit surreal—experience to hike with two miles of ice beneath our feet, and ice stretching as far as we can see. Imagining the hunters and explorers who have traversed the Ice Sheet is mind boggling. Overnight at Hotel Kangerlussuaq...BLD

Driving Details: 3.5 hours total

DAY 5

ILULISSAT / KNUD RASMUSSEN MUSEUM

Heading to Ilulissat, 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle, we'll find ourselves in another world entirely. This bustling fishing community of colorful houses is set at the mouth of the colossal Kangia Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our afternoon walk takes us to the Ilulissat Museum, a fantastic collection in the historic home of polar explorer Knud Rasmussen. The exhibits are fascinating, and this is one of our best spots to purchase Greenlandic handicrafts and literature. We'll enjoy dinner in town, then in the golden light of the midnight sun, we'll set out by boat to cruise past the 150-foot high cliffs of the most active glacier in Greenland, and the one that is said to have spawned the iceberg that sank the Titanic. Amazing photos are possible in the beautiful light of twilight, and we'll watch for fishing boats returning to harbor to capture a sense of the scale of the ice walls. Overnight at hotel...BLD

Boating Details: About 2-3 hours on the water.

DAY 6

KANGIA ICEFJORD HIKE / SERMERMIUT SETTLEMENT

Our hike brings us past homes (and dogsled kennels) to a path through the tundra leading right to the shores of Kangia Icefjord. We'll be at iceberg-level, watching the massive bergs make their way to the sea. We'll walk over boardwalks to imagine what the ancient Inuit settlement of Sermermiut must

have been like. The grassy site is largely unexcavated. This afternoon you can choose between exploring the small town, a kayaking excursion, or taking a small plane out over the Ice Sheet and along the fjord (the kayaking and flight are on-your-own expenses)...BLD

If the optional flight with Air Zafari is available, it's a wonderful chance to experience bird's-eye views of the Greenland Ice Sheet and Kangia Icefjord, with its massive icebergs. The small planes—just 5-6 passengers—take off right from Ilulissat airfield and have large windows next to each seat, making for great photography. The flight takes about 45 minutes and is subject to availability and weather conditions.

DAY 7

BOAT TO HIKE! / OQAATSUT (RODEBAY) TO ILULISSAT

Boats are the summer mode of transport in Greenland—winter brings dogsledding across the frozen waters! Setting out from the pier in town, we head north through Disko Bay for about an hour (12 miles) to the traditional village of Oqaatsut (Rodebay). All along the way you'll have great views of the icebergs flowing out into the bay, and the dark volcanic rock of Disko Island to the west. Humpback whale sightings are always a possibility, along with both ringed and hooded seals. We'll land at the town pier and make our way through this small settlement—just 42 people. Our trail follows the rocky coast, giving us fantastic views of floating icebergs and the distant mountains of Disko Island as we hike back to Ilulissat, stopping en route for a picnic lunch at the water's edge. Anyone who is not up for the hike can join us for the boat ride to Rodebay and take the boat ride back to Ilulissat, with great chances for photography along the way, then have the afternoon free to explore Ilulissat. Tonight we'll celebrate our Farewell Dinner at a restaurant above town...BLD
Hiking Details: 5-8 hours, 12.5 miles, 1,300 feet of elevation change throughout the day in a series of little passes.

DAY 8

DEPART

Depart Ilulissat and connect with your homeward-bound flight...B



Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2025

\$8,195 (6-10 members)

Single supplement: \$1,070

Internal airfare: \$690 (subject to change)

Please call for future years' pricing

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations
- All except 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Land transportation, boating excursions, sightseeing as noted, and airport transfer on Day 8

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International and internal airfares, transfers for independent arrival or departure, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE*

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE*

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Accommodations



HOTEL HANS EGEDE

Nuuk, Greenland

Days 1 to 2 (2 nights)

The Hotel Hans Egede is well located in the center of the small city of Nuuk, within walking distance of all the sites. Guest rooms are modern and comfortable, with private bathrooms. There is a comfy rooftop bar in the hotel, along with two restaurants, and a completely delightful buffet breakfast is offered.



HOTEL KANGERLUSSUAQ

Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

Days 3 to 4 (2 nights)

Basic yet accommodating, Hotel Kangerlussuaq makes a fine base camp with access to the massive Greenland Ice Sheet. The hotel is located in the same building as the airport's terminal and offers standard rooms, a convenient restaurant, and a friendly staff. If you have time, be sure to enjoy some local Greenlandic beer at their bar. Please note that this hotel does not offer separate beds, but we can request a comfortable cot for travelers who are sharing rooms but may not wish to share a double bed.



HOTEL HVIDE FALK

Ilulissat, Greenland

Days 5 to 7 (3 nights)

This simple hotel offers 40 rooms plus an annex and offers great views of the fjord crowded with floating icebergs. It's conveniently located in the center of town, within walking distance of shops and cafes.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Western Greenland Expedition* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Nuuk, Greenland

Suggested Airport: Nuuk International Airport (GOH)

Suggested Date & Time: Any time prior to Day 1

Meeting Place: You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the Hotel Hans Egede in Nuuk at 9:00 am on Day 1.

Trip members are responsible for transferring from the airport to the hotel on their own. You can take a taxi from the airport to the hotel (a 10-minute ride) and most drivers speak English. Credit cards are accepted for taxi rides.

Flights into Nuuk arrive from Reykjavík or Copenhagen. We can book an overnight for you at the Hotel Hans Egede in Nuuk. Please let us know if you want us to book this and we can quote a rate for you.

Due to Greenland's remote location and possible flight delays, we highly recommend staying overnight in a city that operates flights to Nuuk such as Reykjavík or Copenhagen before flying to Nuuk.

Note: We strongly recommend routing through Copenhagen on your way to Nuuk in the event of a flight delay or cancellation. Unforeseen delays are possible, and there are more daily flights from Copenhagen to Nuuk compared to other European cities including Reykjavik, which only fly to Nuuk on a limited schedule.

DEPARTURE

Ilulissat, Greenland

Suggested Airport: Ilulissat Airport (JAV)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 8, anytime

Airport transfers will be provided to the Ilulissat Airport.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Greenland. Flights come in to Greenland from either Iceland or Copenhagen.

Space on flights is extremely limited during the short summer season and flights are very weather dependent. Early booking is essential, and an early arrival in Nuuk is recommended to allow for flight delays.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Air Greenland: Air Greenland operates in and out of the Copenhagen Airport (CPH), which is the main international airport in Copenhagen. www.airgreenland.com

Icelandair: Icelandair operates in and out of the Keflavík International Airport (KEF), which is the main international airport in Reykjavík. www.icelandair.com

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US two or more days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Once your tickets have been purchased, please forward us a copy of your airline email confirmation. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip. Air travel to Greenland is complicated, and the brief summer season fills up quickly! Be sure to secure all of your flights as soon as you have chosen a departure, both your international flights, and the two internal flights for the trip. **We highly recommend to plan for an extra day in Iceland or Denmark on your way to Greenland in case of delays.**

Trip Leader

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on "Trip Leaders": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/western-greenland-cultural-wildlife-tour/



ROB NOONAN

Rob Noonan came by his love of nature and the mountains early, adventuring throughout most of the Americas and later earning a degree in environmental studies from Prescott College in Arizona. He began guiding our Patagonia hiking journeys in 1994, and his love of the mountains led him eventually to lead for us in the spectacular realm of the European Alps and in the surreal northern landscapes of Iceland and Greenland. Rob brings a lot to a journey, with his boundless energy and depth of knowledge. He has a keen interest in natural history (he's a self-confessed "bird nerd"), and he enjoys comparing the ecology and geology of the incredibly diverse landscapes that he guides in. His personal connections also open many doors along the way, which adds to the fun of any trip Rob leads. "I love the cultural aspects of having friends all over the world, and it is a true joy in my life to lead adventures in lands I love and respect so passionately." A true global citizen, Rob spends his winters guiding in Argentina and Chile, guides our Europe trips in the summer, and is our "northern ambassador" to Iceland and Greenland! When he's not leading trips for us, Rob lives in Flagstaff, Arizona, where he enjoys hiking and river rafting.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated 3+, Moderate, on our Trip Rating scale. Our walks and hikes will range from 1–8 hours over varying terrain, from tundra to firm snow/ice on the Greenland Ice Sheet, to smooth granite. Many of our hikes are not on designated trails, which allows some freedom for trip members to walk their own route without straying too far from the group. Hiking poles will be a great asset in keeping your balance over uneven ground including rocky or mossy terrain. Much of this trip's difficulty isn't necessarily the hikes, which can be short some days, but the remoteness and ruggedness of the region. The biggest factor in Greenland is the weather, which will dictate the length of our activities, and possibly the order of them as well. We will be on board small boats (25–45 feet in length) for several passages. While we are not far off the coast, the wind and weather can have a significant impact on conditions. Please note that Greenland has very little structure for tourism, with very simple accommodations and an extreme, unpredictable climate that can make for uncomfortable transportation via boat or plane. An adventurous spirit and the willingness to accept the unexpected will be your most important items to bring along! We do send a detailed packing list, however, and provide Arrival and Departure information for Greenland's complicated travel logistics.

WEATHER

Weather in Greenland is known for being unpredictable. Temperatures are expected to be between 50–60°F, but the icy wind off the ocean and glaciers can make it colder. Trip members need to remain flexible in consideration of inclement weather that may require changes, such as substituting different hiking routes or canceling hikes. Water activities such as our boating excursion and midnight cruise are also dependent on sea forecasts.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at europa@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

| Average Daily Max/Min °F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Nuuk | 24/14 | 24/13 | 23/13 | 31/21 | 38/29 | 46/34 | 51/39 | 50/39 | 43/35 | 35/28 | 30/22 | 26/16 |
| Kangerlussuaq | 6/-12 | 4/-14 | 12/-8 | 28/9 | 46/29 | 57/39 | 62/42 | 58/39 | 46/31 | 29/15 | 19/3 | 10/-7 |
| Rainfall - Inches | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nuuk | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.1 |
| Kangerlussuaq | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.2 |

Travel Notes





WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Condé Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

October 3, 2024 1:34 PM