

Traversing the Northwest Passage

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 18 August – 14 September 2024





Traversing the Northwest Passage

18 August – 14 September 2024

Kangerlussuaq

DAY 1 | Sunday 18 August 2024

Latitude:

66°54.2'N

Longitude:

50°57.4'W

Course:

At Anchor

Speed:

At Anchor

Wind Speed:

5 knots W

Barometer:

1006 hPa

Air Temp:

12°C

The day began with an early start (the first of many, we're sure) so that we could make our flight to Kalaallit Nunaat: Greenland. After packing our bags and making our way down to the lobby, we enjoyed a quick breakfast before loading up in our coaches for the quick ride to Toronto Pearson Airport.

After landing, we disembarked our aircraft and made our way into a couple of buses for the 20-minute drive from town to the pontoon. As soon as we arrived at the pontoon, we met the rest of our Expedition Team and got outfitted with both lifejackets and Muck Boots (two pieces of equipment that we're sure to become

more accustomed to as our journey continues). With the correct equipment in hand, we hopped into our trusty Zodiacs for the ride to our home for the next month: the *Sylvia Earle*.

Following the Expedition Team's welcome, we also got to meet our hotel director, Singh, and ship's doctor, Gloria, who gave us the ins and outs of life onboard.

With all of the formalities said and done, it was finally time for our first of many delicious dinners on board. Our galley and restaurant teams pulled out all the stops for our first night and we left the restaurant ready for a good night's sleep.

Nipisat | Sisimiut

DAY 2 | Monday 19 August 2024

Latitude:
66°43'22"N
Longitude:
53°46'30"W

Course:
38.9°
Speed:
7.9 knots

Wind Speed:
12.7 knots NW
Barometer:
974 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

Nipisat Island itself was a lush oasis, and as our drivers brought the Zodiacs into the shallow bay that would be our first landing, we could see why this has been a place where Inuit, and the people who preceded them, have made this their home for centuries.

Climbing up from the cobble beach, we came to the foundations of an enormous, centuries-old sod house. Clearly the home of a large and prominent family, the house still emanated prosperity. The fecundity of Qeqqata was reflected in the opulence of this ancient homestead.

As we explored the island, the sun began to peek out, making our stroll even more idyllic. Ducks and divers paddled in the small ponds while gulls wheeled overhead. As the chicks have already begun to fledge, there were no cries of alarm, no furious beating of wings on the water. With their young now making their own way, early autumn

is a time of reflection and recuperation for the fowl of Nipisat.

Our sail to Sisimiut was short, with blue skies and a hint of a rainbow on the horizon. Coming alongside in this busy fishing port, we were met by buses and friendly tour guides who were eager to introduce us to their town. Before we disembarked, we were treated to a surprise demonstration of paddling prowess by a local kayak champion, Unung-gua.

Then it was off to town where we learned a bit of the history of this lovely and bustling village. The pens of sleepy sled-dog puppies on the outskirts were a highlight. There was plenty of time to explore on our own after our tour, and we walked the steep, narrow streets, finding something to marvel at on every corner, from elaborate etchings on the rocks, old wooden fishing boats, laid up, but still proud.





Ilulissat

DAY 3 | Tuesday 20 August 2024

Latitude:
68°50'34"N
Longitude:
52°49'24"W

Course:
56.6°
Speed:
14.5 knots

Wind Speed:
14.9 knots NW
Barometer:
974 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

In the morning, all of us also partook in a local boat trip into the icefjord. We were picked up directly from the ship for a ninety-minute trip. The icebergs were definitely the largest all of us had ever seen. While keeping a safe distance, we weaved through the icefjord, enjoying nature's artwork, waterfalls, and the beauty all around us.

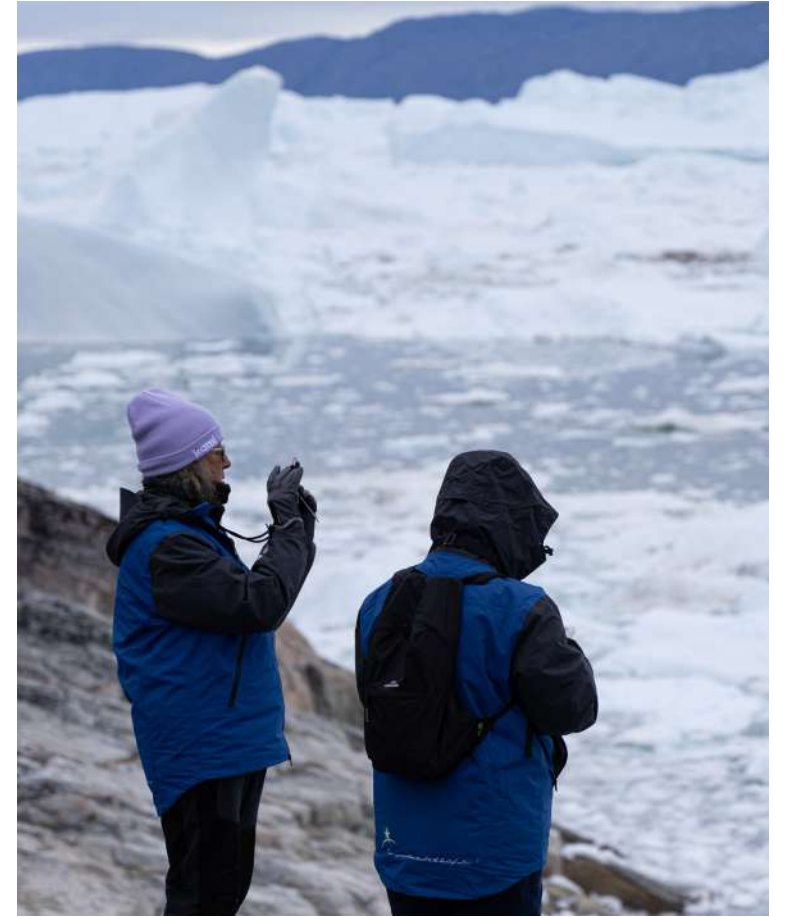
Ilulissat is such a busy harbour town. As the harbour itself is full of fishing boats of all sizes, the Zodiacs had to weave their way into the harbour, passing the icebergs and local boats coming and going. The town itself has so much to offer, so some of us ventured to the museum where our guest lecturer Bob was on hand to share his knowledge on local history and on Knud Rasmussen himself.

Meanwhile, others found the cafés, restaurants, and shops during their stroll around town.

The highlight of the day was definitely the Icefjord Centre and icefjord. What an amazing building, set in a beautiful landscape with a boardwalk leading out to the icefjord. Within the Icefjord Centre, there was a film showing the development of Jakobshavn Glacier, which was a great introduction to what we would see at the waterfront. The Jakobshavn Glacier calves off over thirty billion tonnes of ice each year. Many of the icebergs are so large that they are stuck for over a year near the face of the glacier.







Disko Island

DAY 4 | Wednesday 21 August 2024

Latitude:
69°12'50"N
Longitude:
53°38'49"W

Wind Speed:
7.3 knots W
Barometer:
1004 hPa

Course:
270.7°
Speed:
3.7 knots

Air Temp:
8°C

As our trusty ship, the *Sylvia Earle*, cruised into the harbour at the town of Qeqertarsuaq (formerly known as Godhavn), we all enjoyed the fabulous views during yet another scrumptious breakfast in our onboard restaurants.

Following breakfast, around half of our group disembarked our ship for a quick Zodiac ride to shore in the town of Qeqertarsuaq. From the harbour, they hiked across town and to a scenic waterfall to get a bit of a leg stretch in before joining the morning's Zodiac cruise.

Meanwhile, the rest of our group stayed on board as our ship repositioned to a location outside the harbour. Once *Sylvia Earle* was in position, our Expedition Team hopped into their Zodiacs to take us out on a cruise around the incredible basalt columns (or balsamic columns, as they are known to us on board) of Qeqertarsuaq.

Although the weather and sea conditions were a bit sporty for the morning, we all thoroughly enjoyed our cruise to see both this fascinating geological landscape as well as the massive icebergs that were positioned just off the coast.





Qikiqtarjuaq & At Sea

DAY 5 | Thursday 22 August 2024

Latitude:
68°00'53"N
Longitude:
61°37'0"W

Wind Speed:
25.5 knots SE
Barometer:
1005 hPa

Course:
248.5°
Speed:
9.6 knots

Air Temp:
2°C

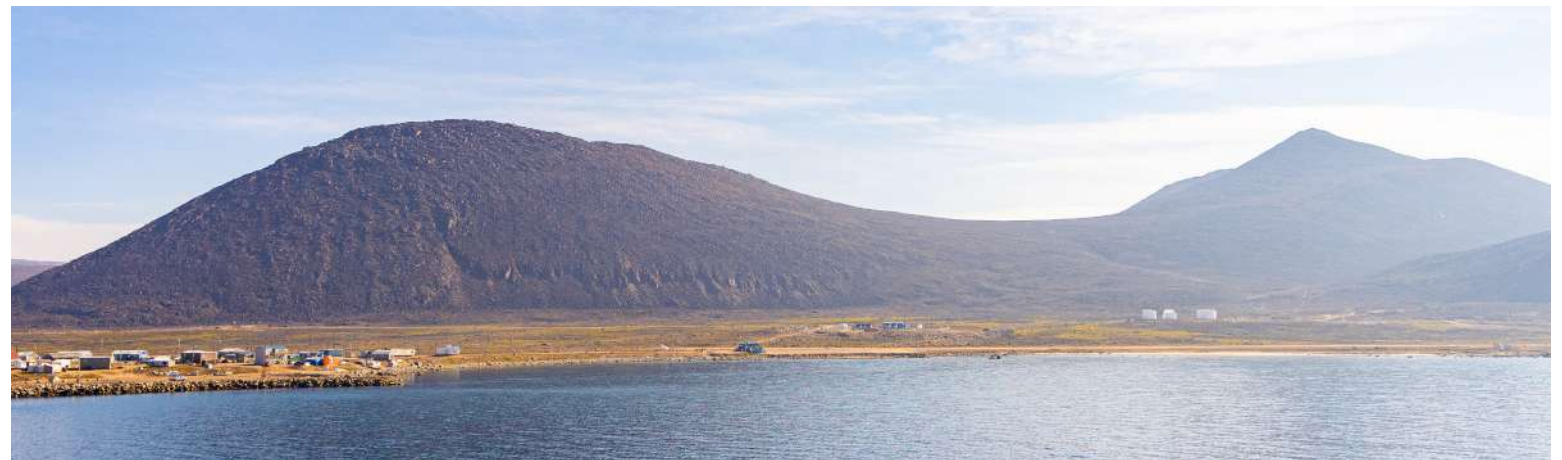
We started off our morning programming with the first of expedition historian Nina's three-part series on the history of the Northwest Passage. Following Nina's captivating talk, we gathered up once again in the lounge for an environmental briefing in preparation for our first landings and activities in Nunavut.

After lunch, the *Sylvia Earle* finally arrived in the scenic community of Qikiqtarjuaq, which is located on Broughton Island. At Qikiqtarjuaq, our Expedition Team picked up a few Canada Border Services Agency officers and brought them to the ship so that we could start the process of getting clearance to formally enter Canada.

While we waited to get permission from the immigration officers, we all enjoyed the second lecture in Nina's three-part series on the Northwest Passage. This was followed by an announcement informing us of the good news: we were finally clear to go ashore!

And with that, we set off into the Zodiacs to shore, where we were welcomed by many members of the community, including our local tour guides. Once we were ashore, we split up into three groups for a short walk around the community. Not long afterward, we walked over to the municipal government building, where we enjoyed a brief cultural performance, including a demonstration of the lighting of a *qulliq* by an elder from Qikiqtarjuaq.





Home Bay & At Sea

DAY 6 | Friday 23 August 2024

Latitude:
68°53'47" N
Longitude:
66°15'35" W

Course:
301.6°
Speed:
9.2 knots

Wind Speed:
33.3 knots SW
Barometer:
999 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

Another day on the *Sylvia Earle* dawned clear,
We could see Baffin Island draw near.
Down to breakfast we wandered,
'What will today have in store?' we pondered.
And we drank our tea and coffee with jolly good cheer.

Aboard an expedition in the Northwest Passage so grand,
We cruised through sea ice, a wonderland,
In Zodiacs we went,
Through waters cold and bent,
With icebergs so beautiful, sculpted by hand.

The sea ice shimmered, white and blue,
As we searched for wildlife, hoping for a view,
Then, oh what a sight!
A polar bear, snowy white,

On the ice it stood, majestic and true.

For the afternoon on the ship, we gathered near,
For Dot's lecture on arctic birds so dear,
She spoke of wings,
And migratory things,
The Arctic's chorus for all to hear.

Scooter and Bob, with pens and art,
Led a workshop to inspire the heart,
They painted the scenes,
Of icy blue dreams,
Where creativity and nature start.

Gaby taught us about clouds in the sky,
The Arctic's veil that floats so high,
She explained each form,
From soft to storm,
As we watched them pass by and by.

And Nina, with passion and grace,
Continued her tales of this frozen place,
The history vast,
Of explorers past,
And the Northwest Passage's elusive trace.

The day slipped by in a glorious way,
On Baffin's coast, where nature holds sway,
From bears to art,
We played our part,
In this Arctic adventure, come what may.

As evening fell, we gathered to dine,
Sharing stories with warmth, food, and wine,
A day so rare,
In the Arctic air,
On the expedition ship, all felt divine.



Quernbiter Fjord & Icy Arm

DAY 7 | Saturday 24 August 2024

Latitude:
71°45'34"N
Longitude:
72°35'32"W

Course:
281.2°
Speed:
13 knots

Wind Speed:
15.8 knots NW
Barometer:
1001 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

This morning, Baffin Island was stunning in indigo and amber, as the sun burst through breaks in bruised altocumulus clouds, adding a blush of rose to dark mountains and a flash of steel to grey seas. Icebergs dotted the horizon while our constant companions, the northern fulmars, continued to surround the ship.

At mid-morning, we were stunned to see tall black dorsal fins cutting through the water toward us. A pod of eleven or twelve orca heading east out of the fjord passed close by, allowing everyone a spectacular view of these elusive animals. They circled us once, then continued on their way out into the open sea.

By lunchtime, we had reached our anchorage at the end of Icy Arm. The kayakers busied themselves with their kit while the rest of us

followed the shore party to the mouth of a river that cascaded down from the glacier beyond through a narrow gorge. We waded through the last few metres of shallow, silty water to a muddy beach, then headed up a steep hill towards the river.

The gravel and mud gave way to a lush hillside of late summer flowers, willow, and a profusion of bog bilberries. We stooped to pick these tart, sweet fruit as we climbed ever higher, breathing in the autumn air. Buntings flitted about while ravens soared in the heights. Reaching the top, we marvelled at a stunning panorama of the fjord. Sheets of rain drifted through the golden light while the cliffs climbed ever higher into the mist.





Pond Inlet & Bylot Island

DAY 8 | Sunday 25 August 2024

Latitude:
72°45'49"N
Longitude:
77°43'8"W

Course:
241.5°
Speed:
7.9 knots

Wind Speed:
26.3 knots E
Barometer:
995 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

The morning was wet and windy, making for a wild Zodiac run ashore, but despite the weather we were warmly received by the residents of Mittimatalik. The community is the largest in the northern part of Baffin Island, with around 1,800 or so residents, and a number of community facilities, including an airport, the world's northernmost Tim Hortons coffee shop, and an ice rink for the hockey teams to train and compete on.

Despite these trappings of modernity, the community are deeply and fiercely connected to their heritage and their land, keeping alive the traditions of their culture and proudly sharing it with us. The cultural show began with a demonstration of arctic sports, which included

the one-foot high kick, two-foot high kick, Alaskan high kick, and other events, as well as an admirable performance from our very own Akpak.

Dressed in beautiful white anoraks and tall *kamik* boots, the women and girls of the group sang several traditional songs, accompanied by drum dancing by the boys, and demonstrated some of the traditional games and pastimes from a nomadic life. The show culminated with a playful performance of traditional throat singing, an almost otherworldly sound, rhythmic and expressive, capturing the voices of the wind, water, and wildlife.





Dundas Harbour & Croker Bay

DAY 9 | Monday 26 August 2024

Latitude:
74°27'2"N
Longitude:
82°12'56"W

Course:
303.8°
Speed:
10.8 knots

Wind Speed:
18.7 knots W
Barometer:
1006 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

After a calm evening sailing and an extra hour's sleep, we arrived at Dundas Harbour on Devon Island, the world's largest uninhabited island.

While ashore, we saw the empty weathered buildings of the RCMP station as well as the former Hudson's Bay Company building. Additionally, during our walk, we saw the graves of two Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers, the grave of a young Inuk child, and whale bones. Evidence of how difficult and isolated life would have been in this beautiful but harsh landscape.

Toward the end of our outing, one of our fellow passengers noticed a furry caterpillar on shore. Our Citizen Science coordinator and marine biologist, Vicky, did some further investigation and discovered it was a woolly bear caterpillar. It turns out that these caterpillars spend 90% of their life frozen and only about 5% feeding on the

tundra while the remainder is spent in hibernation. It takes them almost seven years to mature into a moth, at which point, they have only twenty-four hours to find a mate, lay eggs, and then die.

Then it was back on board for lunch as the *Sylvia Earle* repositioned to Croker Bay. Here, the Devon Ice Cap feeds the glacier that tumbles down into the fjord below. The face of the glacier is approximately 2 kilometres long and lends itself to a stunning Zodiac cruise.

Brash ice in the bay was evidence of previous calvings from the glacier, but this afternoon all was quiet along the face. There were numerous kittiwakes and northern fulmars flying overhead, and even a couple of arctic skuas feeding from the rich waters. We also had plenty of time to spend looking into the water to discover hundreds of sea butterflies and sea angels. There were also several pods of seals swimming around us, but keeping a good distance from the Zodiacs.





Port Leopold & Prince Leopold Island

DAY 10 | Tuesday 27 August 2024

Latitude:
73°53'58" N
Longitude:
89°19'33" W

Course:
258.7°
Speed:
11 knots

Wind Speed:
13.5 knots W
Barometer:
1008 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

The day began with a sense of adventure as the *Sylvia Earle* navigated its way into Port Leopold. The Expedition Team opted for a Zodiac cruise of the historic site. At the Hudson Bay Company site, Bob regaled us with captivating tales from the past, weaving history with poetry to transport us to another era. Meanwhile, Ashley donned her archaeologist hat at the Thule site, enlightening us with information about the rich historical tapestry woven into the surrounding icy landscapes.

Following a satisfying lunch and a rejuvenating nap, we embarked on another Zodiac cruise, this time at Prince Leopold Island. The air was filled with the symphony of kittiwakes as we marvelled at the beauty

of the towering cliffs that dominate the island's shoreline. If that wasn't enough, a serendipitous encounter with a polar bear added an extra layer of awe to the experience, all from a safe distance that respected the boundaries of both species.

After returning to the ship, we were greeted with cups of steaming hot chocolate, a comforting treat after a day of exploration. An evening of reflection and anticipation unfolded as we gathered for a recap and briefing in the lounge, where we could share highlights and insights from the day's adventures.





Beechey Island & Radstock Bay

DAY 11 | Wednesday 28 August 2024

Latitude:
74°43'14"N
Longitude:
91°48'14"W

Course:
At Anchor
Speed:
At Anchor

Wind Speed:
14 knots NW
Barometer:
1008 hPa

Air Temp:
1°C

The day started with a landing at Beechey Island. On approach with the Zodiac, it is hard to imagine the hardship that the men of the Franklin Expedition went through during their struggles in this region. The headstones that sit just above the beach are a grim reminder that Mother Nature is still in charge up here.

The Expedition Team went on land first, as they always do, to check the area for bears before we went ashore. Some of our number had signed up for the long hike up to the top of the mountain and they started making their way up the hillside while the other groups spent some time checking out the historical site.

However, nature had something else in store for us that morning when the king of the Arctic decided to show up and crash the party. We all left the landing site in a hurry and let the polar bear have his kingdom in peace.

On our sail to Radstock we enjoyed our lunch while the stunning landscape outside passed by. The dramatic scenery in Nunavut really can take your breath away. On the approach to Caswell Tower and Radstock Bay, the Expedition Team was up and ready on the bridge scouting for wildlife. As many of us expected, here the king of the Arctic was again.

This time, it was a beautiful mama bear with two small furball cubs cuddled up and enjoying their peace and quiet on a sunny late-summer day. Watching them there together cuddled up and looking cute, it is sometimes easy to forget that they are apex predators that one should not mess with.

Eventually, we left them alone and we got some nice, informative interpretations from the Expedition Team on the PA system while we did a ship's cruise around Radstock Bay.





Zenith Point & False Strait

DAY 12 | Thursday 29 August 2024

Latitude:
72°08'52" N
Longitude:
93°38'36" W

Course:
225.2°
Speed:
12.7 knots

Wind Speed:
9 knots W
Barometer:
1008 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

The skies were clearing, and the sea was calm as we sailed towards Hazard Inlet at the southern end of Somerset Island. The hills to the west reflected the rays of the sun, dappling the grey landscape with gold. Before we had even reached our anchorage, a polar bear was spotted on the shore opposite our intended landing site. With no operation possible, our Expedition Leader made the call to switch to 'Plan B' and we continued west.

Sailing around Possession Point, we headed into Brentford Bay towards Bellot Strait, which separates Somerset from the Boothia Peninsula. Coming into the shallow waters among the many small islands and hidden rocks, we stood just off from Fort Ross, the old Hudson's Bay Company trading post, abandoned since 1948.

By late morning we were ready to make the transit and the Captain took the *Sylvia Earle* into the narrow passage of Bellot Strait.

Just five nautical miles into the strait, the ship found a safe spot to hold us in position while we lowered the Zodiacs and made a dash for Zenith Point, the northernmost point on the North American continent. Everyone had the opportunity to stand at a rough cairn and look south towards Cape Horn, nine thousand miles away, and wonder at the immensity of our planet.

The wind had dropped a bit by the time we sailed west again, towards Peel Sound. In the low hills to the south, we could see musk oxen, our first glimpse of them, grazing on the tundra. At the western entrance to the strait, we turned north again, towards the aptly named False Strait, hoping to make another landing. Our scout team found a sheltered cove, but no sooner had they set foot on shore, than the fog began to roll in and the operation had to be cancelled.





At Sea & Point de la Guiche

DAY 13 | Friday 30 August 2024

Latitude:
70°03'53"N
Longitude:
96°56'10"W

Course:
141.2°
Speed:
9.5 knots

Wind Speed:
12 knots S
Barometer:
1010 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

We approached the site where the *Erebus* and *Terror* had been abandoned by their men on 25 April 1848. To mark the occasion, we gathered in the observation lounge, where Bob read to us the *Victory Point Note*. This was followed by a mini-concert from Kevin and Elena, which featured 'Lady Franklin's Lament', marking a truly solemn moment, indeed.

The morning continued with a lecture on the life of the Orcadian explorer Dr John Rae, and then an arts session based on the theme of plankton art. After lunch, the film *Passage* was shown in the lecture theatre.

We were all excited to do a landing at Point de la Guiche in the late afternoon. Point de la Guiche, coincidentally, was the place where John

Rae had arrived at on 6 May 1854, reaching his furthest north point.

After all our encounters with the king of the Arctic the preceding days, we were really happy when the scout team could declare that the beach was free of bears. From the beach, there was a short walk up to the cairn that John Rae built, and the commemorative plaque put there in 1999.

It was at this spot that Rae realised that King William Land was an island, and that the coast to the north was the same as had been seen by James Clark Ross in 1831. He was therefore looking out over a strait, not a bay, and he named it Rae Strait.





At Sea | Terror Site

DAY 14 | Saturday 31 August 2024

Latitude:
68°38'40"N
Longitude:
98°16'38"W

Course:
270.3°
Speed:
9.2 knots

Wind Speed:
3 knots SW
Barometer:
1008 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

We awoke on the last day of August to a *Sylvia Earle* that was graciously making its way westward past the southern shores of King William Island.

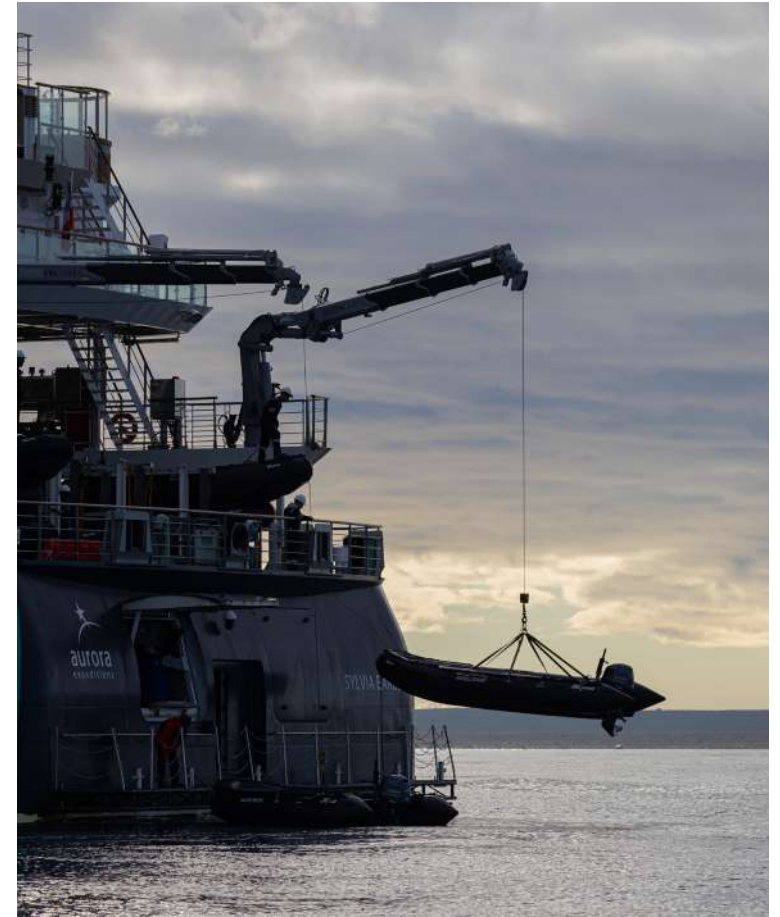
After getting a hearty bite to eat, we gathered up in the lecture room for the final instalment of Nina's three-part lecture on Sir John Franklin's fateful Northwest Passage expedition. This captivating presentation was followed by a short lecture from Kevin on a much lighter topic—that of legendary Canadian folk musician Stan Rogers.

After lunch, it was time to bring our experiential journey along the same waters that Franklin himself had sailed some 170 years prior to

an apex, so to speak. Throughout the day, our talented bridge team had steered *Sylvia Earle* to a position a handful of miles away from the location where a research team found the wreck of the HMS *Terror* in September 2016.

We were able to venture out on our Zodiacs for a short cruise in the waters in the general vicinity of the wreck in order to appreciate this place and to pay homage to those who lost their lives during the expedition. During the cruise, our ever-talented expedition musician, Kevin, even treated us to a floating concert with an incredible rendition of Stan Roger's own 'Northwest Passage'.





Qikiqtaryuaq & Kujapik

DAY 15 | Sunday 1 September 2024

Latitude:
68°43'35"N
Longitude:
101°23'36"W

Course:
203.1°
Speed:
11.5 knots

Wind Speed:
15 knots SW
Barometer:
1010 hPa

Air Temp:
8°C

In the morning, the *Sylvia Earle* transited smoothly across relatively calm seas to a small bay off the coast of Qikiqtaryuaq, where a vast and rugged landscape awaited us.

We were treated to beautifully sunny conditions as the walking groups made their way to shore, to set out on their various adventures.

Those on the long hike ventured ambitiously far across the landscape towards a plaque marking the location of the now-defunct Jenny Lind Island Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line Station. Meanwhile, those on shorter walks wandered more slowly, discovering little gems on the land. Wildflowers and caribou were scattered around the terrain alongside the old buildings and airstrip, creating a perfect

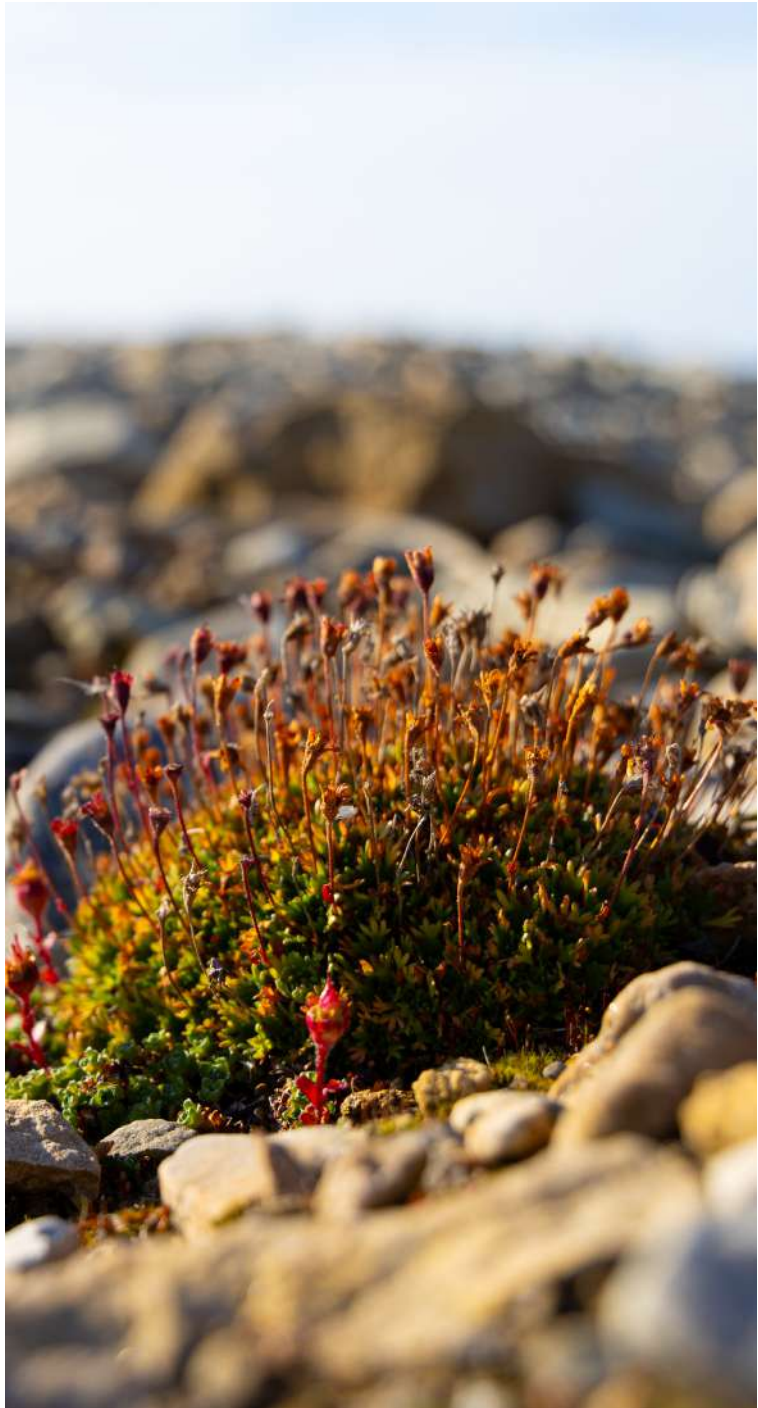
landscape for everyone to stretch their legs.

In the late afternoon, Kujapik welcomed us with sunny weather, a light breeze, and calm conditions. We lowered the Zodiacs for a cruise that would take us through unexplored waters, hoping to find some wildlife along the shores.

The sun created a beautiful glow along the landscape and the horizon. During the cruise, we were lucky enough to see birds flying around our Zodiacs and some groups even spotted a fox!

Below the water, we discovered jellyfish of all different sizes as they fluttered around our Zodiacs. It was a beautiful and pleasant way to end a day of adventures before heading back to the ship.





Cambridge Bay & At Sea

DAY 16 | Monday 2 September 2024

Latitude:
69°2'45"N
Longitude:
105°9'15"W

Wind Speed:
7 knots W
Barometer:
1007 hPa

Course:
78.1°
Speed:
10.2 knots

Air Temp:
6°C

This morning, our plan was to visit the lovely community of Cambridge Bay (Iqaluktuuttiaq). Set along the southern shores of Victoria Island (Kitlineq), Cambridge Bay is a bustling community of around 1,800 people.

During our morning in Cambridge Bay, many of us ventured out on a walking tour led by members of the community. The walking tour included a visit to the library, as well as a stop at the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHAR). Meanwhile, some of our number opted to participate in a handful of workshops at the library, which included tapestry making, card making, and an *inuksuk*-building workshop.

To wrap up our fantastic morning in Cambridge Bay, we also took the opportunity to stroll around the heritage park near the landing site and to visit the Red Fish Art Society building. At Red Fish, we were able to purchase local crafts and we also had the chance to sample some local dishes, which included an assortment of country foods.

After lunch, we all gathered up in the lounge for a ceremonial *qulliq*-lighting ceremony led by Geela. The poignant ceremony officially opened our onboard Arctic Games afternoon, which was facilitated by Akpak and showcased a multitude of games and competitions from the north.







Edinburgh Island & Johansen Bay

DAY 17 | Tuesday 3 September 2024

Latitude:
68°27'35"N
Longitude:
110°31'25"W

Course:
251.3°
Speed:
6.9 knots

Wind Speed:
13 knots NW
Barometer:
1015 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

Our options this morning included a hike up to the high point of the island to be rewarded with spectacular views of the surrounding area. For forty of us, this involved walking through the valley covered by tundra then up a rocky slope to the summit. A shorter option along the edge of the valley was enjoyed by several others in our group. Meanwhile, others choose to beachcomb and participate in a cloud survey.

In the afternoon, we had another opportunity to explore the vast Arctic. The predicted rain did arrive as we disembarked the ship, though fortunately, it disappeared once we were ashore and ready

for hiking across the tundra. Others chose to Zodiac-cruise along the coast. Once again, the colours of the flora were spectacular. We even found the skeleton of a polar bear with its large, strong incisors still embedded in the jaw bones.

All the while, our kayakers were out on the water both in the morning and the afternoon. They enjoyed quite a long paddle in the morning but in excellent condition. However, the length of the adventure resulted in a few tired paddlers on board at lunchtime, so there were fewer paddlers on the water this afternoon.





Port Epworth

DAY 18 | Wednesday 4 September 2024

Latitude:
67°46'18"N
Longitude:
111°58'40"W

Course:
281.3°
Speed:
6.7 knots

Wind Speed:
11 knots S
Barometer:
1012 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

The focus of our morning's outing was stromatolites: fossilised colonies of ancient algae (some of which are two billion years old!) whose respiration is responsible for the oxygen-rich atmosphere we enjoy today. In the morning, our many hikers navigated the undulating tundra and marvelled at the lush, varied vegetation, while some indulged in a second breakfast of wild berries.

During the walk, we were reminded that it is autumn in the Arctic, with arctic willow and birch afire with autumn colours. Spectacular views over a serene landscape of stromatolite-strewn slabs, expansive lakes, meandering streams and tumbling waterfalls made the sometimes-challenging hike through soggy swamp well worth the effort.

Back on board, a small but mighty group of bold polar plungers were cheered on by their fellow Expeditioners as they leapt into the frigid waters of the Northwest Passage. Their valiant and entertaining

efforts were followed by a festive BBQ lunch on the outer decks, with thanks to our wonderful galley team.

As the sun zipped past its zenith, we readied ourselves for the afternoon's activities. A group of intrepid Zodiac cruisers ventured south along Tree River to Tree River Lodge, a secluded fishing retreat where the world's largest arctic char can be found. En route, they were treated to memorable views of ground squirrels - some of them remarkably well-fed - taking a peek at their strange visitors!

On land, walkers paid our respects at the burial site of RCMP policeman Corporal Doak, and Hudson Bay Company trader Otto Binder Senior, before continuing on through the arctic forest, vibrant in its autumn regalia. Some pressed on to the imposing summit ridge, while others traversed the tundra, spotting stromatolites and ground squirrel burrows on their way back to shore.







Bernard Harbour & At Sea

DAY 19 | Thursday 5 September 2024

Latitude:
68°48'5"N
Longitude:
114°20'55"W

Course:
296.5°
Speed:
6.3 knots

Wind Speed:
17 knots S
Barometer:
1016 hPa

Air Temp:
9°C

After scouting, the first of our number who went ashore made their way inland to the derelict and deteriorating installations of the former DEW line station.

Winding up the road, at first it seemed the only colour was the neon-orange navigation marks, but once our eyes became familiar with the landscape, the textures of gravel clumps of Labrador tea, tufts of saxifrage, and fireweed about to erupt windborne seeds, revealed themselves. And a family of red foxes had made the high vantage point of the station home, trotting through the twisted remains of an antenna collapsed on the side of the hill.

As the second walking group wound their way along the shore of the peninsula behind North Star Point (named for the notable arctic trading ship that once sailed these waters) some sandy tussocks

became speckled ptarmigans fluffing their wings, while ground squirrels scolded the interlopers and a grey rock resolved into an arctic hare in the last days of its summer coat. But leading lines of old oil drums steadfastly remained rust oxen, never musk oxen.

Meanwhile, Zodiac cruisers and kayakers explored the bay, sliding up Bernard Creek as far as their respective craft permitted, then cruised past the Hudson's Bay Company trading post and along Teddy Bear Island. Certainly not named for adorable fluffy wildlife encountered here; *Teddy Bear* was the schooner of Joe Bernard. Joe was one of the first people in Nome to consider trading opportunities with the Coppermine Inuit after he met Roald Amundsen following his successful transit of the Northwest Passage in *Gjøa*.





Ulukhaktok

DAY 20 | Friday 6 September 2024

Latitude:
70°36'29" N
Longitude:
118°00'55" W

Course:
17.8°
Speed:
8.6 knots

Wind Speed:
31.7 knots E
Barometer:
998 hPa

Air Temp:
9°C

As we arrived at the shoreline of Ulukhaktok, we were greeted by a welcoming party of community members before we set off on our various morning activities. Some of our number headed off on a nature walk while others took a guided stroll around town. Others yet attended a printmaking and sewing demonstration to learn more about the arts and the crafts that have made Ulukhaktok so famous over the years.

Following our small-group activities, we all gathered up in the community hall for a cultural demonstration that featured many members of the community. The demonstration included a showing of some sports from the Arctic Games, as well as drum dancing and other traditional songs and dances where everyone in the room—

passengers and Expedition Team members, alike—were invited to join in the fun.

But as all good things must eventually come to an end, so to did our visit to Ulukhaktok. After we made our way back to the shoreline, we enjoyed one last demonstration, this time an arctic char-filleting session, before loading our Zodiacs and heading back to the ship.

Once back on board, we enjoyed an à la carte lunch, followed by a lecture from Bob on arctic sovereignty issues. The late afternoon saw a number of workshops, including an arts session with Gabby (Scooter) and a *qulliq*-lighting session with Geela.





The Smoking Hills & At Sea

DAY 21 | Saturday 7 September 2024

Latitude:
70°21'22"N
Longitude:
126°31'14"W

Course:
247.3°
Speed:
8.8 knots

Wind Speed:
16 knots W
Barometer:
1003 hPa

Air Temp:
8°C

A calm night at sea took *Sylvia Earle* across the extent of the Amundsen Gulf from Victoria Island to near Cape Bathurst. This was Franklin Bay, where the fascinating Smoking Hills formed the western shore.

Even while people gathered in the Zodiac, the smell of sulphur dioxide was apparent. The explanation for the smell was the enduring spontaneous combustion of bituminous sedimentary rocks caused by oxidation of sulphurous pyrites.

It looked volcanic, but this was deceptive as the rocks were merely ancient sediments. The colours were distinct and varied: very dark soils, red ferrite from the burns, yellow deposits of sulphur, white to grey ashes, and calcified upper sediments. These were in profusion

forming cliffs, small peaks, some valleys with knolls, outcrops, and isolated rocks—a geomorphological jumble.

Throughout the zone, there were plumes of steam and smoke arising from the boccanes: individual to large areas emitting puffs to continuous clouds of white vapours. On the land, there was no sign of life—it was the mineral kingdom. Biology was represented by a sporadic cormorant at sea apparently trying to fish.

The afternoon was full of lectures, workshops, and especially after some active days, a degree of relaxation. Events included an Inuktitut language workshop in the observation lounge with Geela and Gaby, as well as a songwriting workshop in the lecture room with Kevin.





At Sea

DAY 22 | Sunday 8 September 2024

Latitude:
71°13'43"N
Longitude:
132°43'53"W

Course:
270.2°
Speed:
7.5 knots

Wind Speed:
3 knots W
Barometer:
1006 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

The morning began with a fantastic towel-folding demonstration with our housekeeping team, who showed us how they make those adorable animal designs out of little else but a humble bathroom towel.

Soon it became time for the first lecture of the day, this time with Bob on the hunting, trapping, sealing, and whaling history of the Arctic. After Bob's lecture, we had two workshops to round off our morning: one with Gabby (Scooter) on arctic-inspired art and another on *qulliq*-lighting with Geela.

But before we ventured to our morning workshops, many of us made a quick jaunt to the outer decks to appreciate a beautiful fogbow

that decided to grace us with its presence. The fogbow added a stunning air of mystique to the morning, which was otherwise spent sailing through thick patches of fog, interspersed with fleeting glimpses of the sun.

After lunch, we found ourselves in the lecture room again for a lecture from our onboard photographer, Natalie, on conservation and storytelling.

After a quick bite of afternoon tea, many of us had the opportunity to join in another couple of workshops. The afternoon's activities included a mitten-making workshop with Akpak and an earring-making workshop with Geela.





Herschel Island | At Sea

DAY 23 | Monday 9 September 2024

Latitude:
69°31'28"N
Longitude:
138°43'59"W

Course:
250.6°
Speed:
6.1 knots

Wind Speed:
10 knots NE
Barometer:
1007 hPa

Air Temp:
8°C

After a wake-up call and another excellent breakfast, we all wrapped up warmly for the very last Zodiac cruise on our journey through the Northwest Passage.

As we approached the settlement on Simpson Point from the south, we saw the airstrip along the beach, the RCMP graveyard up in the hills to the north, and the old Anglican mission house with recently fitted box nests on the roof to serve as a small 'bird cliff' for black guillemots. The beachline was covered by an enormous amount of driftwood, having found its way to the island's shores from the Mackenzie River delta.

While cruising along the beachline at Simpson Point, we also spotted

old ice houses that were dug down into the ground. These ice houses were also reinforced and insulated with timber and sod.

Along the rapidly eroding shoreline (due to the permafrost thawing) of Pauline Cove, we saw a snowy owl, silently inspecting us from its observation point at the top of the hill before it eventually decided to move on.

The afternoon was spent on board the ship, with workshops led by Expedition Team members on Inuktitut and seamen's knots. There was even a lecture from Bob on the attainment of the North Pole. And, of course, our ship's musician, Kevin, spent around an hour entertaining us in the Tektite Bar before dinner.





At Sea

DAY 24 | Tuesday 10 September 2024

Latitude:
70°35'0"N
Longitude:
148°35'59"W

Course:
317.1°
Speed:
10.9 knots

Wind Speed:
10 knots E
Barometer:
1008 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

Our first full day at sea on our westward journey began with the *Sylvia Earle* gracefully gliding through foggy, but calm waters.

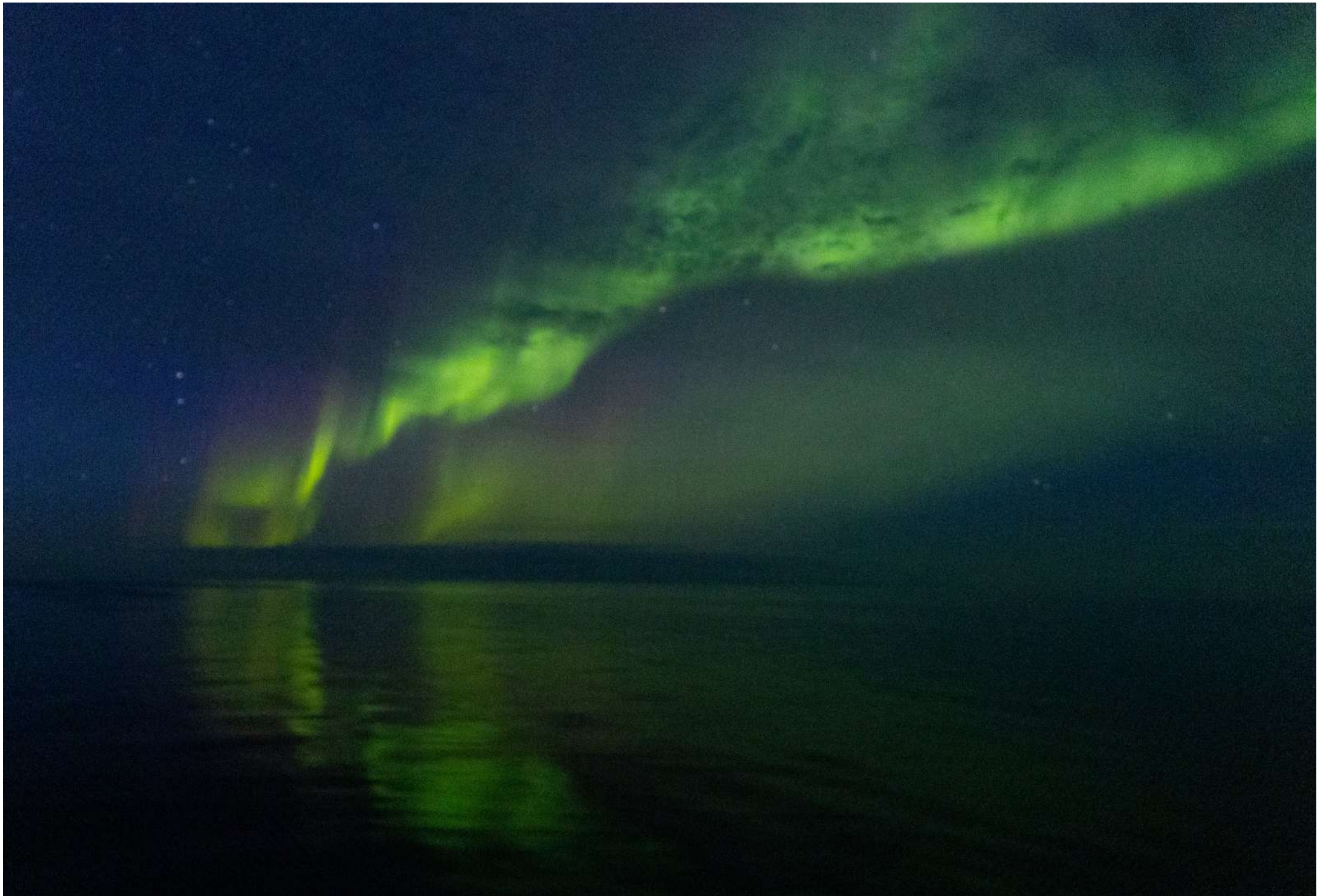
Breakfast was followed by a very informative lecture on plastics in the ocean by Dot. Afterward, some of us took part in a cloud interpretation workshop with Gaby in the lecture room, was followed by a cloud observation on deck 8 forward as part of the NASA Globe Observer program. All the while, many of us took to the gym and to the outer decks to get our steps and miles in as part of the 'Race to Eagle' competition on board.

For many of us, the afternoon was a time of even more activity. This

included a fantastic lecture from Vicky on her personal experiences sailing in the wake of the Norse on a contemporary replica of a Viking ship. After hearing all of Vicky's tales of adventure on board that little wooden ship on the stormy seas of the North Atlantic, many of us were certainly quite happy with the modern comforts and stability of our trusty vessel, the *Sylvia Earle*.

The late afternoon was mostly taken up with workshops led by a handful of our Expedition Team. This included an earring-making workshop with Geela and the second part of the mitten-making workshop with Ashley. Meanwhile, we all enjoyed a fantastic sea-day tea in the late afternoon as the ship sailed in and out of the fog.





At Sea

DAY 25 | Wednesday 11 September 2024

Latitude:
70°53'15"N
Longitude:
160°40'18"W

Course:
241.5°
Speed:
10.5 knots

Wind Speed:
6 knots NE
Barometer:
1005 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

We awoke in the wee hours of the morning to a whispered announcement over the radio: there were aurora borealis (northern lights) off the port side of the ship! Despite the early wake-up call, many of our number ventured out into the cold, but still, night to appreciate this majestic sight before returning to the simple comforts of a warm bed.

The morning continued on with an action-filled program of education and entertainment. First up on the docket was the Nightly Knuds at Nine with (K)Nina, followed by a presentation on the ship's various features and technical specifications with Ashley.

To wrap up the morning, we had some organised tours of the bridge in small groups, followed by a cloud survey with Vicky and some

workshops.

Lunch was followed by an informative lecture from Gaby on the sea ice of the Arctic, where she explained the importance of ice for both polar and global ecosystems.

The late afternoon saw the day's premier event: *Sylvia Earle's* own TEDx-style lecture series. During the event, we heard from eight Expeditioners on a variety of topics ranging from gorilla conservation, to living with dyslexia and dyspraxia. All in all, it was a fantastic event, and we all appreciated both the breadth of knowledge and experience among our fellow Expeditioners as well as their courage at being willing to get up and speak in front of a crowd



At Sea & Little Diomede Island

DAY 26 | Thursday 12 September 2024

Latitude:
67°39'30"N
Longitude:
168°08'15"W

Course:
196.4°
Speed:
9.2 knots

Wind Speed:
4 knots N
Barometer:
1005 hPa

Air Temp:
5°C

Half a mile ahead of the ship, a dark shape sliced through the sea. The submarine presence was marked on the surface by a raft of dark birds ruffling the mirror water. Beyond, another body, then another, and another. We quickly became surrounded by a pod of grey whales, so we spent our morning in the company of these ocean giants.

Identified by their mottled grey skin, like lichen-clad rock, and complete with orange blotches (whale lice!), grey whales lack a dorsal fin. Instead, a low hump on their lower back is followed by a row of knobbly lumps leading to the tail. They were making their way southwards to overwinter in the warm waters off Baja California, where their young are born.

As the day progressed, we moved into the Bering Strait, passing Cape Prince of Wales, the westernmost point of continental North America, to port as we made for the Diomede Islands. Two islands in two different countries, around two nautical miles apart, marking the boundary between two seas and the line between two days.

Little Diomede (Injaliq) is part of Alaska, with a population of fewer than 100 people. Big Diomede (Imaqliq), now uninhabited, is Russian territory. The separation is more than political, as the International Date Line slides through the narrow channel between the two islands, giving the Diomedes their colloquial English names of Yesterday and Tomorrow islands.





King Island | Nome

DAY 27 | Friday 13 September 2024

Latitude:
64°59'33"N
Longitude:
168°9'43"W

Course:
155.5°
Speed:
6.1 knots

Wind Speed:
6 knots SE
Barometer:
1007 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

After nearly a month of sailing and more than 4,700 miles of cruising through the Northwest Passage, the time was finally here: our last day at sea.

During the morning, we were kept busy with an array of activities that started off as every good day does with a breakfast buffet. This was followed by spurts of packing intermixed with a final lecture from Bob on the history of the Northwest Passage and the second of two episodes in a documentary series on the Diomed Islands.

Post-lunch, some of our number met up in the lecture theatre for a Franklin-themed murder-mystery.

By mid-afternoon, however, it was time to gather up in the lecture theatre for our final farewell, this time with the Expedition Team. After giving us some last-minute updates on the plan for disembarkation, our Expedition Leader, Ashley, walked us through some of the highlights of our voyage as we reminisced of adventures gone by.

The proceedings also included learning the names of the winners of our final photo competition, as well as a moment to thank our Expedition Team for all our hard work. Last but not least, we enjoyed a truly fantastic slideshow that was put together by our expedition photographer, Natalie, and accompanied by live music from our very own ship's musician, Kevin.



Nome

DAY 28 | Saturday 14 September 2024

Latitude:
64°26'41"N
Longitude:
165°26'15"W

Wind Speed:
11 knots E
Barometer:
998 hPa

Course:
N/A
Speed:
N/A

Air Temp:
8°C

Here we are at the end of our adventure! Thank you for joining us on this magnificent Northwest Passage voyage and we hope to see you again on the high seas some day.



BBQ



Polar Plunge







Kayaking Log

with Kayak Guides: Gabby Bruce & Max Schoffel

19 August 2024 – Ilulissat Ice Fjord
4.2km

We started off our first paddle with a bang! What an amazing adventure paddling amongst the towering glacial icebergs from the Jakobshavn Glacier making us feel very small in our kayaks. The water was calm, making our paddle very glassy and magical. We were lucky enough to have both Scooter (Gabby) and Max on the water showcasing the amazing area. We ventured along, poking into areas where we were almost completely surrounded by the large, grounded bergs. After a moment of Zen we continued on. Scooter kept us a safe distance away and guided us through some of her favourite... BRASH ICE!! We trucked and traileered our way through, following her trail in our now ice-rated kayaks bulldozing through the brash. Singing the brash ice song, we had fantastic first outing topped off with the BIGGEST iceberg-calving ever!! Safe to say it was great first day out.

22 August 2024 – Qikiqtarjuaq, Baffin
Island 5.2km

The afternoon persisted to remain glassy and calm with an outside temperature of a whopping 17°C and the sun shining down! As soon as our clearance into Canada was granted, we set off launching from the ship, eager to make the most of these amazing conditions. We paddle the outskirts of town admiring the unique coloured houses and quaint town from the water. As well as admiring what was above the water, we were amazed with what was below! The water clarity was incredible; we could see right to the bottom, where it seemed over 5 metres deep in places. The water was also teeming with wildlife... not the large mammal kind but the planktonic kind! (Scooter's favourite) we saw many ctenophores/sea gooseberries/comb jellies, copepods and more! Max made some new friends who were keen to say hello from the town. It was truly a peaceful paddle and a great introduction to Nunavut.



Number of Kayakers: 9
Total Paddle Outings: 14
Total Distance Paddled: 75.3 km

Kayakers:
Steven Gray
Cynthia Gray
Christine Lauria
Mark Lauria
Kathleen Anderson
Andy Anderson

Elizabeth Brouckman
Jacob Martin
David Torrance

24 August 2024 – Icy Arm, Buchan Gulf, Baffin Island 5.4km

After an exciting ship's cruise off the Buchan Gulf, consisting of towering cliffs, hanging glaciers and an active pod of orca, we settled into the Icy Arm where the afternoons operations would begin. Our first remote paddle in Nunavut, Canada! And what an astounding paddle it was as we were constantly overwhelmed by our surroundings. Cliffs towering straight up above us over 1,000 metres high, topped off with glaciers as they poured through the cracks within the cliffs. This made for an incredibly dramatic landscapes, making us feel very small in our kayaks! With Scooter we paddled downwind towards two hanging glaciers, one of which looked like a perfect tongue flowing down, almost touching the sea. There were many Zen moments as we had to constantly stop just to take it all in, and, of course, a photo in front of the glacial tongue with our own tongues poking out. We were too content in our kayaks, having too much fun to bother going to land, so we continued our

paddle. Before long it was time to jump into the Zodiac and head back, all still mesmerised by the remarkable landscape that surrounded us.

26 August 2024 – Dundas Harbor, Devon Island 6.1km

The first day we had all nine kayakers out! What a blast, with slight westerly winds on the horizon and determination to get to the RCMP sites around the point, we set off ready for an adventure. Our fearless leader Scooter was constantly assessing conditions and decided it was within our capabilities to get around the point. We all paddled close together and the sea was sporty, which was exciting for everyone! With no breaking waves but medium-sized swells, we headed out. Everyone was focused and enjoying the challenge. We paddled our way downwind towards the bay, where we knew the sea would be calm. After a few kilometres of paddling we made it into the bay, and everyone was stoked with their achievement and Scooter felt like a proud mum! We made our way into the bay to the

RCMP site and landed onshore. Most of the team walked back and the rest caught the Zodiac back with Dot to go grab a well-earned lunch.

26 August 2024 – Croker Bay, Devon Island 4.1km

As we cruised into Croker Bay the seas were calm and the fog was low. Scouting our way in there was no sign of any polar bears. Operation Kayaks was a go! The sea was glassy calm and an absolute dream to paddle on; mirror reflections, fog lifting, glacial views, it truly was going to be a glorious paddle. We were greeted at the start of our paddle by a curious bearded seal who came creeping over to us, which was an amazing encounter. As we looked onward, we saw a whole group of bearded seals swimming together as they moved across the bay. We continued our paddle toward the glacier front, when suddenly we came across our favourite... BRASH ICE!!! We sung the brash ice song and ploughed our way through laughing and having a great time. After a very important photo stop and many paparazzi photographing our colour-

coordinated kayak line-up of, red, yellow, red, yellow, we continued to trail along the glacier front. Many small critters were in the water and many Zen moments were enjoyed on this glorious paddle in Croker Bay.

30 August 2024 – Pointe de la Guiche 5.1km

Another glorious day in the northern paradise. Crisp air, calm, light winds and scattered high clouds found the whole kayak group in the Zodiac for a quick shuttle to be in position to have a nice paddle towards Point de la Guiche. This location is significant in the history of The Northwest Passage, as this is where John Rae reached his furthest north point in his journey on 6 May 1854, naming it after a French traveller he met in New York. The paddle was great and it was very nice to have the whole kayak group on the water. Our destination was the clean, yellow sandy beach, where we left the kayaks and took a short walk to the cairn that John Rae built and the commemorative plaque placed 25 years



ago. Jan was there telling us more details from the previous adventures. We were escorted back by Ashley and the more of the E-Team members to the beach and returned 'home' on a Zodiac cruise.

1 September 2024 – Qikiqtaryuaq 5.8km

The sun was shining and we were all eager to go kayaking again. With a slight breeze keeping things cooler we set off towards the coastline to enjoy a paddle into the bay. With Scooter on the water, we paddle downwind enjoying the helpful push of the breeze making paddling very easy! As we skirted the edges of the coast the land slumped into the sea where we could observe the sea eroding the cliff away. The breeze pushed us further into the bay, enjoying the shallow waters. Scooter found a small inlet we paddled into, which had calm waters. Resting there for a while was peaceful and beautiful! The time came for us to move on and land at the site to explore what was on shore. Another successful paddle and epic times on the water.

1 September 2024 – Stromness Bay, Kujapik Island 7.1km

After a great morning on the water, we once again jumped on the Zodiac and got dropped off by Scooter, and Max took us on the next adventure, we paddled in a channel between two islands. There was a distinctive current and we took this opportunity to work on some paddle strokes, ferry angles, current crossings and eddy hopping; all these fun exercises can also be applied while paddling on class 1 rivers. It was the perfect place and conditions to share with the group some paddling skills and improve their technique.

After going around a point, Max discovered the remains of a musk ox; the skeleton was well preserved and it was nice to see the skull and the horns in good shape. It was too shallow for the Zodiacs to see the finding so sadly we could not share it with the rest of the ship members, but another benefit of being in a kayak.

We did see an old cairn nearby, but we could not find out more details on the history of it. It might result in a case unresolved.

3 September 2024 – Edinburgh Island 6.7km

The morning began with cloudy skies. We launched from the ship and began our paddle towards small islands just across from the ship with a slight tail breeze. The water was clear and we could see the bottom! As we made our way to the coastline, we followed the edge of the coastline, scouting for any wildlife ashore. As always Scooter had her eyes fixed on what was in the water rather than the surroundings... many small medusa and jellyfish larvae were scattered in the water with a bunch of lion's mane jellies!

The sun began to shine down on us and the stoke level rose as we soaked up the much-needed vitamin D. We had some rock dodging and Zen moments along the way as we paddled towards the shore before circling back to the ship. What an epic morning!

3 September 2024 – Johansen Bay 5.9km

What a day: a fun paddle in the morning

with Scooter, and calm conditions and another fun with Max in the afternoon with more challenging and moist conditions. We got a Zodiac ride upwind from the ship and after a bit of a challenge and swells getting in the kayaks, we all had an awesome paddle parallel to the shoreline with a strong wind, which it made it super fun and a great opportunity for an intro to surfing session. We had a DEW line on our bow and on our port side the shore, where Max spotted caribou antlers, and yet another musk ox skull, this time just the head and no more bones. The shoreline was very variable and with signs of autumn arriving and plant colours changing. We also saw what looked like a hunter's cabin with over 40 barrels scattered in different locations. Max also saw an ammunition box, which was another indicator of the reason for the cabin, besides the big windows facing different directions. We continued paddling downwind; it was so nice to cover a big distance in a short time and we were all very happy not to have to paddle back. We appreciated the Zodiac home more than ever.



4 September 2024 – Port Epworth 3.6km

As we sailed into the glassy waters of Port Epworth, the kayakers were eager to get out and enjoy the calm conditions on the water. With a quick load-up and Zodiac away we set off to find a nice spot to hop into the kayaks. The water was so calm it was like paddling on glass and the whole team was enjoying the peaceful bliss of being on such calm waters. Not much effort was required to paddle down the coast, taking in the surroundings and taking many moments of Zen, feeling in awe of this amazing place.

As we paddled along, we saw many ground squirrels popping up to greet us with a chitter chatter. The autumn colours of the land stood out vibrantly as we floated along so effortlessly. Before long we were at the landing site, where Kevin greeted us. We landed with our kayaks and went for an explore to look at the famous stromatolites! Scooter told us all about how amazing they are, then led us to a spectacular waterfall! What a very special morning it was.

4 September 2024 – Port Epworth 7.1km

After our delicious BBQ lunch and crazy polar plunge, we were well fed and set to head off on another kayaking adventure. This time exploring up Tree River. We had a very special guest on the team: Jorge our Captain, who was very happy to be joining our paddle. Again, we set off upriver eddy-hopping our way up. The current was flowing slightly against us, but it was nothing we couldn't handle, and we used the eddies to creep further upstream, wondering what might be around the next corner... and the next corner... until it was time to turn around and float back downstream. There was an old hut perched on the side of the river, which looked a bit derelict and slightly drafty... we paddled on. Eventually we were back out the river mouth where we hopped into the Zodiac and headed back to the ship, reflecting on the amazing day we had in Port Epworth.

5 September 2024 – Bernard Harbour 4.8km

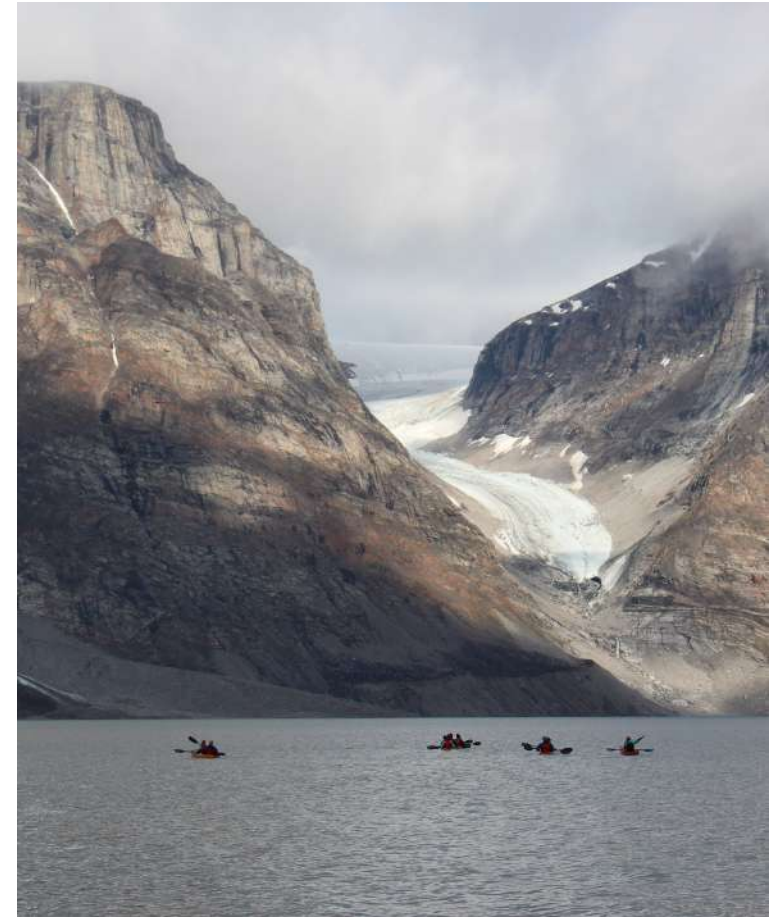
Today with more of a cloud cover over our heads and an air temp of 9 degrees Celsius, we left on our adventure with a small group of three guests and Max. We paddled in a channel, which at the end was where a big creek ended its course to the sea, but with enough volume of water that we continue paddling on fresh water a few more hundred metres until it got too shallow for our kayaks. It's always fun to go from 'saltwater' to fresh water and explore how far upriver the kayakers can make it. On the way there we saw in the distance a seal, which on our return we found again and could have a good look from a safe distance. We also saw a group of our hikers near the DEW line and soon after, we spotted on a beautiful sandy beach a red fox running full speed; we also had a great wildlife spotting. This was all in eyesight of an old RCMP station that was abandoned many years ago, but the structure remains standing and it gave a nice subject for a picture with high cirrus clouds in the distance.

9 September 2024 – Herschel Island 4.2km

Our very last paddle of the trip ended with an incredible paddle at Herschel Island; the winds were slight and the seas were calm with some rolling swells, just enough for us to get out one last time. The coastline was vibrant with yellows and greens, and scattered houses from the old settlement that once stood here inhabiting many people. As we kayaked along the shoreside we spotted many snowy owls, which was a sight to see as they are very beautiful birds. Once we reached the sheltered bay the water was as flat as a pancake, and we gathered for one last group photo on the water. While we were rafted Scooter asked if Ashley had bought the hot choccy... and she whipped out some hot chocolate for us to enjoy on the water. After enjoying our hot drink and sharing some stories we continued on, enjoying the stillness of the bay.

As the outing came to a close, Scooter had one more trick up her sleeve: as per popular request, it was time to get a wet head and do a roll for everyone!











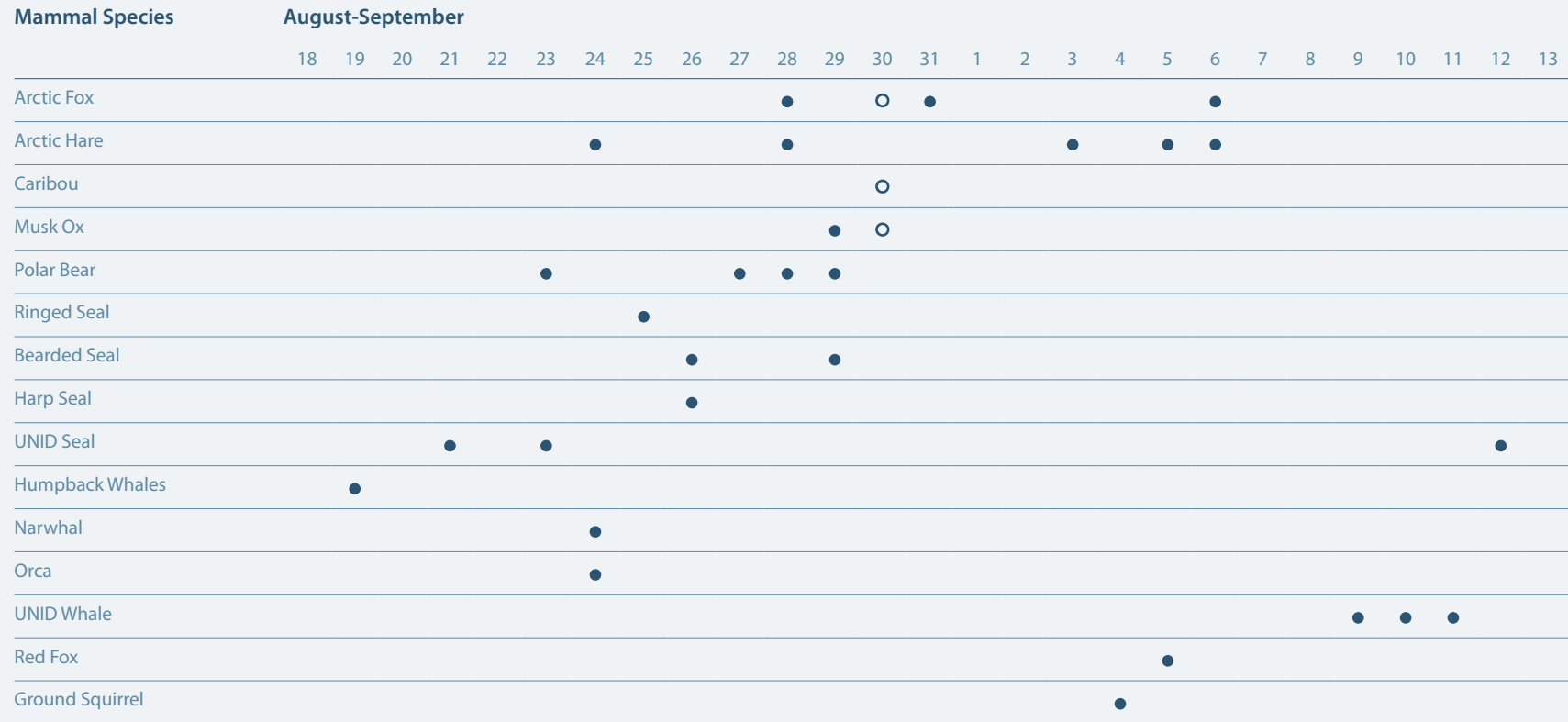


Bird Species

August-September

	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Glaucous Gull	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•		•							•	•	•	•	•		•	
Great Black-backed Gull	•	•																									
Kittiwake		•	•	•				•	•	•	•															•	
Ivory Gull											•																
Arctic Tern	•	•		•									•						•								
Common Guillemot																										•	
Brünnich's Guillemot	•	•						•		•	•													•	•	•	
Black Guillemot	•	•		•		•		•	•	•	•																
Razorbill (ib)								•																			
Little Auk/Dovekie						•		•			•																
Tufted Puffin																										•	
Crested Puffin																										•	
Wheatear (ib)	•	•	•																								
Snow Bunting		•	•				•	•			•								•		•		•				
Raven	•	•	•	•			•	•		•							•		•	•	•		•				
Common Eider				•																			•				
Gyr Falcon																		•		•							
Sandpiper															•												
Horned Lark																		•									
Trumpeter Swan																•											
Hoary Redpoll																•											
Short-tailed Shearwater																								•	•	•	•
Snowy Owl																								•			
Rough-legged Buzzard																								•			

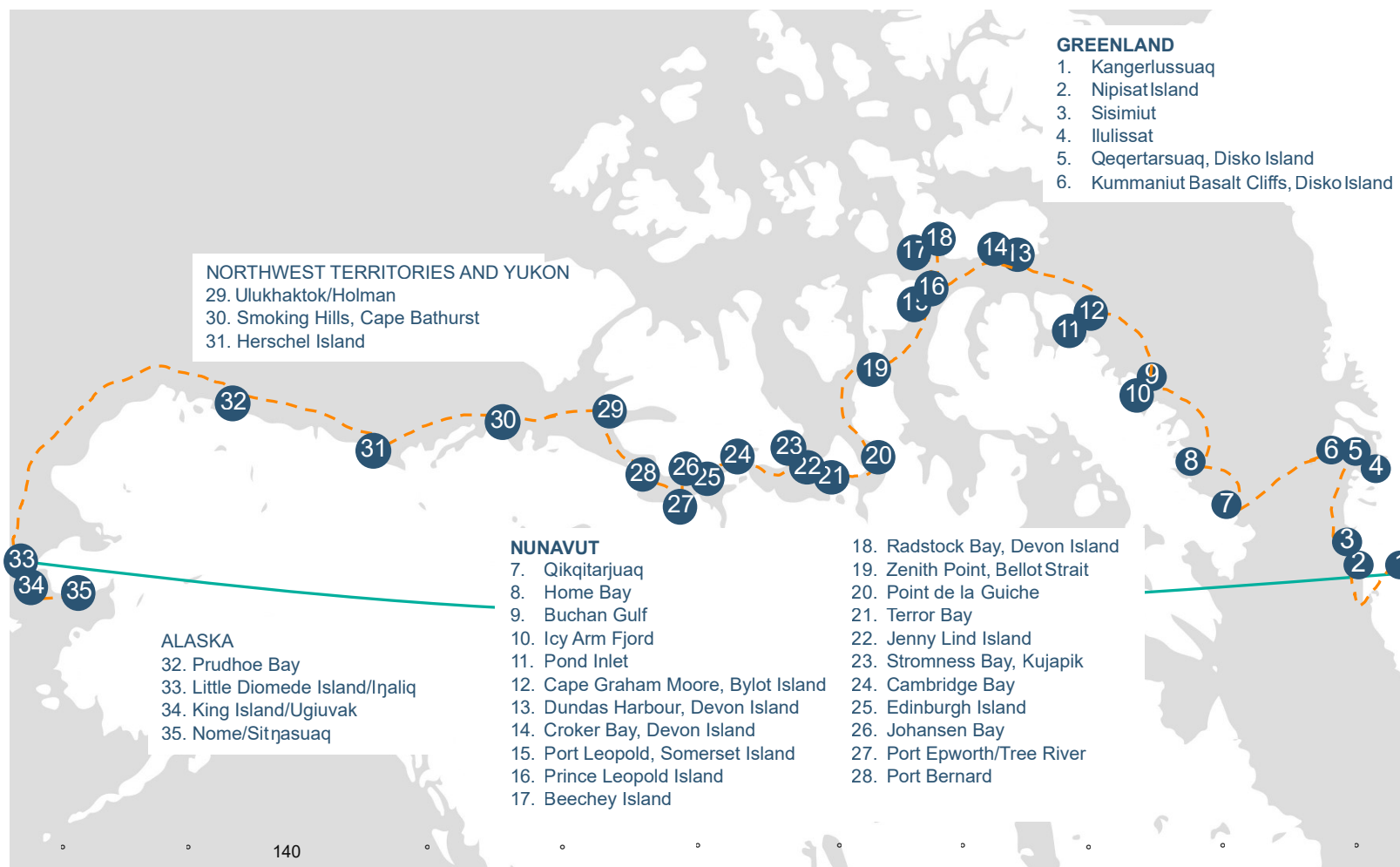
Mammal Sightings



○ Animal tracks

● Animal sighting

Map



Traversing the Northwest Passage

18 August – 14 September 2024



Our Expeditioners

Andy Anderson

Kathy Anderson

Rob Arathoon

Margaret Barr

Bruce Bauknight

Vicki Bauknight

Leslie Beckman

Judy Bent

Mark Blomfield

Michelle Blomfield

Liz Brouckman

Doug Brown

Susan Brown

Hermanus Buitelaar

Jackson Carter

Annette Collins

Micheal Dal Bello

Jillian Dal Bello

Julie Davenport

William De Maria

Susan Dodge

Thomas Dodge

Patrick Dowd

Dawn Dowd

Jozef Durech

Akpak Duval

Lillie Echevarria

Susan Ellebracht

Tom Ellebracht

Mike Flynn

Libby Flynn

Doris Ford

William Forrester

Alan Gellin

Michelle Gilbert

Jim Gilbert

Karen Gouge

Cynthia Gray

Steve Gray

Louise Green

Silvia Hansel Keller-Scarpa

Susan Hewett

Ian Jennings

Leslie Johnston

Alla Kashchuk

Mark Lauria

Christine Lauria

Delphine Lemaire

Jason Lye

Rachelle Mackintosh

Dale MacMaster

Aurelio Martegani

Jake Martin

Jillian McEwan

Chuck Mitchell

Ron Morris

Therese Newsom

Ian Newsom

Philippa Norman

Stephen O'Mahony

Debra O'Mahony

Graham Pays

Jerry Purvis

Daryl Radnell

Robin Raphael

Ann Rymill

Joao Paulo Sequeira do Vale Peixoto

Terry Smith

Ben Smith III

Marek Sobocki

Alan Soper

Raymond Stepney

Annette Stevens

Ian Stevens

Judy Stirrett

Karen Thompson

Robert Thompson

Stephen Thoms

Christina Thomson

Karen Torrance

David Torrance

Maria Johanna Van Strien

Sally Weidner

Karl Weidner

Susan Wilson

Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Ashley Perrin

Assistant Expedition Leader: Elena Wimberger

Onboard Expedition Manager: Samantha Deer

Onboard Expedition Assistant: Reza Rusooly

Photography Guide: Natalie Long

Firearms Manager: Nils Egeland

Geologist/Glaciologist: Gaby Pilsen

Marine Biologist/Citizen Science: Vicky Inglis

Naturalist: Dot Robertson

Cultural Specialist/Local Inuk Guide: Geela Qaqqasiq

First Responder/Medic: Jan Kristoffersen

Zodiac Manager: Serghei Hincu

Historian: Nina Gallo

Enrichment Specialist: Bob Headland

Expedition Guide: Ryan Kaempfe

Lead Kayak Guide: Gabby Bruce

Kayak Guide: Max Schoffel

Musician/Expedition Guide: Kevin Closs

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Jorge Ferdinez

Chief Officer: Andrey Gilevskiy

Third Officer: Bryan Salem

Safety Officer: Yevhenii Zolotarov

Bosun: Francisco Flores

Ship Doctor: Gloria Gonzalez

Chief Engineer: Srdan Jakovic & Luis Gil

1st Engineer: Peter Alyenkov

IT Officer: Rene Reyes

Hotel Director: Balvant Singh

F&B Service Manager: Narendra Seeram

Head Bartender: Juan Carlos Gonzalez

Chief Purser: Jonalyn Galve

Executive Chef: Ronwaldo Reyes

Sous Chef: Alexander Mungcal

Hotel Controller: Alfredo Jr. Laquian

Receptionist: Kutsi Vazquez

Receptionist: Angeli Perona

Head Stateroom Attendant: Alexander Bartolome

Able Seaman: Rosendo Cruz

Able Seaman: Rajiv Rauinyar

Able Seaman: Anthony Brosas

Able Seaman: Muhammad Karier

Able Seaman: Lexter Fradiquela

Able Seaman: Eduardo Aloyan

Special Guests

Inuit Community Ambassador & Very Special Guest: Akpak Duval


Photography thanks to:

Natalie Long and the Kayak Team





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