

THE ARCTIC

Greenland, Baffin Bay, the Thule Region of the High Arctic, Canada's Nunavut

Friday 2 – Saturday 24 August 2024



Join us to experience an extraordinary journey to the far reaches of the planet. Discover the mythical region of **Thule**, the territory of the **Far North**, on a seventeen day cruise along the coastline of **Baffin Bay**. From **Kangerlussuaq**, along Greenland's western shores, to the high Arctic of the Thule Region, revered for its untouched icescapes and sparsely populated Inuit communities. Encounter the region's rich culture and experience its magnificent nature.

From the ice cap to the ice floes, via glaciers, icebergs and brash ice, you will sail among the Northern Hemisphere's largest ice producers. **North of the Baffin Sea, in the region of Thule**, you will experience a tricky but spectacular sail between drifting icebergs and sheets of ice floe. If fortunate you may observe one of the many polar bears that roam this favourable environment.

Between **Greenland's** west coast with its mountains softened by glaciers to the Arctic mountain range's steep slopes and **Thule's high Arctic tundra**, you will sail through the polar region's most spectacular landscapes. We then sail south along **Canada's Nunavut**, a massive, sparsely populated territory of northern Canada, forming most of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Its islands have expanses of tundra, craggy mountains and remote villages, accessible only by plane or boat. It's known for its indigenous Inuit people's artwork, carvings and handmade clothing. Polar bears, musk ox and Arctic wolves are amongst the amazingly rich fauna that populate these lands.

ITINERARY

The itinerary, with overview of activities, is below. Meals included are shown as Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D).

Friday 2 August 2024 – Australia to Paris

A range of flight options exist from Australia to Paris. We will discuss your flight options with you. You may also like to leave a few days earlier to spend more time exploring Paris before our tour. Overnight aboard your flight.

Saturday 3 August 2024 – arrive Paris

Arrive Paris - depending upon flight arrival times, enjoy the afternoon strolling in Paris. Overnight Paris.

Sunday 4 August 2024 – Paris (B/D)

A day of sightseeing in Paris. We meet for a welcome dinner tonight. Overnight Paris.



Monday 5 August 2024 (B/D) – to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland and Ponant's *Le Boreal*

A morning flight from Paris to Kangerlussuaq, a small town in western Greenland, located at the eastern end of a deep fjord. From 1941 to 1992, the town of Kangerlussuaq in Greenland was home to an American military base. Nowadays, thanks to its international airport, it has become a transit point for travellers seeking adventure in the Far North. Located to the north of the Arctic Circle, this town is the starting point of magnificent discoveries surrounded by unspoiled nature. Indeed, just a few dozen kilometres from there it is possible to get close to the Greenland ice sheet, the largest body of ice in the Northern Hemisphere. From Kangerlussuaq, admire also the superb landscapes of tundra in autumnal colours, where Arctic hares, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, reindeer, falcons and eagles live. In the late afternoon we board Ponant's ***Le Boreal*** – our home for the next sixteen nights. Ponant's superb ***Le Boreal*** mega-yacht embodies the unique atmosphere that is the cruise line's hallmark: a subtle blend of refinement, intimacy and comfort. Aboard this ship that flies the French flag, you will experience the incomparable pleasure of an intimate cruise, with an ethnic-chic ambiance and luxury service. With extremely comfortable private balcony staterooms, stylish public areas, and fine restaurants, the ship is yours to enjoy. As dining is an essential part of French culture, gastronomy will naturally have pride of place aboard the cruise. Through its restaurants, ***Le Boreal*** will invite you on a journey to elegance and epicureanism. In a relaxed atmosphere, *La Licorne* dining area located on Deck 2 and able to seat all passengers in one sitting, will serve breakfasts, lunches and dinners, French and international cuisine, with elegance and refinement. To the back of Deck 6, you will find *La Boussole* grill restaurant. Designed differently to the other restaurant, this dining area opens onto the outside. Discreet and attentive crew will provide table service and twenty four hour room service is also included and available.

Your cabin features:

- one of 92 Staterooms and suites with private balcony
- Maximum 264 guests aboard
- Individually-controlled air-conditioning
- King-size bed or twin beds
- Minibar
- Flat screen satellite TV
- Desk with stationery
- Bose™ Bluetooth speaker
- Safe
- Video on demand
- Dressing table, bath robes and hairdryer
- Satellite direct line telephone
- 110/220 volts outlet
- French Hermès® bath products
- 24hr room service
- Inclusive internet access wifi.

The public areas of the mega-yacht include:

- A main and panoramic lounge
- Library
- Spa and fitness facilities
- Swimming pool and pool bar
- Restaurants
- Panoramic terrace

Highlights include:

- Outings and shore visits in zodiac inflatables with a team of experienced naturalist guides.
- Disko Bay, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to see the Northern Hemisphere's largest icebergs.
- Sail between the ice floes and icebergs in the region of Thule.
- Discover of traditional villages among the northernmost in the world.
- Encounters with the Inuit people.
- Landscapes: tundra, ice cap, glaciers, icebergs, ice floe.
- Wildlife: polar bears, humpback whales, Arctic terns, belugas, bearded seals, orcas, narwhals.



Tuesday 6 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Sisimiut

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



Wednesday 7 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Disko Bay

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

Thursday 8 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Paul-Émile Victor Base Camp, Eqi Glacier

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

Friday 9 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Kuannit Coast

Opposite Ilulissat, sailing for a few hours between the majestic icebergs of Disko Bay will allow you to reach the southern coast of the large Disko Island and admire the fields of angelica and the spectacular sculptures formed by the huge volcanic cliffs of Kuannit, where numerous sea birds find refuge. Combining glaciers, snow-capped peaks, flowery valleys, lakes, beaches and volcanic formations, the island's exceptionally lush environment has inspired local beliefs. The island is believed to have a legendary and distant origin: it is said to have been towed back from the country's south by fishermen in kayaks, fastened to "the hair of a child".

Saturday 10 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Akulleq

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

Sunday 11 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Kullorsuaq

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



Monday 12 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Savissivik

Some places in this world are so magical that their beauty cannot be described in words... Savissivik, a small Inuit village with less than a hundred inhabitants, is one such place. Rightly considered to be the biggest iceberg graveyard in Greenland, it is a stunning sight to behold. During your zodiac outing, you will sail between these icy giants. Once on land, you can hike to a viewpoint from which to enjoy breathtaking views over these icebergs, which come in an incredibly diverse range of shapes and colours. Savissivik Bay attracts many bears and is also known for having been the home of one of the world's biggest meteorites, but the latter has now been moved to a museum in New York.



Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 August 2024 (B/L/D) – the Thule Region

Thule, the region located to the northwest of Greenland, is the mythical name used to designate the Far North. The presence of many drifting icebergs calved from the glaciers of Greenland and sheets of ice floe can make sailing tricky - but spectacular - in this region. You will attempt to sail as far north as possible and if you are lucky enough you will perhaps observe one of the many polar bears that roam this favourable environment. You'll perhaps visit traditional villages such as Dundas ("old Thule") and Siorapaluk, Greenland's northernmost native settlement, where you will probably be greeted by a joyous group of children, who are always happy to welcome visitors.



Thursday 15 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Pond Inlet, Nunavit

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



Friday 16 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Icy Arm Fjord

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

Saturday 17 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Sam Ford Fjord, Nunavit

All around you is a raw landscape of spectacular beauty. Nothing seems to want to disturb the silence. You are in the Sam Ford Fjord, on the east coast of Baffin Island. Located only a few kilometres away from the Inuit community of Clyde River, this fjord has the kind of world's end appearance that only the Arctic lands can offer. From your ship, allow yourself to be dazzled by the series of vertiginous cliffs plunging into the waters of the fjord. These impressively high walls of rock, known worldwide to climbing enthusiasts, are reflected in the waters of the fjord, as though to completely shift perspectives and blur the lines between land and sea.

Sunday 18 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Isabella Bay, Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area

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



Monday 19 August 2024 (B/L/D) – at sea

We cross Baffin Bay to the west coast of Greenland, with a day to relax and enjoy life aboard.

Tuesday 20 August 2024 (B/L/D) – Evighedsfjorden

We cruise to the west coast of Greenland, entering Evighedsfjorden, just a few kilometres south of Kangerlussuaq. Evighedsfjorden means “the fjord of Eternity”, and for good reason: just when you think you’ve reached the end of this stretch of sea measuring over 100 kilometres in length, it seems to go on forever. The spectacular scenery ranges from glaciers to tundra with an abundant flora, and jagged cliffs where numerous bird species have taken up residence. Observe the white-tailed eagles and the colonies of seagulls and black-legged kittiwakes flying overhead in the area.



Wednesday 21 August 2024 (B) – Kangerlussuaq and to Paris

A morning disembarkation and transfer to Kangerlussuaq Airport, for a flight to Paris. On arrival we check in to our hotel.

Thursday 22 August 2024 (B) – to Australia

After breakfast the tour ends - transfer to the airport for flights back to Australia, or extend your stay in Europe.

Friday 23 or Saturday 24 August 2024 (meals in flight) – to Australia

Dependent upon flight times from Paris, arrival back to Australia.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation is generally in 4 to 4½ star hotels. Meals are included as identified in the itinerary. Meals are indicated as (B) Breakfast, (L) Luncheon and (D) Dinner. All meals are included aboard Ponant's **Le Boreal**.

CAPACITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOUR

A level of fitness and mobility is necessary for participation in the tour. Tour passengers must be able to manage their own luggage. The tour involves exploration of locations by walking, coach travel, rail travel and aboard zodiacs. By payment of your deposit and tour fare you confirm that you are of a suitable level of mobility and fitness to participate in the tour, are aware of the nature of the tour, and understand you may not be able to participate in some activities if your fitness is deemed by the Expedition Leader as not appropriate for specific activities.

PONANT CRUISE

We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and tide conditions. Landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each Ponant cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, whilst complying with the IAATO and the necessary safety rules and precautions.

FARES AND BOOKING PROCEDURES

Bookings will be confirmed in order of receipt of a deposit of \$9,000 per person.

The tour fare includes return flights from Paris to Kangerlussuaq in economy; a balcony stateroom aboard **Le Boreal** mega yacht and cruise inclusions as identified; three night's accommodation in Paris and meals as specified. (Airfares to / from Paris are **not** included.) **Fares valid to 5 February, 2023 – then subject to best price based on stateroom availability.**

Prestige Deck Balcony Cabin (18sqm)

- \$36,960 per person on a double / twin share basis
- \$4,500 - single supplement (single occupancy of a balcony cabin on **Le Boreal** mega yacht and sole use of hotel rooms)

Upgrade to Deluxe Suite with balcony (27sqm)

- fares to be confirmed on application

Upgrade to Prestige Deck Suite with balcony (37sqm)

- fares to be confirmed on application

The tour fare includes a **privilege deck balcony stateroom** on **L'Boreal**; accommodation on a twin/double share basis (single accommodation is available on payment of the single supplement); sightseeing and entrance fees when as a group, and meals as shown in the itinerary. The fare does not include meals not identified, drinks, excess baggage charges, gratuities, telephone calls, laundry, any items of a personal nature, travel outside the organised group, or taxi usage when not part of the planned transport means. Inspection and entry fees when not part of the planned group activity are not included in the tour cost. Additional or optional activities such as helicopter, sightseeing flights, boat cruises or entrance fees are not included in the cost. Bookings should be made on the attached form. The deposit of \$9,000 per person should be forwarded by cheque, payable to St James Rail, along with the booking form, to: SJR, PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220. You can also pay by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):

Bank:	Westpac
Account Name:	Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB:	033 364
Account Number:	612826
Reference:	Your name and 'Arctic'

If paying by EFT, please email to sjr@digitor.com.au to advise you have done so. Please forward the booking form to the address above, or scan and email it. You can also pay by credit card – please call to provide details.

AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM PARIS

There are a range of flight options from Australia to Paris. You are welcome to make your own flight arrangements, or we can assist on your behalf.

BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Bookings will be accepted on the attached form. Cancellation fees apply as follows: the deposit is not-refundable, and final payment of the balance is due 145 days prior to sailing. (Note conditions relating to COVID-19 below.) After further payment towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf, cancellation will incur charges equal to the cancellation charges incurred to us, imposed by suppliers/operators, plus a fee to cover administrative costs – more than four months prior to departure, \$1,000 per person; within four months, \$2,000 per person. No refund will be made after departure from Australia. All cancellation or administration charges imposed by the suppliers/operators of components of this tour must be borne by you, the passenger. **Responsibility** - St James' Rail acts as the organiser of the tour. Some transportation, accommodation and other tour arrangements are made by licensed travel agent, Travel Associates, Paddington. On acceptance of tickets and travel documents for this tour, which may be evidenced in writing by a ticket, voucher, letter, or other document, you accept that neither St James' Rail nor representatives from any other firm supplying services in conjunction with this tour programme, shall be liable in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, loss, damage, accident, sickness, delay or additional expense to you or your possessions arising directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including, but not limited to, civil disturbance, fire, floods, acts of God, acts of Governments or other authorities, changes in itinerary, weather, strikes, war, transportation disruption, failure of machinery or equipment, industrial action, pandemic, quarantine or any other cause. Where travel is by scheduled carrier, or charter service, that carrier's responsibility is limited in accordance with their conditions of carriage. Similarly, all luggage is your responsibility, and we cannot be held liable for any loss or delay however caused. The care of your travel documents are your own responsibility. All expenses incurred by loss must be borne by you. Airline regulations and conditions are written on the airline tickets and are issued to passengers subject to their acceptance of these conditions. Changes in exchange rates, taxes and any land arrangements costs may alter the price of the tour, and St James' Rail reserves the right to change, amend or cancel this tour and/or itinerary if necessary. We reserve the right to amend the itinerary en route to account for unforeseen changes or conditions, or to improve the tour experience for the majority, as determined by the tour leader. Passports and visas – a valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required. St James' Rail cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred as a result of a passenger not holding valid and necessary passport or visa documents. Full details of terms and conditions: if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you. **Special conditions relating to COVID-19** – if the tour is unable to proceed due to Government restrictions, SJR may at our election: postpone your travel arrangements to a future date, in which case we will issue you with a credit note equal to amounts paid at the time of postponement; or cancel your travel arrangements, in which case our contract with you will terminate. If we cancel your travel arrangements and our contract terminates, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third-party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund. SJR will refund payments it is able to recover or not incur from the various suppliers of services to this tour. Refunds will be made when the funds have been received by SJR from third party suppliers. **Full details of terms and conditions:** if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you.

INSURANCE

A comprehensive travel insurance policy is available and strongly recommended to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. An insurance policy can be sent to you from our travel agent, Travel Associates, Paddington, for your consideration. Obtaining insurance cover for the tour is, however, your responsibility. We recommend taking out insurance at the time you make the deposit payment for the tour.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please call (02) 9326 9660, 0418 585 838, email at sjr@digitor.com.au, or visit our website at www.stjamesrail.org



THE ARCTIC

Greenland, Baffin Bay, the Thule Region of the High Arctic, Canada's Nunavut

Friday 2 – Saturday 24 August 2024

BOOKING FORM

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name:

Address: Suburb: Postcode:

Home tel: Work tel: Mobile:

Email:

BOOKING DETAILS (Full passenger names EXACTLY as shown in your passport:)

Passenger 1 Name:

Date of Birth:

Passport Number: Expiry date:

Issuing country (if not Australia)

Frequent Flyer No: Airline No:

Passenger 2 Name:

Date of Birth:

Passport Number: Expiry date:

Issuing country (if not Australia)

Frequent Flyer No: Airline No:

PAYMENT

I enclose \$ as deposit (\$9,000 per person) for the above. Cheques payable to St James Rail to PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) details below. A letter acknowledging receipt will be forwarded.

Bank: Westpac
Account name: Scenic Journeys by Rail (trading as St James Rail)
BSB: 033 364
Account: 612826
Reference: Arctic (and your surname)

Debit/credit card payment is available, with merchant fees of 1.00% for Visa/MasterCard. Please call us to make payment by debit/credit card.

CRUISE ACCOMMODATION

..... Double beds Twin Beds
..... Sole use of cabin
..... Suite (we wish to upgrade to a Deluxe Suite
..... Suite (we wish to upgrade to a Privilege Deck Suite

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Double bedded room: Twin (two bedded) room: Sole use room:

DIETARY REQUESTS (we will do our best to accommodate and advise accordingly)

Please indicate any dietary request :
.....
.....

INSURANCE

..... Please send an insurance policy from Travel Associates, Paddington.

YOUR SIGNATURE

I have read the reservation conditions outlined above and accept them on behalf of myself and my party by whom I am authorised to make this agreement.

Signature of person making reservation: Date:

Cancellation charges will apply as advised in this itinerary. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent at Jones and Turner, Travel Associates, Paddington.

Telephone 02 9326 9660
Email sjr@digitor.com.au

Mobile 0418 585 838
Web www.stjamesrail.org

29 January 2023