The Northwest Passage

13 Days
The Northwest Passage

Discover why the Northwest Passage has enticed epic feats of exploration as you follow in the footsteps of legendary explorers. Like these hardy adventurers, you’ll travel across the stunning archipelago of islands and channels that create Canada’s High Arctic region. Look out for an amazing variety of wildlife, from polar bears to walruses, musk oxen to caribou. Hear fascinating stories from the passage’s past and visit the historic site of a mysterious ill-fated expedition. From explorers’ history to Inuit culture to stunning landscapes, this is the voyage of a lifetime.

Details

Arrive: Edmonton, Alberta
Depart: Ottawa, Ontario
Duration: 13 Days
Group Size: Up to 96 Guests
Minimum Age: 10 Years Old
Activity Level: Level 1

Testimonials

“I’ve taken six MTS trips and they have all exceeded my expectations. The staff, the food, the logistics and the communications have always been exceptional. Thank you for being my "go to" adventure travel company!”
Margaret I.

“I have traveled extensively around the world. The experience with MTS was by far the best I have ever had. Thank you for such excellence.”
Marianne W.
**Why Take This Trip With Us?**

**REASON #01**
MT Sobek’s Polar Value Promise means that we offer in-house services to help plan and execute your polar adventure for no added cost.

**REASON #02**
We include emergency medical insurance and emergency evacuation coverage as a value-added benefit at no additional cost to you.

**REASON #03**
Over 30 years offering polar voyages we have built strong relationships with polar service providers and ships that cruise the High Arctic.

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**What to Expect**

**ACTIVITIES**
Expert polar interpretation and presentations, professional navigation through Arctic waters, wildlife experiences, hiking, Zodiac cruising, and visits to Inuit communities. Optional kayaking.

**LODGING**
Ice-strengthened and well-appointed polar expedition vessels offer a luxurious way to explore the Arctic.

**CLIMATE**
The air is very dry. Expect a mix of sun, clouds, wind, rain, and possible snow. Daytime temperatures are usually 38°-50°F.

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**Meet Our Guides**

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips’ success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

An accomplished outdoor professional and passionate wilderness leader and photographer, Boris has dozens of Arctic and Antarctic expeditions under his belt. In the Northern Hemisphere, Boris focuses on the Canadian Arctic, which affords him a unique skillset to lead exceptional voyages through the Northwest Passage, around Baffin Island, and along the coast of Greenland. Boris’ possesses a deep knowledge of the Canadian Arctic, this often comes in handy when he navigates the vessel through ice and tricky landing sites. His calm and logical approach to maximizing the passenger experience in a safe manner consistently endear him to MT Sobek Travelers.

Daniel began a career as a special education teacher and in his off time explored the natural world on camping and backpacking trips all over the United States and abroad as a member for the United States Peace Corps. He eventually made his way to Alaska and began working as a wilderness canoeing guide. This afforded him the opportunity to teach travelers about the natural history of the area, from glaciers and their effect on the landscape to the flora, fauna and cultural history of Southeast Alaska.

**Daniel Johnston**
Itinerary

DAY 1
FLY FROM EDMONTON, ALBERTA TO CAMBRIDGE BAY, NUNAVUT
Board a charter flight from Edmonton to the remote outpost of Cambridge Bay on Victoria Island. Take a walking tour of the village then board the expedition ship in the afternoon. Settle into your cabin before gathering with your expedition team and trip mates. Finally, enjoy the thrill of casting off for the fabled passage with a welcome cocktail in hand.

Meals: (D)

DAY 2
VISIT VICTORY POINT & VICTORIA STRAIT
Dive into the mystery of past explorations as the story of Sir John Franklin’s "lost expedition" unravels. Conditions permitting, travel near the wreck of their ship, the HMS Erebus, which was left to the ice. Visit Victory Point, the site of their abandoned lifeboat, with an expert historian providing insight and interpretation. The bits and pieces of copper and iron, cutlery and buttons tell a story of a desperate race south in search of rescue that never came. Take in the awe-inspiring landscape as you hear tales of their tragic journey.

Meals: (B) / (L) / (D)

DAY 3
TOUR CONNINGHAM BAY BY ZODIAC
Arrive at Conningham Bay on Prince of Wales Island, in the heart of the Northwest Passage. Cruise the bay with an expert guide by Zodiac boat to encounter one of the most remarkable wildlife sites in the Canadian Arctic, a hotspot for polar bears. The bears come here to feast on beluga whales in the rocky shallows of the bay. It’s not unusual to find the shoreline littered with whale bones — and very healthy looking polar bears!

Meals: (B) / (L) / (D)

DAY 4
CROSS BELLOT STRAIT & VISIT FORT ROSS
Spend an exciting day crossing the narrow Bellot Strait, experiencing the stellar navigation skills of the captain and crew. Look out for harp seals, bearded seals, and even polar bears who gather in these churning, fertile
waters. Stop at the historic site of Fort Ross, a former fur-trading outpost on the southern end of Somerset Island. The Inuit and their predecessors have inhabited this area for more than a thousand years.

Meals: (B) / (L) / (D)

DAY 5  
EXPLORE BEECHEY ISLAND
Make landfall at another fascinating Franklin expedition site, where the lost sailors spent their last “comfortable” winter before vanishing into the icy vastness. Visit the expedition’s grave markers on a remote windswept beach. This is a thrilling location for history buffs and for many it may be the defining moment of the trip. En route to Beechey Island, stop by one of the most important bird sanctuaries in the area, home to several hundred thousand birds. Keep an eye out for whales, seals, and polar bears here as well.

Meals: (B) / (L) / (D)

DAY 6  
JOURNEY THROUGH LANCASTER SOUND & DUNDAS HARBOR
Venture across the Arctic wildlife “superhighway” — Lancaster Sound off the coast of Devon Island. Experience a biodiverse environment at 75° north latitude, where water from the Atlantic and Pacific converge. Search for sea and land creatures, then visit an old Royal Canadian Mounted Police outpost on Dundas Harbor. This area has great hiking options, and is home to musk oxen, Arctic hares, and even Arctic wolves.

Meals: (B) / (L) / (D)

DAY 7  
VISIT THE INUIT COMMUNITY OF MITTIMATALIK
Learn the customs of the indigenous Inuit at Mittimalik, or Pond Inlet. Visit Natinnak Center, where a fascinating cultural exhibit showcases aspects of daily life, culture and history. Look at traditional carvings, jewelry and other
crafts on display and available for purchase from local artisans. Then meet with the children of Pond Inlet and watch them demonstrate the skills and challenges of traditional Inuit games.

Meals: (B) / (L) / (D)

DAY 8
CRUISE GIBBS FJORD
Cruise the waters of glacially-carved Gibbs Fjord on Baffin Island, an environment so otherworldly that it has been likened by past guests to "something out of The Lord of the Rings!" Feel dwarfed by the towering fjord walls, immense peaks, and massive glaciers that make up this epic landscape.

Meals: (B) / (L) / (D)

DAY 9
CROSS BAFFIN BAY
Look for fin and humpback whales, seals, and birds that inhabit the seascape during this crossing toward Greenland. The passage is highly dependent on the extent of so-called "middle ice," and time at sea will be determined by weather conditions. During downtime, enjoy fascinating presentations on the wildlife, history, geology and culture of the Arctic from onboard experts.

Meals: (B) / (L) / (D)

DAY 10
EXPLORE JACOBSHAVN ICEFJORD & ILULISSAT
Behold the Jacobshavn Icefjord, an UNESCO World Heritage site and truly one of the wonders of the world. It spews gigantic tabular icebergs into Disko Bay, and awe-inspiring ice sculptures surround the area in all directions. See the glacier that creates these stunning monoliths as it advances over 130 feet per day. Then travel the waters in the hands of expert ice navigators to arrive at Ilulissat. Take in the pretty harbor with colorful fishing boats and houses.

Meals: (B) / (L) / (D)

DAY 11
DISCOVER SISIMIUT
Cruise into another grand fjord before going ashore to visit this beautiful town, characterized by colorful houses and a towering granite peak as a backdrop. Have the chance to meet traditional Greenlandic kayakers and to see...
a demonstration of ‘Eskimo rolling’ by one of the former Greenland kayak champions. Have the option also to peruse a small museum.

Meals: (B) / (L) /(D)

DAY 12  EXPLORE SONDRE STROMFJORD
Take in one of the longest fjords on Earth, with its towering walls soaring above either side of the ship. Hop aboard Zodiacs and land among the small side fjords to explore by foot or kayak. Marvel at immense geologic features and look for muskox along the shores and white-tailed sea eagles riding the thermals high above. Hike along trails available for all fitness levels. This is an exceptional location for lovers of natural history.

Activity: Optional kayaking & hiking (time and distance varies)
Meals: (B) / (L) /(D)

DAY 13  FLY FROM KANGERLUSSUAQ TO OTTAWA
Bid farewell to the Arctic in Kangerlussuaq. Disembark the ship and take a charter flight to Ottawa, then transfer to a central location downtown upon arrival.

Activity: 4-hour charter flight
Meals: (B)
Dates

Aug 20 - Sep 1, 2019

Aug 31 - Sep 12, 2019


Pricing

2018

$9,595 per person

Additional Cost

$695 Sea Kayaking

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert leadership from an experienced team of naturalists and guides
- Accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- Meals as noted in the daily itinerary
- Potable water and snacks throughout
- Welcome drink and farewell drink
- Complimentary foul weather gear rental (jacket, bib pants, gumboots, waterproof bag)
- All necessary kayaking gear for optional kayaking program
- Group transfer from meeting location to the airport for internal flight on Day 1
- Group transfer from the airport to a central downtown Ottawa location on Day 13

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, any airport taxes, or excess baggage charges
- Inbound airport transfer
- Optional tips to your ship staff and expedition team
- Personal expenses such as medical immunizations, phone calls, internet access cards, laundry
- Optional travel protection

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

1.888.831.7526  INFO@MTSOBEK.COM
The World of MT Sobek

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world’s most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

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Awards

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