EXpedition Cruise to

Greenland & the Arctic Circle

August 1 – 12, 2018
Dear Alumnae and Friends,

On this expedition we will sail above the Arctic Circle and on to Greenland, an unsullied wilderness that also happens to be the largest island in the world. From Iqaluit on the east coast of Baffin Island in Canada to the west coast of Greenland, this 11-day adventure sails through a spectacular wilderness of glaciers, mountains, fjords and breathtaking icebergs. Venture into remote areas to observe a vast array of wildlife, including whales, seals, walruses, sea birds and polar bears. And meet the exceptional people who live in Arctic communities and learn about the native Inuit cultures that have survived in this harsh landscape.

We are on board an exclusively chartered Canadian-operated expedition vessel, one that regularly conducts active science in the Polar Regions. This purpose built vessel is the ideal platform for polar exploration, affording us unique opportunities to chart a course through remote waters. The feel on board is casual, the entertainment is the magnificent Arctic landscape all around us. With a maximum of just 86 passengers, we have unrestricted access to all landing sites and using 10 Zodiacs, we enjoy explorations in very small groups. Built in Finland for polar research, this ship was designed to be exceptionally stable, maneuverable, and quiet. This is your opportunity to live like a scientist as you experience the real High Arctic.

Few experiences can match this incredible High Artic Expedition.

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Travel and Education
Office of Alumnae Relations, Smith College
**SMITH COLLEGE STUDY LEADER**

**Margaret Williams** is Managing Director of World Wildlife Fund’s US Arctic field program, which entails leading a team of experts in climate change, wildlife biology, fisheries, oil and shipping, and communications to implement an international conservation strategy for the Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.

Ms. Williams has a special interest in Russian conservation. She speaks Russian, and was founder and editor for twelve years of the quarterly journal Russian Conservation News. Before joining WWF in 1997, she worked as a consultant to the World Bank on biodiversity projects in Russia and Central Asia.

She received a Bachelor’s degree in American Studies from Smith College and a Master’s degree from Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Margaret is currently a member of the board of the Alaska Oceans Observing System, and the Advisory Board of the University of Alaska School of Fisheries and Ocean Science. She is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Margaret lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Your Expedition Team**

The Expedition team onboard the One Ocean Voyager/Akademik Sergey Vavilov are seasoned polar experts and naturalists committed to ensuring the safety of their guests and sharing their eco-conscious outlook. Their expertise spans wildlife biology, ornithology, polar history, botany, marine ecology, geology, glaciology, kayaking, and photography. Adventure Concierges attend to your life on board with customized informal hospitality. We provide one of the highest staff-to-guest ratios in polar expeditions to ensure expert guidance for your expedition.
OUR ROUTE

Getting there
Worldwide Quest will book your mandatory flights from Ottawa to Iqaluit and from Kangerlussuaq to Ottawa at the special expedition cruise rate.

Wednesday, Aug. 1: Meet in Ottawa
Meet in Ottawa. Join Expedition study leaders for an Introductory Presentation, followed by a welcome cocktail.

Thursday, Aug. 2: Ottawa, Ontario to Iqaluit, Nunavut
Transfer to the Ottawa Airport for our flight to Iqaluit, the capital and largest community of the Canadian territory of Nunavut, located at the head of Frobisher Bay on Baffin Island. Upon arrival into Iqaluit we enjoy a walking tour of the town and board our expedition ship, the One Ocean Voyager/Akademik Sergey Vavilov in the afternoon. As we become familiar with our new home, we raise the anchor and set off on our Expedition. Spend some time on the outer decks enjoying your new Arctic surroundings as we set sail into the remote Canadian Arctic.

Friday, Aug. 3: Monumental Island
Our first excursion is to visit Monumental Island. Located in Davis Strait, it is a known location for spotting walrus. We explore by zodiacs and search the shoreline for these fascinating creatures. Polar bears are often found here and have been known to chase the walrus off their haul out and into the water.

Saturday, Aug. 4: Pangnirtung
Nestled in the heart of Cumberland Sound, the ‘Place of the Bull Caribou’ is situated on a beautiful fjord in scenic mountainous terrain. This remote town is known for its traditional Inuit arts and crafts and a visit to the local arts centre is a highlight. Indigenous people have inhabited the land here for over 4,000 years and Thule remains can be found in the area.

Sunday, Aug. 5: Cape Mercy
Marking the northern headland of Cumberland Sound are the dramatic cliffs of Cape Mercy. As the Baffin Bay middle ice recedes throughout the summer, the stretch of Baffin coast from Cape Mercy to Cape Dyer is a great place to find polar bears coming ashore. We will explore this region with the goal of hiking the shoreline ridges, paddling the bays, and zodiac cruising the ice in search of Arctic wildlife.

Monday, Aug. 6: Sunshine Fjord
Sunshine Fjord straddles the Arctic Circle. Depending on the weather, we might cruise across the Circle on the ship, or perhaps cruise across it in the zodiac boats, or the more active may choose to hike across this landmark on shore. Whichever way, it’s a thrill to be above the Arctic Circle!

Tuesday, Aug. 7: Davis Strait
We set sail for the ice in Davis Strait in order to experience this dramatic transition zone. Much of the Arctic sea life seems to be interested in this zone and we will keep our eyes peeled for bearded, hooded and ringed seals as well as polar bears and walrus. Who knows, perhaps a bowhead whale will be cruising the ice edge. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be in use as we all scan the ice looking for wildlife. If conditions permit, we will even launch the zodiacs so that we can get into the ice and explore. At some point we will leave the sea ice behind us and direct the binoculars and scopes towards the never-ending stream of icebergs sailing up the west coast of Greenland.
**Wednesday, Aug. 8: Qeqertarsuaq (Disko Island)**
A large island in the mouth of Disko Bay, Qeqertarsuaq is a site of both geologic and historic interest. A possible summer fishing camp for the Viking colonists in Greenland, mineral deposits containing native iron and hot springs are all features of this island. We will visit the southern coast, cruising the spectacular rock arches before visiting the town of Qeqertarsuaq.

**Thursday, Aug. 9: Ilulissat and Jacobshavn Icefjord**
One of the wonders of the world, the Jacobshavn Icefjord spews massive tabular icebergs out into Disko Bay. We’ll navigate these towering icebergs by Zodiac as we make our approach. In the town of Ilulissat, we’ll enjoy a guided walking tour, watch a demonstration of ancient fishing methods, and visit the local history museum which houses exhibits on polar explorer Knud Rasmussen. Dartmouth researchers are studying glacial advance and melt dynamics near Ilulissat.

**Friday, Aug. 10: Sisimiut**
We will explore the fjord behind the town of Sisimiut before visiting the town. We will hope to meet a few of the traditional Greenlandic kayakers and perhaps see a demonstration of “Eskimo Rolling” by one of the former champions of the Greenland Kayaking Championships.

**Saturday, Aug. 11: Sondre Stromfjord**
One of the world’s longest fjords, Sondre Stromfjord towers above the ship on either side as we sail up it. Today we travel by 4WD-vehicles to the Greenland Ice Cap; our route takes us through an incredibly beautiful landscape of mountains, plains and semi-desert valleys. Near the Ice Cap, we drive through the fantastic moraine landscape. At the end of the road, we walk to the Greenland Ice Cap and onto the vast ice sheet. We spend some time exploring this world of ice before returning to our vehicle. There are good chances of spotting reindeer, musk oxen and many species of birds and flowers.

**Sunday, Aug. 12: Kangerlussuaq (Sondre Stromfjord)**
Kangerlussuaq is home to one of the world’s longest runways. We will disembark in the morning and transfer to the airport for our charter flight back to Ottawa, Canada.

**Iqaluit Extension**
Please enquire about our three day program in Iqaluit which includes a guided tour of the city with visits to the Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum, the Legislative Assembly, the Iqaluit Fine Art Gallery and craft shops; full day excursion to Sylvia Grinnell Park to discover Thule archeological sites; and a presentation on dog sledding in the Arctic.

**Please note:** Weather, ice, wildlife, or other conditions may require us to modify the itinerary. Specific sites visited will depend on ice and weather conditions and the itinerary will be updated throughout the voyage. The Arctic is not predictable which is one of the many reasons we think it is so special.
WHAT TO EXPECT ON YOUR EXPEDITION

Our “How to Prepare for your Expedition” booklet is provided prior to departure.

**Group Size:** Limited to 84 participants.

**Weather**
The Arctic is cold even in the summer — but probably not as cold as you may think. Daytime temperatures during our expedition will range from 41 – 46°F with an average of 16 hours of sunlight daily.

**Level of Activity: Moderate**
This voyage is suitable for any person who is in reasonable health and who has the capability of getting in and out of Zodiaks with close assistance from competent sailors and expedition crew members. Walking on rocky shores can be challenging at times; however, such walks and hikes are organized into groups, each with different levels of ability and interest.

**On Board & Ashore**
One of the most enjoyable features of the *Akademik Sergey Vavilov* is the Captain’s open bridge policy. You are welcome to spend time here – an excellent vantage point from which to enjoy the spectacular views and observe officers navigate.

Morning briefings and daily presentations by our study leaders and by our expedition team will cover a range of topics including history, anthropology, ecology, geology, marine biology, ornithology, flora and fauna, and contemporary issues in the Arctic.

Shore excursions are by Zodiac transportation from the ship to the landing area and we will focus on areas with the greatest promise of wildlife or places of historical significance. At each landing a choice of activities will be offered, from charging hikes, to walks with photographers, historians and naturalists, to contemplative wanders or Zodiac explorations.

**Sea Kayaking**
If you have had some previous experience, you can sign up for a kayaking experience through some of the world’s most beautiful polar scenery. Please ask us for further information.

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OUR VESSEL

Bar & Lounge

Twin Private Cabin

Superior Cabin

Sauna
TWIN SHARE

TWIN SEMI-PRIVATE

TWIN PRIVATE

SUPERIOR

SHACKLETON SUITE

ONE OCEAN SUITE

**AKADEMIK SERGEY VAVILOV CABIN DESCRIPTION**

| TWIN SHARE                     | Deck 3, 2 lower berths, porthole, shared bathroom, sink in cabin, approx. 9m² |
| TWIN SEMI-PRIVATE             | Deck 4, 2 lower berths, window, one bathroom between two cabins, approx. 10m² |
| TWIN PRIVATE                  | Deck 4 and 5, 2 lower berths, window, private bathroom, approx. 12.5m² |
| SUPERIOR                     | Deck 3, 2 lower berths, window, private bathroom, approx. 16m² |
| SHACKLETON SUITE             | Deck 4 and 5, double berth, window, private bathroom, approx. 17.8m² |
| ONE OCEAN SUITE              | Deck 5, double berth, window overlooking the bow, private bathroom, approx. 22.5m² |

**COST PER PERSON**

- TWIN SHARE: US$8395
- TWIN SEMI-PRIVATE: US$9545
- TWIN PRIVATE: US$10995
- SUPERIOR: US$11995
- SHACKLETON SUITE: US$13395
- ONE OCEAN SUITE: US$14495

Mandatory charter flight Ottawa to Iqaluit an additional approx. US$1000 per person.

**Tour Cost Includes:** Accommodation for one night pre-expedition in Ottawa, based on double occupancy; accommodation in selected cabin, based on double occupancy; all meals; complimentary house wine, beer, and house brand liquor; all excursions and landings; all community visits; all onboard activities; full program of onboard presentations; port dues and taxes; transfers hotel/airport in Ottawa and ship/airport in Iqaluit; gratuities on board; complimentary use of “All Weather Gear”.

**Not Included:** GST; return airfare to Ottawa; items of a personal nature; ship board expenses; travel insurance; any item not mentioned in “tour cost includes”.

**Payment Details:** A non-refundable deposit of US$2000 per person is required to reserve a space. A second deposit of US$2000 plus charter airfare is required by December 15, 2017. Final payment is due April 1, 2018. If you wish to have guaranteed single accommodation, the single supplement for this trip is 1.5 times the per person cost of twin cabins and 2 times the per person cost for suites. If you are travelling alone and you are willing to share, we will try to match you up with an appropriate roommate.

**Terms and Conditions:** For information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form or the Worldwide Quest website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act.
RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW

Please contact Worldwide Quest for more information and to book this expedition.
1-800-387-1483  travel@worldwidequest.com

Visit alumnae.smith.edu/travel today.

This expedition is offered exclusively to alumni and friends of:
Smith College, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, and Williams College.

Worldwide Quest and One Ocean Expeditions offer a paid internship position to students in the Environmental Technology Program at Nunavut Arctic College. Past participants have enjoyed learning from Nunavut students who are NLCA Beneficiaries.