



West Greenland Explorer - M/V Greg Mortimer

GREENLAND - TRIP CODE GMWG

POLAR

Why book this trip?

West Greenland offers adventure filled experiences ranging from Zodiac cruises along gleaming ice filled fjords, to meeting Inuit locals living traditional ways of life in some of the world's more remote environments. Hiking trails featuring stunning vistas of bays filled with icebergs are a reward for photography enthusiasts, while Zodiacs can glide through waters teeming with whales, the Ilulissat Icefjord is a UNESCO World Heritage Site where boats and people alike are dwarfed by the sheer size of the icebergs on sides.

- **Zodiac cruise through crystal clear waters** - getting up close to nature
- **Enjoy incredible icy landscapes** - enjoying the wildlife rich waters full of a variety of whale species
- **Enjoy cultural Nuuk** - a remote yet cosmopolitan city



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 10
Lunch: 9
Dinner: 9



TRIP STAFF
Expedition
Crew
Naturalist(s)



TRANSPORT
M/V Greg
Mortimer
Zodiac



ACCOMMODATION
9 nights premium
boat
1 nights premium
hotel



TRIP PACE:
Relaxed

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Nuuk

Arrive in Greenland's capital, Nuuk and transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel in Nuuk to be confirmed (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Nuuk

The northernmost capital in the world, Nuuk was founded in 1728 by the Norwegian missionary Hans

Egede and has more than 17,000 inhabitants. The centre of Greenland lies at the mouth of its very own fjord system, on the mid-west coast of Greenland. The fjord system, is the second largest fjord system in the world and is one of the country's main drawcards. On an introductory tour, discover Nuuk's contrasting architecture from beautiful old buildings to colourful houses - one of Nuuk's trademarks, with the brightly-coloured houses providing a stark contrast to the rocks or white winter snow. Stop by the newly renovated and roof-covered brættet, where the day's catch of seal, birds and fish are sold. Other attractions in the town include the award-winning cultural centre Katuaq, City Hall, the cathedral from 1849 and the National Museum where you can enjoy a stunning view over the fjord. The museum was established in 1966 and became Greenland's National Museum and Archives, offering a unique ethnographical collection. Discover the famous mummies and costumes from Qilakitsoq in northwest Greenland, as well as the world's oldest and almost completely intact skin boat, the Pearyland Umiak, whose well-preserved remains are estimated to date back to the 1470s. After discovering Nuuk on a city tour, you will embark the M/V Greg Mortimer in the afternoon, ready to commence your voyage.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Greg Mortimer (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 3 - Eternity Fjord

Over the coming days, you will discover the immense beauty of West Greenland and in true expeditionary style, the itinerary will be kept flexible as weather and sea ice will determine where we go and what we see, but our expert crew will ensure that all opportunities are maximised. If weather is in our favour, we will aim to stop at Eternity Fjord. Located north of Maniitsoq town, this beautiful fjord offers numerous glaciers, a chance to Zodiac cruise amongst the ice and incredible mountainous landscapes, which we hope to enjoy on a landing.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Greg Mortimer (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 4 - Sisimiut

Greenland's second largest town, Sisimiut is the only place in Greenland that has an open-air public swimming pool and the town is famous for its old blue church with a gate made of whale jaws. The church is located next to the cosy and small museum, featuring a reconstruction of an Inuit turf house. Sisimiut offers hiking trails with various degrees of difficulty. The easier trails take you through the town and its outskirts, as well as into the mountains, where you will find spectacular vantage points.

Sisimiut is located approximately 54 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, meaning that during summer, you can experience the Midnight Sun here. Approximately 4,500 years ago, the Saqqaq culture arrived from Canada and settled in this area. They lived here for approximately 2,000 years, after which they mysteriously disappeared from the town. The Dorset culture arrived around in AD 500 and stayed until the 1200s, until they were replaced by the Thule culture and today, the majority of the population of Sisimiut are descendants of the Thule culture. The museum in Sisimiut allows you to experience local history, as well as some cultural historical treats, exhibiting early life in Greenland. The town also has a cultural centre - Taseralik Arts Centre, where you can experience concerts, plays, films and much more and its café also offers incredible views of the landscape.



ACCOMMODATION:

M/V Greg Mortimer (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 5 - Ilulissat

Ilulissat is renowned for mountainous icebergs drifting from one of the most productive glaciers in the northern hemisphere an out into the Disko Bay. A short distance south of town is the mindblowing Ilulissat Icefjord, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004, and home of one of the most actively calving glaciers in the world, Sermeq Kujalleq, also known as Jakobshavn glacier. Sermeq Kujalleq produces about 20 million tonnes of ice each day, all floating into the Ilulissat Icefjord and Disko Bay. Ilulissat is the third largest town municipality in Greenland, with more than 5,000 inhabitants. Ilulissat Glacier is the most productive glacier in the northern hemisphere. It is seven kilometres wide and more than a kilometre steep. It produces 43 million tonnes of ice and moves about 50 metres a day and is an incredible sight to experience. Enjoy a Zodiac cruise at the mouth of the fjord, passing through sea ice and surrounded by icebergs. More than 40 million tons of ice flows out into the fjord each day, resulting in gigantic icebergs that can be in excess of 100 metres on each side, with a height of more than 100 metres above the water surface. These giants often become stranded at the end of the fjord, providing excellent opportunities to sail among them. Hiking in Greenland is mostly done on rugged unmarked tracks. However, in Ilulissat there are a few

well-marked routes that take you along the Icefjord. An easy hike to the old settlement at the Icefjord takes about 30-45 minutes from the centre of town, leading to a fantastic spot at the edge of the Icefjord where a former settlement was situated. Different Inuit cultures have lived here during the last 4,000

years and today, you can still find artefacts from this period. Hear the tales of life in Greenland before the Europeans' arrival; see the ruins, the kitchen mitten, and feel the permafrost with your own hands. The route to the edge has a walkway and when you reach the edge of the icefjord, you can walk up a little hill for an even more breathtaking view. A moderate level of fitness and balance is required to summit the small hill, as the terrain is quite rugged.



ACCOMMODATION:

M/V Greg Mortimer (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 6 - Eqip Sermia

Accessible only by sea, the Eqip Sermia glacier is located 80 kilometres north of Ilulissat. It's one of the most active glaciers in Greenland. Although it's smaller than Sermeq Kujalleq glacier in Ilulissat, it's more accessible and if ice conditions permit, we'll Zodiac cruise within safe distance, waiting for chunks of ice to calve and hearing the deafening crash of the ice breaking off, followed by the huge splash when it hits the water. Depending on conditions, we may land our Zodiacs on a moraine and walk close to the glacier.

The Inland Ice Sheet is made of snow and when densely packed, it becomes ice. This procedure puts pressure on the air between the snow flakes and results in air bubbles. When the glacier calves, the air is released and this is what creates the explosion-like sounds. The oxygen-rich ice is a food resource for many animals; cormorants, guillemots, kittiwakes and the rare prairie gull is often seen nearby. Seals often live in the ice in front of the glacier and the great eagle can be spotted here. You may also come across grouse, hare and small arctic fox.



ACCOMMODATION:

M/V Greg Mortimer (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 7 - Qeqertarsuaq

Qeqertarsuaq means the large island and it is indeed Greenland's largest island. It lies in the middle of Disko Bay, about 70 km from the mainland and can be reached in a day's sailing. The island is different

from the rest of Greenland due to its volcanic origin and its landscape is characterised by red-tinged basalt mountains, verdant hilltops, interesting rock figures and hot springs. Disko Island is well-known for its beautiful nature, abundant flora and interesting geology, that made geological surveys possible from 1848. In 1906, the Arctic Station was founded here and it is now the oldest manned field station in the arctic region. The Arctic Station conducts research on bio and geo-related problems. If we are lucky, staff from the station may come aboard and share some insight into their work and research.

The main town of Qeqertarsuaq is also called Qeqertarsuaq and has approximately, 850 residents. Qeqertarsuaq was founded in 1773 and is beautifully located by Disko Bay, on a peninsula, in a natural harbor. From spring to autumn, the area around Disko Island becomes a meeting ground for large whales such as bowhead whale and humpback whales - a perfect place to Zodiac cruise for possible whale encounters. In the 17th Century, the first whaling stations were established on Disko Island and the optimal fishing areas drew many European whaling expeditions here. Being located nearer to the Arctic Circle, you will experience the Midnight Sun here, an experience that you won't have south of Sisimiut.



ACCOMMODATION:

M/V Greg Mortimer (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 8 - Uummannaq

Uummannaq is surrounded by steep islands and an endless supply of icebergs from the Qarajaq Glacier. Uummannaq, meaning heart-like, is the centrepiece of an archipelago where everyday hunting and fishing plays out in the middle of one of nature's grandest creations, in Greenland. As the ship approaches Uummannaq, have your camera ready and be out on deck as the vista is simply, magnificent. Founded as a Danish colony in 1758 on the mainland, the settlement was moved five years later to this nearby island, where seal hunting was more plentiful. As you wander through the town, through snow and ice, notice the colourful local houses that are so reminiscent of Greenland.

The iconic heart-shaped mountain of Uummannaq, towers over the island and the symbol of the heart is an unmistakable landmark for visitors. Nearby Qilakitsoq, a former settlement, but now an archaeological site, is famous for the discovery of eight mummified bodies in 1972. The mummies which date back to 1475 AD, can now be viewed at the Greenland National Museum in Nuuk. Uummannaq is a great place for Zodiac cruising to explore the coastline, kayaking and hiking.



ACCOMMODATION:

M/V Greg Mortimer (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 9 - Upernavik

We hope to stop at Upernavik. With a name that translates to the Springtime Place, the town has long been associated with Inuit traditions of ice fishing and hunting for sea mammals. A bay dotted with hundreds of islands, the world's largest bird cliffs at Apparsuit and an open-air museum, revealing colonial and Viking histories, see thousands of islands interspersed with icebergs stretching off into the distance. If conditions allow, we will traverse the mesmerising waters of the Upernavik Icefjord.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Greg Mortimer (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 10 - At Sea

As we sail back south to Nuuk, keep a lookout for whale blows and the seabirds that trail our ship in the ever-present Arctic winds. Enjoy the time to reflect on your recent adventures in Greenland, share and exchange photos and soak-up the spectacular scenery of West Greenland.



ACCOMMODATION:
M/V Greg Mortimer (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 11 - Nuuk

We arrive back in Nuuk, where you will disembark after breakfast and transfer to downtown or to the airport, depending on onward arrangements.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Greenland

Climate

Greenland has an Arctic climate with average temperatures in the North that do not exceed 10° C in the warmest summer months. In the southern part of the country and the innermost parts of the long fjords, the temperature can, however, rise to more than 20° C (68° F) in June, July and August.

Time difference to GMT

UTC±00:00 to UTC-04:00

Religion

Church of Denmark

Language

Greenlandic however, Danish and English are recognised languages.

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Whilst landings are included in the cost of your trip as per the outline itinerary, some departures aboard the MV Greg Mortimer have additional optional excursions which can be pre-booked with the ship operator directly. These will be charged at an additional fee, depending on the excursion and we recommend booking these in advance to ensure availability. Please speak to a member of our Polar team who will advise you on the booking process.

Clothing

Parkas

A complimentary parka is provided for you on board the ship and is yours to keep after the voyage. It has a comfortable wind-resistant inner jacket, which is detachable from the waterproof outer shell, and is

designed to be worn over your essential base layers.

Gloves

Keeping your hands warm and dry can be a challenge. Thin polypropylene gloves can be worn underneath warm outergloves. This allows you some protection from the cold when removing your gloves to operate your camera etc. We strongly recommend that you bring more than one pair of gloves, in case one gets wet (or lost).

Hat/Cap

Warm, woollen hat/cap to protect your ears, as well as a scarf, neck gaiter or other face protection, such as a balaclava.

Trousers

Water-resistant trousers of coated nylon or, even better, Gore-Tex® are essential for your comfort. They can be worn over your regular clothes to keep you warm and dry. We suggest that you purchase trousers a few sizes larger than you normally wear as you will be wearing them over other clothing. Gore-Tex® or similar fabrics are excellent for keeping out wind and water without trapping excess heat. Rain gear and Gore-Tex® products can be found in any outdoor sport clothing store. In addition to your waterproof trousers, warm ski pants are suggested if you have them. Warm trousers such as jeans, corduroys etc are also good.

Socks

Warm wool socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet.

Outer Clothing Woollen, knit or cotton sweaters/tops, polar fleece tops (medium weight), several cotton turtlenecks and T-shirts for layering on and off the ship.

Underclothing

Thermal underwear is highly recommended as it will keep you warm without adding bulk. Most polar travellers prefer a lightweight version.

Footwear

Complimentary waterproof boots will be supplied on-board. However, if you have extra small or large feet, you are advised to bring your own. Also ensure you take good walking boots and trainers for relaxing.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

Sunglasses and sun cream

Insect repellent

Personal toiletries

A refillable water bottle

Books/reading material

Camera and memory cards

Seasickness remedy

Tipping

Local crew

Tipping is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. It is an expression of satisfaction. The suggested amount is USD \$15 per person per day spent on board. Of course, tipping is a personal choice and the suggested amount is set only as a guideline.

Greenland

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Danish krone (DKK)

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

M/V Greg Mortimer, Zodiac

Ship description

The MV Greg Mortimer is a 104-metre ship, purpose-built in 2019 for expedition travel. Capable of negotiating the strongest winds and waves, the vessel is being built to world-class polar standards and has been designed in close consultation with expedition specialists. The MV Greg Mortimer is limited to just 120 passengers and guests can enjoy some added comforts such as spacious stateroom cabins, a large mud room with easy boarding access and a hydraulic viewing platform, offering unobstructed views of the wildlife. Other features include a library, Wellness Centre with a gym, sauna and spa and a multimedia room for keen photographers wishing to edit their photos after a day of exploration. As a modern and custom-designed ship, this vessel is at the cutting edge of nautical technology and will ensure a comfortable and safe passage through polar waters.

Cabins

The lead-in prices on our website are based on triple outward facing, Stateroom cabins. All staterooms have private bathrooms, ample storage, with twin beds. Many of the stateroom categories, have floor to ceiling windows that offer prime observation opportunities around the clock. Additionally, there are

private balconies in most of the staterooms, allowing you to watch the world float past and take in the salty air of the open ocean. A full layout of the deck plan can be found under the Polar Ships section on our website. Your confirmed cabin type will appear on your Booking Confirmation, which will be sent on receipt of your deposit payment.

Ship dining

Meals are served in the large, spacious dining room with an open seating arrangement, perfect for swapping stories with your extended expedition family. A range of courses is offered at each meal time and you can enjoy a variety of house wines, beers and soft drinks which are included with your evening meal. Complimentary coffee, tea and snacks are available throughout the day and any additional drinks can be purchased at the fully-stocked bar.

On the last day of your trip, the team on the MV Greg Mortimer will provide a special farewell four-course

Food and drink

Here are the average costs of drinks, in USD, on board - please bear in mind, they are subject to change:

Bottle of wine - from \$12

Bottle of beer - from \$3

Spirits (gin, whisky, vodka, port, rum) - from \$5

Cocktails - from \$5.50

Soft drinks (fizzy, fruit juice and water) - from \$2.50

There is no internet access on board our ships, however you can pay to send and receive emails (no attachments). On the Polar Pioneer, the prices start from approximately 20 US cents per one kilobyte. Wi-fi access is available for laptops, with an email account set up for US\$5, with the same downloadending fees.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Norway: Entry visas NOT required by UK, AUS, NZ, USA, CAN Citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport. On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Greenland

Polar information

Ship information

The MV Greg Mortimer is a 104-metre ship, purpose-built in 2019 for expedition travel. Capable of negotiating the strongest winds and waves, the vessel is being built to world-class polar standards and has been designed in close consultation with expedition specialists. The MV Greg Mortimer is limited to just 120 passengers and guests can enjoy some added comforts such as spacious stateroom cabins, a large mud room with easy boarding access and a hydraulic viewing platform, offering unobstructed views of the wildlife. Other features include a library, Wellness

Centre with a gym, sauna and spa and a multimedia room for keen photographers wishing to edit their photos after a day of exploration. As a modern and custom-designed ship, this vessel is at the cutting edge of nautical technology and will ensure a comfortable and safe passage through polar waters.

Reviews
