Queen’s University
Alumni Educational Travel Program
presents

Voyage Under the Midnight Sun

ARCTIC EXPEDITION
Spitsbergen • Svalbard Archipelago

Aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star L’AUSTRAL
June 21 to July 1, 2019
Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

Join other Tricolour Travellers as we explore the unspoiled Arctic wilderness at the best time of year—under the Midnight Sun. This once-in-a-lifetime, 11-day program features the extraordinary Svalbard archipelago. We’ll navigate through pristine fjords, see stunning glaciers, enjoy Arctic walks and discover abundant wildlife including the King of the Arctic—the polar bear—walruses, whales, reindeer and several species of rare Arctic seabirds.

Our journey takes place aboard the ice-class, eco-friendly L’Austral, the finest expedition ship to cruise these waters. Featuring 95% private balcony staterooms along with spacious observation lounges and open-air decks conducive to optimum viewing, this ship is ideal for cruising fjords inaccessible to larger vessels. An expert Arctic Expedition Team will accompany the cruise and all shore excursions. In addition, Dr. Scott Lamoureux of the Department of Geography will share his expertise, ensuring your Arctic experience is comprehensive.

Discover your “true North” on this Arctic expedition! I encourage you to call and place your reservation today while Early Booking Savings and space are available.

Cha Gheill!

Melanie McEwen, Artsci’87
Manager, Alumni Education & Travel
Alumni Relations & Annual Giving
Queen’s University

Study Leader

“I mean, change is almost too weak of a word. It’s transforming into a new state,” exclaims Dr. Scott Lamoureux, describing the changes in climate and geography he’s seen in the High Arctic over the last 29 years. Lamoureux, professor in the Department of Geography, leads the Environmental Variability and Extremes Laboratory at Queen’s, whose research focuses on the impact of weather and water on terrestrial landscapes. Much of his field work takes place at the Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory (CBAWO), an initiative he set up in 2003. From that base on Melville Island in Nunavut, Lamoureux studies the effect of the Arctic’s rapidly changing climate on the landscape, particularly as it relates to permafrost stability.
What it’s really like to be on “Top of the World”

Luminous cobalt-blue glaciers; snow-covered, towering mountainous landscapes; pristine fjords; massive sheets of ice; incredible, uniquely shaped icebergs; and an abundance of wildlife—these wondrous sights will unfold around you on this once-in-a-lifetime expedition into the untouched Arctic’s remote Svalbard archipelago. Be on the lookout for multiple species of whales, bearded seals and long-toothed walruses lazing on the ice; nimble Arctic foxes; graceful Svalbard reindeer grazing on the Arctic’s lush tundra; and Arctic terns and fulmar gliding to and from cliffs. Observe the King of the Arctic—the iconic polar bear—in its natural habitat, hunting seals and travelling over sea ice. The ethereal glow of the Midnight Sun will enhance the true beauty of this extraordinary archipelago as you follow in the footsteps of polar pioneers before you in their quest to reach the “Top of the World.”

Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway

Your Arctic Expedition launches in the small port town of Longyearbyen, the Norwegian Svalbard archipelago’s capital and, at 78 degrees North latitude, less than 1050 kilometres from the North Pole. Enjoy a glimpse of daily life here in the Longyearbyen Culture House before embarking L’Austral.

Hornsund/Samarin Glacier

An expert naturalist-led excursion navigates through slow-drifting ice by Zodiac in the pristine bay of Burgerbukta to reach the majestic Samarin Glacier. A walk along the glacier examines firsthand its dramatic terrain, frequented by seabirds such as black-legged kittiwakes and Brünnich’s guillemots. Discover the perfect snapshot of miniature Arctic wildflowers.

Native to the Arctic tundra biome, Arctic foxes use their acute hearing to locate prey precisely.

Photo this page: Join your expedition team on Zodiac excursions and guided Arctic walks.

Cover photo: Search for polar bears, exceptionally equipped for the Arctic with their protective coats, heat-absorbing skin and superb swimming skills.
**Bellsund**

In the bell-shaped sound of Bellsund, surrounded by soaring, snow-covered peaks, anchor off Calypsobyen, part of Sør-Spitsbergen, Norway’s largest national park. Relics of the former coal mining settlement offer a glimpse into its history. Expert naturalists accompany you through Calypsobyen's intriguing ecosystem, where nimble Arctic foxes thrive.

Continue to Camp Millar, a former gold mining base and now a favoured grazing spot for the Svalbard reindeer. Observe the graceful reindeer, their newborn calves and the large resident colony of auks.

**Cruising the Arctic Ice Pack**

Approach the Arctic Ice Pack at the approximate latitude of 80 degrees North. Survey expansive sea ice for the King of the Arctic—the polar bear. Ice habitats are crucial for this endangered mammal’s hunting and breeding.

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Listen for bearded seals' trilling and look for them sunning on the ice, especially during June's moulting season.
Keep a keen eye out for these ivory-furred creatures and scan the cobalt-blue waters for bowhead and beluga whales, often spotted swimming in pods. Woodfjorden showcases the Arctic’s contrasts—icy, glacier-fronted shores are juxtaposed against the surrounding, red sandstone mountains. Cruise to the startlingly beautiful Monaco Glacier and listen for the sound of white thunder as the tidewater glaciers calve into the ocean.

Your expert naturalist guides lead an adventurous walk around protected Raudfjorden, amidst Svalbard poppies. Look for rare seabirds, such as pink-footed geese, black-legged kittiwakes and glaucous gulls.

Enjoy a Zodiac excursion to the former bustling, 17th-century Dutch whaling station of Smeerenburgbreen, today a prized resting shore for long-toothed walruses.

Discover the hub of scientific exploration, Ny-Ålesund, one of the world’s northernmost settlements and host to 16 international research stations. In Ny-Ålesund, a popular refuge for ringed and bearded seals, observe these mammals resting in their natural habitats.

An excursion by Zodiac through the inlet of Kongsfjorden takes you to the tidewater Kongsbreen (King’s Glacier), a nesting ground for waterbirds, barnacle geese, common and king elders, long-tailed ducks, purple sandpipers, Atlantic puffins and snow buntings.

Left: Scan the fjords for humpback whales migrating to the Arctic’s cooler waters during the northern summer to give birth.

**Expert Expedition Team**

An Arctic Expedition Team of seasoned naturalists, who have studied and travelled extensively in the remote Arctic, accompany you throughout your voyage. The team’s collaborative efforts, experience, particular interest in the Arctic’s ecosystems and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge make them exceptionally well-suited to lead your Arctic Expedition under the Midnight Sun.
Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star MS L'Austral

Five-Star, State-of-the-Art, Small Ship
Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star L'Austral, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. The ship’s efficient electrical propulsion system and custom stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage.

Respect for the Environment
With advanced technology and the most environmentally responsible features built into its design and operations, the ship has earned the prestigious “clean ship” certification.

With Our Compliments
Indulge in these complimentary onboard amenities—alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise and in your Suite or Stateroom minibar, Wi-Fi access throughout the ship (satellite reception permitting) and 24-hour room service.

Chic and Casual Dining
The stylish dining room and casual alfresco restaurant feature international cuisine and serve continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner as four courses or buffet. Wine is served at your table with lunch and dinner.

Only 110 Suites and Staterooms—95% Include Private Balconies
Elegant ocean-view accommodations range from 18.5 to 45 square metres, and most have a private balcony. Each Five-Star Suite or Stateroom features individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower and luxurious hotel amenities, including flat-screen television, a safe, full-length closet, plush robes and slippers.

Life on Board
In addition to educational and cultural presentations, panoramic views, evening entertainment or peaceful retreat, the ship’s spacious public areas comfortably accommodate all passengers. Enjoy two lounges, a theatre, library, the Sun Deck with open-air bar, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room and fitness room. The ship has three elevators and 10 Zodiacs.

World-Class Service
The highly trained, English-speaking crew are personable and highly attentive; the ship has a medical centre staffed with a doctor and nurse.
Included Features

In Paris, France
◆◆ One night each at the beginning and conclusion of your expedition in the deluxe Hilton PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT HOTEL, with breakfast.
Chartered round-trip airfare Paris, France/Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway (internal air).

On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star, Ice-Class L'Austral
◆◆ Seven nights round trip Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway, cruising through the Arctic's majestic glacial landscapes.
◆◆ Elegantly appointed, Five-Star Suite or Stateroom.
◆◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆◆ Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise.
◆◆ All meals aboard ship.
◆◆ Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship (satellite reception permitting).
◆◆ Onboard expedition team of naturalists, who provide a series of lectures about local wildlife and landscapes.
◆◆ Exploration by Zodiac landing craft, accompanied by an expert naturalist from the expedition team.
◆◆ Cruise into secluded fjords and bays to search for the endangered King of the Arctic, the polar bear.
◆◆ Zodiac cruise of the sheltered bay of Burgerbukta, where glacial-blue ice fronts snow-striped cliffs.
◆◆ Zodiac excursion to remote Samarin Glacier, a dramatic landscape of incredible cobalt-blue ice.
◆◆ Zodiac excursion to Calypso byen, a former coal mining settlement, to look for Arctic foxes and terns in the lush tundra.
◆◆ Zodiac excursion to Camp Millar, once a gold mining base, to spot grazing endemic Svalbard reindeer.
◆◆ Cruise of stunning Woodfjorden, where the Arctic’s contrasts unfold in a panorama of glacier-fronted shores, majestic glacial summits and red sandstone mountains.
◆◆ Cruise to Monaco Glacier, an actively calving ice sheet located within scenic Liefdefjorden.
◆◆ Arctic nature walk along the shores of awe-inspiring Raudfjorden.
◆◆ Excursion to historic Smeerenburgbreen, a former whaling station, to observe resting walruses on shore.
◆◆ Discover Ny-Ålesund, an important research town and one of the world’s northernmost communities.
◆◆ Zodiac cruise of spectacular Kongsfjorden, a fertile environment for birds and bearded seals, to stunning King's Glacier.
◆◆ Souvenir polar-grade red parka.

Always Included
◆◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆◆ Experienced, English-speaking naturalists and local guides for included excursions.
◆◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom and on excursions.
◆◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.
◆◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director at your service.
◆◆ Automatic $250,000 USD flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
See the remaining infrastructure of Mulberry “B,” the artificial harbour WWII Allied forces created to land troops and supplies on D-Day in Arromanches, France.

Normandy

Historic Legacies and Artistic Treasures

Pre-Expedition Option

Commemorate the 75th anniversary year of the Allied forces’ World War II D-Day Invasion during a once-in-a-lifetime visit to historic Normandy. Walk the hallowed grounds where Canadian, American and British forces landed. At Courseulles-sur-Mer and Juno Beach, see where Canadian soldiers commenced the D-Day invasion. Tour the Juno Beach Centre Museum, then visit the Canadian Cemetery at Bény-sur-Mer. Tour charming Honfleur, an inspiration to Impressionists such as Monet and Boudin, and in Rouen, view stunning stained-glass windows at Joan of Arc Church and the impressive Gothic architecture of the Notre Dame de Rouen Cathedral.

Spend three nights in the deluxe Hôtel de Bourgtheroulde—ideally located in the heart of Rouen.

Paris • Giverny

Postlude Option

Experience the “City of Light” and Monet’s cherished gardens in nearby Giverny. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Paris, renowned for its historic and aesthetic influence, and see its most noted landmarks. Visit the Louvre, the world’s largest museum, for a guided tour. Enjoy a full-day excursion to Monet’s Gardens—an exquisite living canvas—in charming Giverny. Visit the Impressionist Master’s house and admire his lily pond and iconic Japanese bridge.

Spend three nights in the deluxe, ideally located Hôtel Scribe Paris Opéra.

The Pre-Expedition and Postlude Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
supplies on D-Day in Arromanches, France. Harbour WWII Allied forces created to land troops and see the remaining infrastructure of Mulberry “B,” the artificial...
Neither Queen's University nor Queen's University Alumni Association will be responsible for the financing, the arranging or the conducting of these tours. They assume no liability or responsibility for damages or financial loss to person or property of any description, that might occur in connection with these tours however arising from the negligence, omission or otherwise of travel services arranged through Gohagan & Company.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESIDENTS: In connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services resulting from any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services that might occur in connection with these tours however arising from the negligence, omission or otherwise of travel services arranged through Gohagan & Company.

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