



## WEST GREENLAND SAIL & KAYAK LIVEABOARD EXPEDITION

*Trip Brochure*



## AT A GLANCE

### DATES

JULY 16TH, 2025  
JULY 25TH, 2025  
JUNE 28TH, 2026  
JULY 7TH, 2026

### DURATION

9 DAYS

### DIFFICULTY

BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE

### PRICE

FROM \$6,165.00

### ACCOMMODATION

LIVEABOARD



## OVERVIEW

Located in the Arctic Circle, West Greenland is a land of rugged beauty and breathtaking wilderness. It is home to the world's largest fjord system, with dramatic coastlines dominated by towering icebergs, active glaciers, and pristine waters. This remote region offers a unique blend of Inuit villages, untracked tundra, and an abundance of Arctic wildlife. From polar bears and reindeer to seals and whales, West Greenland is a haven for nature enthusiasts seeking an unforgettable adventure in one of the planet's wildest places.

Join this expedition for a week of sailing, kayaking, and hiking through the ice and fjords of West Greenland. Using the 16-passenger schooner, *Elsi*, we journey north from Ilulissat through Disko Bay to Disko Island and Uummannaq Fjord. Each day offers opportunities to paddle among icebergs, trek through picturesque valleys, visit remote communities, and search for whales under the midnight sun.

This trip is designed for paddlers, hikers, and those seeking an in-depth experience of the west coast of Greenland with a small group of like-minded travelers.



# WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THIS EXPEDITION

## EXPLORE THE WORLD'S LARGEST FJORD SYSTEM

Immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of West Greenland's vast fjords. Sail through icebergs and explore the pristine wilderness of this Arctic wonderland.

## WILDLIFE OPPORTUNITIES

From polar bears and Arctic foxes to reindeer, musk oxen, several types of whales and seals, the possibilities for wildlife encounters are endless in west Greenland.

## ADVENTURE UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Experience the surreal beauty of endless daylight, where every moment is filled with opportunities to explore, discover, and connect with the stunning Arctic wilderness.



# PRICING

	2025 DEPARTURE	2026 DEPARTURE
<b>TWIN CABIN</b> BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	\$7,035.00 USD	\$7,200.00 USD
<b>TRIPLE CABIN</b> BASED ON TRIPLE OCCUPANCY	\$6,165.00 USD	\$6,200.00 USD
<b>KAYAKING SUPPLEMENT</b> PER PERSON	\$605.00 USD	\$599.00 USD

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return transfers from the airport to the group hotel in Reykjavik
- Hotel accommodation (twin share) in Reykjavik
- One way flight from Reykjavik to Illulissat
- Return transfer from Illulissat airport to vessel
- Seven nights ship accommodation
- All meals on board ship
- Expedition guide services
- Port taxes and port charges imposed by government authorities

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Outward flight from Ilulissat at the end of the trip
- Single supplements
- Visa, passport and vaccination charges and airport departure taxes.
- Hotels and meals not included in the voyage itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in voyage itinerary
- Laundry, personal clothing, medical expenses, personal travel insurance and items of a personal nature such as bar charges and phone/email charges
- Emergency evacuation charges
- Alcohol unless specified
- Optional activities such as kayaking unless the activity supplement has been paid
- Tips on board for crew and service personnel.

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 - ARRIVE TO REYKJAVIK (ICELAND)

Upon arrival into Reykjavik, you will be met at the airport and transferred to the group hotel for your overnight stay. This evening you'll meet your expedition leaders for the trip briefing.

## DAY 2 - FLY TO ILULISSAT. EMBARK ELSI & SET SAIL FOR DISKO ISLAND

Today we head back to the airport for the 3.5 hour flight to Ilulissat, located on Greenland's west coast. Ilulissat means 'iceberg' in Greenlandic and it's an apt name as the town is the iceberg capital of the world with Ilulissat Icefjord a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On arrival into Ilulissat we transfer direct to our schooner Elsi, moored just a 10-minute drive from the airport.

On boarding, you'll meet the crew, settle into your cabin and prepare for the upcoming journey. We may have time before departure to sort and fit the kayaking equipment or even enjoy a short stroll or paddle around Ilulissat. After dinner on board, we will set sail for Disko Island, located in Baffin Bay and the largest island along Greenland's main coast. While out on deck, we'll keep an eye out for whales, frequent summer visitors to Disko Bay include humpback, minke and fin. We experience the endless light of the polar north summer, where the sun remains visible 24 hours a day, providing ample opportunities for outdoor activities and sightseeing, even in the late hours of the night.

## DAY 3 - DISKO ISLAND

Disko Island, Qeqertarsuaq in Greenlandic, is volcanic in origin and the steep basalt mountains and hot springs differentiate the island from anywhere else in Greenland. We begin our day with a paddle or hiking excursion on the southern coast of Disko Island, exploring stunning black beaches and hidden coves. We'll hike to the breathtaking waterfalls of Blaesedalen (Valley of the Winds) and discover the diverse and abundant flora of the island. As we trek or paddle along the coast, we'll enjoy spectacular views of gigantic icebergs floating both up close and beyond. After a hearty lunch, we will set sail for the fjords of western Disko Island.

## DAY 4 - DISKO ISLAND - WESTERN FJORD

Today we explore the western expanse of Disko Island, hiking along open valleys and

paddling the remote coastline. Our sturdy vessel, Elsi, will accompany us as we journey through the fjords. Disko Island is world renowned as a significant breeding ground for two species of birds, the white-fronted goose and the king eider and for three Ramsar sites, wetlands designated to be of international importance. This afternoon we will set sail for Uummannaq, a journey that will see us sailing through the polar night.

## **DAY 5 - UUMMANNAQ**

Located 600 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle is Uummannaq Island and town, both sharing the same name. The town is located at the foot of a heart shaped mountain and is perfect to explore. Part of the town's charm is the enormous red post box where letters to Santa are received from all over the world and replied to by volunteers in Santa's 'office', located between the church and museum. The panoramic view of the fjord from the shore is truly breathtaking, offering an incredible backdrop for our hikes and paddles. This afternoon we will sail to the east, delving deeper into the Islands of Uummannaq Fjord.

## **DAY 6 - UUMMANNAQ FJORD & APPAT ISLAND**

To the east of Uummannaq lies a selection of Islands set against the Greenland icecap. Depending on the wind and ice, we intend to explore the Islands with the chance to hike, paddle and sail in this most spectacular and remote part of West Greenland. We will endeavor to visit Appat Island, one of the larger islands in the Uummannaq Fjord system. The island is very mountainous, with precipitous walls falling from the glaciated summit plateau in all directions, a stunning backdrop for our kayak outings.

## **DAY 7 - TRANSIT DAY**

Most of today will be spent sailing southward from Uummannaq Fjord to Arve-prinsens Ejland. Enjoy the open ocean, expansive landscapes, spectacular icebergs and keep an eye out for whales from the deck of the ship during our transit.

## **DAY 8 - ARVE-PRINSENS EJLAND**

Today we awake in the fjords near Arve-prinsens Ejland (named Alluttoq in Greenlandish), in the north of Disko Bay. This area is ideal for hiking, kayaking among the ice and searching for Greenland's elusive wildlife. We will paddle and cruise deep into the fjords, watching for ice broken away from the Greenland Icecap. For those



inclined to stroll, we may have the chance to hike a short section of tundra to a glacial lake.

After lunch, we head further south to Oqaatsut, also known as Rodebay and named after Dutch whalers. Here, we will explore the coastline by tender or kayak, navigating the waters and observing remnants of whales on the seabed. This area offers a fascinating insight into the region's whaling history. We will enjoy our final meal together tonight and re-live the incredible experiences and natural wonders encountered during our journey. Later this evening we set sail for Ilulissat.

## **DAY 9 - ILULISSAT**

The expedition concludes in Ilulissat today. You can choose to continue exploring more of Greenland by land or catch a flight to your next destination.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

The following itinerary should be seen as an approximate guide only. Please note that weather, ice conditions, logistics and unforeseen delays can cause alterations to our itinerary.



# THE LIVEABOARD



## ELSI

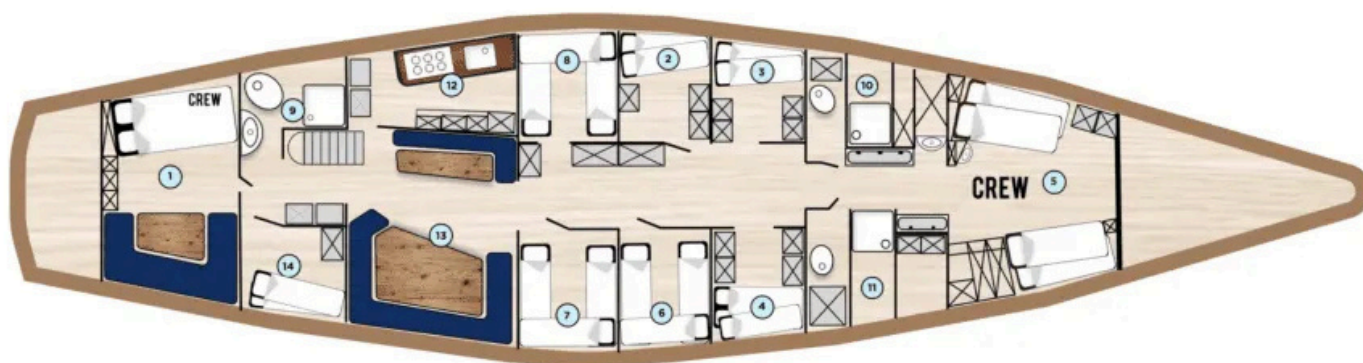
Built in 1986 at the German Blumenthaler shipyard, the schooner Elsi began her working life as a training expedition vessel. After extensive renovations in 2013, Elsi embarked on medical humanitarian missions to remote corners of the world.

In 2022, she began operating in the Polar regions. She is well fitted for polar travel with heating, satellite communication and comfortable living quarters. With her rich legacy and modern comforts, Elsi offers a cozy and safe haven making her the perfect vessel for our Greenland sailing and kayaking adventure.

There are eight cabins on board for clients and crew. Cabins are a mixture of double and triple berths. There are three heads and showers and a dining area. Elsi's large deck ensures passengers can comfortably move around and enjoy the fantastic surroundings. The enclosed and heated pilot house provides a refuge from the cold, with huge windows ensuring those that like to warm up won't miss a thing.

# ACCOMMODATION

## YACHT LAYOUT



**1** - Captain's cabin

**2,3,4** - Extra comfort double cabins

**5** - Quadruple cabin (for crew)

**6,7,8** - Triple cabins

**9,10,11** - Heads and showers

**12** - Galley

**13** - Recreation area

**14** - Double cabin

There are two cabin options for guests. The boat has 3 twin share cabins with upper and lower bunks and 3 triple cabins. There are 3 bathrooms with toilet, sink and shower. The dining area is massive and comfortable, our onboard chef will keep us well fed with hearty and tasty meals.

The upper deck is huge providing plenty of space to storage equipment and to relax while enjoying the incredible scenery. If you'd prefer to stay warm but don't want to miss anything there is also a large pilothouse which stays toasty warm.



# ACTIVITIES

## WALKS, HIKES AND CRUISING

Cruise the fjords on the yacht's tender and come ashore for either gentle strolls or more energetic hikes led by our expert guides. These activities are all included in your trip cost.

## KAYAKING (OPTIONAL)

We intend to use the ship as a comfortable floating base camp, paddling at every opportunity and returning for the comfort of meals and our cosy cabins. A tender will be available for extended shore excursions for those who do not wish to paddle on any given day.

We hope to paddle one to two times a day, with most paddles ranging from two and a half to four hours. We aim to have at least one extended paddle where we will be away from the ship for most of the day and generally meet the ship at a different location. Landing ashore by kayak, we can stretch our legs and enjoy spectacular walks with the chance of spotting rare Arctic flora and fauna. The flexibility of kayaking with a small private group ensures our own unique experiences, the quiet dip of your paddle perfectly suited to our awe-inspiring surroundings. Your kayak surcharge covers use of a drysuit, all your paddling and kayak equipment and the services of a professional sea kayak guide.

We'd be happy to talk to you about your level of experience and may be able to advise you on how to obtain the necessary skills before your trip.



## MEET YOUR GUIDES

Bringing an expedition like the West Greenland Sail & Kayak Adventure to life takes a world-class team. That's why we've partnered with Southern Sea Ventures and the expedition schooner *Elsi* to make this journey possible.

Founded in 1988 and based in Tasmania, **Southern Sea Ventures** is a globally recognized leader in multi-day sea kayaking expeditions. With a passion for adventure and exploration, they have spent decades guiding paddlers through some of the world's most remote and iconic destinations. Their expert team ensures a seamless and immersive experience, balancing safety, comfort, and a true spirit of discovery.

The **Elsi** is the perfect vessel for this Arctic journey. Originally built in 1986 as a training expedition ship, she was extensively renovated in 2013 for humanitarian missions before beginning her Polar voyages in 2022. Designed for high-latitude travel, she is equipped with heating, satellite communication, and spacious living quarters. The large deck offers panoramic views of Greenland's dramatic landscapes,

while the heated pilot house provides a cozy refuge from the elements. With a blend of history, modern amenities, and rugged capability, *Elsi* serves as both a basecamp and a gateway to the wild Arctic.





# THINGS TO KNOW

## HOW TO GET THERE

The starting place is Reykjavik in Iceland. There are two ways of travelling to Iceland; by flight or ferry. Around 20 airlines offer regular flights from destinations in Europe and North America to Reykjavik airport. For those who have more time, Smyril Line operates a weekly car-ferry service from Denmark to Iceland, enabling a self-drive holiday.

## IS THIS TRIP FOR YOU

While we have a range of activities available from easy shore landings and zodiac cruises to active hikes and paddles, it is most important that you have an adventurous disposition, are in good health and are relatively fit and active to participate in this trip. Our shore landings and zodiac cruises are suitable for all those with the ability to enter the tender from the yacht with assistance from the expedition team.

Our active hikes will often be over several miles/kilometers of varied terrain from gentle tundra to steep slopes on a mix of uneven, rocky ground and may involve some scrambling.

Our paddling program is focussed on those looking for active outings. If you have any questions or concerns please contact our team to discuss.

## DELAYS OR PROBLEMS

In case of any last minute delays or complications, please contact your guide on the number noted on your final itinerary. Otherwise, contact Southern Sea Ventures at [ssvtrips@southernseaventures.com](mailto:ssvtrips@southernseaventures.com)

## NEXT STEPS

SEND INQUIRY

BOOK A CALL

**BOOK NOW**



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