Worldwide Quest Presents to McMaster University Alumni and Friends

CELEBRATE CANADA’S 150TH ON OUR

Canadian Arctic Expedition Cruise

August 13 – 23, 2017
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Alumni from universities across Canada have responded enthusiastically to our Canada’s Northwest Passage expedition in August, 2017. So enthusiastically that we have now added a second voyage to Canada’s High Arctic. On this expedition cruise you will experience the starkly beautiful and pristine landscapes and seascapes of the Arctic summer and its abundant wildlife and follow in the footsteps of Franklin as we sail through the crux of the Northwest Passage.

Be prepared to set foot at historical sites previously visited by the likes of Franklin, Parry and Amundsen in their pursuits of the Northwest Passage. Our voyage takes us to Peel Sound, considered the crux of the Northwest Passage, to Pasely Bay where the RCMP vessel St. Roch was frozen in 1942, and through Victoria Strait, very near the actual location of the HMS Erebus.

Stark tundra, gigantic ice bergs and towering fiords serve as a stunning backdrop. As we sail, be on the lookout for hearty Arctic wildlife like Atlantic Walrus, Belugas, Narwhals, Gyrfalcons and Polar Bears. Frequent shore landings in the company of expert guides allow us to explore on foot, observing wildlife, Arctic flora, and points of historical interest.

The ice-strengthened Akademik Sergey Vavilov is our floating lodge for ten days of extraordinary exploration. Take in on board presentations by leading Arctic experts and enjoy the warm camaraderie of a small ship with just 84 participants. The company of experienced guides allow us to explore on foot and connect with Canada’s Arctic history.

This expedition is a thrilling opportunity to celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary. Don’t delay; call now to reserve your place and take advantage of the early booking bonus of $1000 per person.

Karen McQuigge ‘90
Director, Alumni Advancement

Your personal information is treated in accordance with our privacy policy and applicable legislation. For further information on privacy, or if you would like to opt out of receiving alumni travel mailings, please visit our website at www.mcmaster.ca/ua/privacy, email us at: alumni@mcmaster.ca, or call us at 1-888-217-6003.
OUR STUDY LEADERS

DR. MARK NUTTALL, Anthropology Professor at University of Alberta
Professor Mark Nuttall is a social anthropologist and holds the Henry Marshall Tory Chair in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alberta. His work in the Arctic, North Atlantic and western and northern Canada is concerned with environmental change and resource use issues in rural and coastal communities; large-scale industrial development; climate change effects on people and their livelihoods; and the human dimensions of global environmental and sustainability issues. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and holds a visiting professorship at the University of Greenland and Greenland Institute of Natural Resources.

DR. MARTYN OBBARD, Research Scientist
Dr. Martyn Obbard is a research scientist and the resident bear biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and adjunct professor at Trent University. He is a member of the IUCN-Species Survival Committee’s Polar Specialist Group and former Chair of the Canadian Federal/Provincial/ Territorial Polar Bear Technical Committee. His field work focuses on Polar Bears and how future changes in sea ice distribution and duration will affect the abundance and distribution of these bears. Martyn is an alumnus of Guelph University and Western.

DR. RUSSELL A. POTTER, Royal Canadian Geographical Society Fellow
Dr. Russell Potter is a Royal Canadian Geographical Society Fellow and academic recognized globally for his work on 19th century Arctic exploration. He was an historical consultant and contributor to the companion website for “Arctic Passage: Prisoners of the Ice”, an Emmy-award winning episode of PBS’s acclaimed series NOVA and is the author of Arctic Spectacles: The Frozen North in Visual Culture, 1818–1875.  

Our Expedition Team is composed of 16 highly experienced staff including naturalists, scientists, historians, kayak guides and adventurers. Our on board staff includes a physician and an expert photographer. The ship’s crew of 52 have many years’ experience sailing in polar waters and are committed to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience. We offer one of the highest staff-to-guest ratios in polar expeditions to ensure expert guidance for your expedition.
OUR ROUTE

Saturday, August 13
Our expedition begins with an overnight stay in Edmonton, including an evening Expedition Briefing and Welcome Dinner at the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald.

Sunday, August 14
Our morning flight from Edmonton embarks at 54°34’N and takes us well north of the Arctic Circle to 74°43’N where the hamlet of Resolute, utorqig, lies. Known as ‘Qausuittuq’ in Inuktitut, this means the “place with no dawn” – a harkening to the seemingly endless winter darkness that calls for celebration when it finally lifts in spring. Stroll through this High Arctic community before taking a Zodiac ride to our ship, the Akademik Sergei Vavilov.

Monday, August 15
Beechey Island is so small that it barely registers on Arctic maps. Its place in the canon of Northwest Passage lore, however, is enormous. In the winter of 1845–46, Sir John Franklin and his crew spent their last “comfortable” winter here, despite laying to rest three crewmen whose icy graves are still humbly marked. Almost 60 years later, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen stopped here during the first successful transit of the Northwest Passage. It is then southward toward Prince Regent Inlet to marvel at the impressive bird cliffs at Prince Leopold Island – home to several hundred thousand seabirds including Thick-billed Murres, Black Guillemots, Northern Fulmars and Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Tuesday, August 16
Overnight we sail south through Prince Regent Inlet and wake up in the morning along the south-eastern shore of Somerset Island. Our goal is to get ashore at Fury Beach, named after the HMS Fury, a Royal Navy sloop used in two Arctic expeditions by Commander Edward Parry. During her second expedition, she was damaged in the ice while overwintering and was abandoned in August of 1825 on a beach on Somerset Island, now known as Fury Beach. Her stores were unloaded on the beach as a depot of supplies. John Ross, another Royal Navy explorer relied on these stores to save the lives of his men after he lost his ship to the ice in 1829.

Wednesday, August 17
Continuing to the southern end of Prince Regent Inlet, we approach the eastern end of the Bellot Strait. The historic site of Fort Ross, located at the southern end of Somerset Island, is a former Hudson’s Bay Company fur trading outpost. Fascinating archaeological sites nearby tell a story of more than a thousand years of habitation by the Inuit and their predecessors. Having explored Fort Ross, we attempt a transit through the narrows of Bellot Strait. The mixing of waters in this strait provides an abundant food source for marine mammals and we keep our eyes peeled for Harp Seals, Bearded Seals and even Polar Bears.

Thursday, August 18
Having emerged from Bellot Strait, we cross Franklin Strait and arrive at Conningham Bay on the shore of Prince of Wales Island. Here, in the heart of the Northwest Passage we hope to encounter one of the most remarkable wildlife sites in the Arctic. This is a known hotspot for Polar Bears who come here to feast on Beluga Whales, often caught in the rocky shallows at the entrance to the bay. It is not unusual to find the shoreline littered with whale skeletons – and very healthy looking Polar Bears!
Friday, August 19
Heading further south, we enter the territory of Sir John Franklin and his ‘lost expedition’. On Victory Point a lifeboat left abandoned, bits and pieces of copper and iron, cutlery and buttons and a skeleton here and there tell a story of a desperate race south in search of rescue that never came. We hope to visit Victory Point as we transit Victoria Strait, travelling very near the actual location of the wreck of HMS Erebus discovered in 2014, all the while, learning about the quest for exploration that eventually opened up the Arctic.

Saturday, August 20
Working our way north, we stop in Pasely Bay where the RCMP vessel St. Roch was frozen in during the winter of 1942. She was the first ship to transit the Northwest Passage from west to east. We will explore the shore searching for wildlife and enjoying the isolated beauty of the Boothia Peninsula.

Sunday, August 21
We sail through Franklin Strait and into Peel Sound. The ice plug in the top of Peel Sound frustrated many explorers as they tried to pass through this body of water in order to complete the Northwest Passage. This stretch of water is considered the crux of the Northwest Passage and it is now known that Franklin sailed his two ships, the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror through Peel Sound in the summer of 1846, before becoming beset in the ice five leagues NE of ‘Victory Point’.

Monday, August 22
Our last day of excursions before returning to Resolute Bay has us stopped at the northern end of Peel Sound and on the southern shore of Barrow Strait. Aston Bay is an arm of Peel Sound and with the heavy concentrations of ice in the area should be a hotspot for wildlife activity. We will head out into the zodiacs and possibly ashore in search of wildlife and adventure as we reflect on the exciting adventures we have experienced on this voyage.

Tuesday, August 23
By morning, we are at anchor in Resolute. We make our way ashore by Zodiac and bid farewell to our crew. A charter flight returns us to Edmonton where our journey comes to an end.

Please note: We put safety first and that means weather, ice, wildlife, or other conditions may require us to modify the itinerary as we go. We consider this half the intrigue of Polar exploring. Specific sites visited will depend on ice and weather conditions experienced and the itinerary will be updated throughout the voyage in order to take advantage of favourable conditions. Arctic exploring 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. Expect temperatures to be as low as -15°C to -9°C and temperatures as high as 5°C. Enjoy 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.

OUR VESSEL

The Akademik Sergey Vavilov
Built: Rauma, Finland, 1988
Designed as a scientific research vessel for sonographic research, she is very exceptionally stable, quiet, and maneuverable.
- 117 meters long
- 6230 gross tons
- Lloyds 1A ice class
- 65 staff and crew
- Highest standards of marine safety

© Bruce Kemp

Bar & Lounge

Twin Private Cabin

Superior Cabin
AKADEMIK SERGEY VAVILOV CABIN DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabin Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost Per Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TWIN SHARE</td>
<td>Deck 3, 2 lower berths, porthole, shared bathroom, sink in cabin, approx. 9m²</td>
<td>C$7995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWIN SEMI-PRIVATE</td>
<td>Deck 4, 2 lower berths, window, one bathroom between two cabins, approx. 10m²</td>
<td>C$9995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWIN PRIVATE</td>
<td>Deck 3, 2 lower berths, window, private bathroom, approx. 12.5m²</td>
<td>C$11995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPERIOR</td>
<td>Deck 4 and 5, 2 lower berths, window, private bathroom, approx. 16m²</td>
<td>C$12995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHACKLETON SUITE</td>
<td>Deck 4 and 5, double berth, window, private bathroom, approx. 17.8m²</td>
<td>C$14995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE OCEAN SUITE</td>
<td>Deck 5, double berth, window overlooking the bow, private bathroom, approx. 22.5m²</td>
<td>C$16495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Roundtrip charter flight Edmonton/Resolute/Edmonton: C$2500. All prices plus GST.

Tour Cost Includes: Accommodation for one night pre-expedition in Edmonton, based on double occupancy, accommodation in selected cabin, based on double occupancy, all meals, all excursions and landings, all community visits, all onboard activities, full program of onboard presentations by our Study Leaders, port dues and taxes, transfer from Edmonton Hotel to Edmonton Airport on departure, complimentary use of “All Weather Gear”.

Not Included: Mandatory charter flight: Edmonton / Resolute / Edmonton, airfare between your home and Edmonton, items of a personal nature, ship board expenses including beverages, gratuities on board (suggested: C$10 – 15 per person per day), travel insurance, any item not mentioned in “included features”.

Payment Details: A non-refundable deposit of $2000 person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A second deposit of $2000 plus charter airfare is required by January 15, 2017. Final payment is due May 1, 2017. 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.
RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW

Please contact Worldwide Quest for more information and to book this expedition.
1-800-387-1483 or 416-633-5666 | travel@worldwidequest.com

Visit WorldwideQuest.com/McMasterUniversity today.

This expedition is offered exclusively to alumni and friends of:
McMaster University, University of Toronto, McGill University,
University of Guelph, Queen’s University, University of Alberta,
University of British Columbia, University of Ottawa and
University of Saskatchewan.

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. The photo on page 7 was taken by Angulalik Pedersen, an intern in 2015.

All travel services are arranged through Worldwide Quest Alumni Expeditions. McMaster University and the McMaster Alumni Association, its officers and employees do not assume any responsibilities for the financing, arranging or conducting of the tour. They shall not be liable for any damages or financial loss to person or property of any description that might occur in connection with the tour, however arising from the negligence, omission or otherwise of travel service arranged through Worldwide Quest Alumni Expeditions.