

West Greenland Expedition - Disko Bay, Kayak & Hike



The world by sea



In 1998, Southern Sea Ventures (SSV), became the first company to conduct commercial sea kayaking trips in Antarctica. Since this time, organizing expeditions to the far flung polar regions has been a passion of ours that we have been able to share with many like-minded adventurers. We are excited to announce that in 2026 we are heading back to Greenland on Elsi, a small 16-person schooner.

Elsi is agile and nimble, allowing us to access areas often not possible on larger ships. For this trip aboard Elsi, we have increased the activities available to include not only the general cruising experience but also hiking and our regular kayaking program. Every trip we take is about ensuring we maximise the wild outdoor experience for our groups. We can retreat to the comfort of the ship whenever it is required but each day is focused on what's outside the ship, not inside and we promise it is truly spectacular. These notes will provide you with an overview of what to expect on the trip; the highlights, activities offered and destination information. It's important to remember that every trip is unique, from ice conditions to weather and wildlife encounters and we adjust accordingly each time. Therefore, these notes are a guide to help you understand the type of experience on offer and our knowledgeable office team are available to answer any further questions you may have. Once you have reserved your place, we will send out additional arrival details including a detailed gear list.

GREENLAND

Almost 80% of Greenland is covered by the second largest icecap on earth and is home to the world's largest national park. Greenland is a vast landscape of towering ice capped mountains and the largest fjord system in the world. Kayak (or Qajaq as it is called in Greenland) hike and cruise in this wild and majestic land.

TRIP DETAILS

Length: 9 day trip

Dates: 28 Jun - 6 Jul 2026 and 7-15 Jul 2026

Destination: Greenland

Vessel: Elsi, German Sailing Schooner

Start/Finish: Ilulissat, Greenland

Cost: Triple cabin US\$6200 pp , Twin cabin US\$7200 pp, Kayaking Package US\$599 pp

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Office hours are 9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri (Australian Eastern Standard Time). Closed weekends and public holidays.



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Greenland's largest island.
- Sail through the ice and midnight sun.
- Paddle in the home of the sea kayak or join active hikes in untracked terrain.
- Explore colourful villages and observe the Inuit way of life.
- Wildlife possibilities - polar bears, Arctic fox, reindeer, musk ox, Arctic hare, seals, whales and thousands of sea birds.
- Active glaciers and towering icebergs.
- Experience the sight of whales under the midnight sun.

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1: Overnight Ilulissat.

Day 2: Embark Elsi and set sail into Disko Bay.

Day 3: Disko Bay.

Day 4: Paddle, hike the western fjords of Disko Island.

Day 5: Uummanaq town.

Day 6: Uummanaq Fjord and Appat Island.

Day 7: Transit day - sailing southward.

Day 8 : Arve-prinsens Ejland.

Day 9: Return to Ilulissat. Disembark around 9am.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

KAYAKING

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.

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.

ITINERARY

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.

DAY 1: OVERNIGHT ILULISSAT

Overnight in Ilulissat. This evening you'll meet your expedition leaders for the trip briefing.

Day 2: EMBARK ELSI AND SET SAIL FOR DISKO ISLAND

The morning is yours to explore and in the afternoon we transfer direct to our schooner Elsi. 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.

DAY3: 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 kilometres 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 AND 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 endeavour 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: 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. Please note that this itinerary is an approximate guide only and may change due to weather, ice conditions, logistic or unforeseen delays. Highlights of the trip include whale watching, iceberg sightings, scenic treks, sea kayaking, cultural experiences and visits to unique Greenlandic sites. Each day offers a blend of adventure and relaxation, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the stunning beauty and rich culture of Greenland.



THIS TRIP INCLUDES

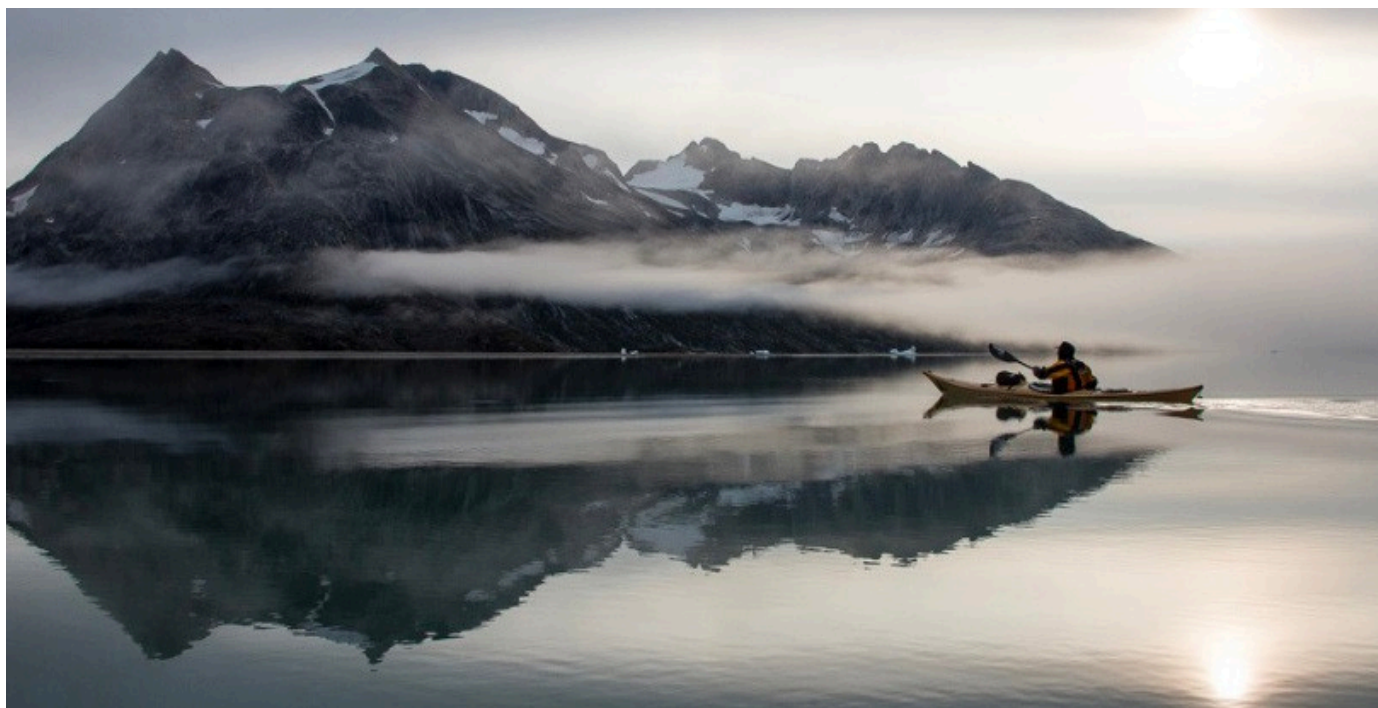
- Hotel accommodation (twin share) in Ilulissat.
- Return transfer from Ilulissat airport to hotel/vessel.
- Seven nights ship accommodation.
- All meals on board ship.
- Expedition guide services.
- Port taxes and port charges imposed by government authorities.

THIS TRIP EXCLUDES

- Any flights unless listed in the itinerary.
- 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, items of a personal nature ie 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.

GRATUITIES

Tipping is entirely optional and left to your discretion. If you feel the crew has provided exceptional service and you'd like to show your appreciation, gratuities can be given in cash (USD or EUR) at the end of your trip. Card payment is also available if preferred. As a general guide, a contribution of US/ EUR \$30–\$50 per day (to be shared among the ship's team) is a thoughtful gesture.



GETTING THERE

Meeting Place and Time

We meet in Ilulissat, Greenland. There's lots to see and do in Ilulissat and you may choose to stay extra nights pre or post trip for sightseeing and additionally, in case of flight delays and to recover from any jet lag. See Greenland's tourism website for information:

<https://visitgreenland.com/>

How to Get There (and Back Again)

Both Icelandair and Air Greenland fly into and out of Ilulissat (airport code is JAV). Icelandair flies from Keflavik International Airport (KEF), which is located in the Reykjanes peninsula, about 50 kilometres from Reykjavik city centre. The direct flight to Ilulissat takes three hours and 20 minutes. There are daily flights during the northern summer months, except on Sundays.

Air Greenland flies from Copenhagen's Kastrup airport (CPH) to Ilulissat, usually with a stopover in Nuuk en route. Air Greenland provides an extensive domestic flight network within Greenland.

United Airlines are commencing a service from Newark (New York) to Nuuk (Greenland) in the summer of 2025. From Nuuk, there are frequent domestic flights to Ilulissat with Air Greenland.

<https://www.icelandair.com>

<https://www.airgreenland.com/>

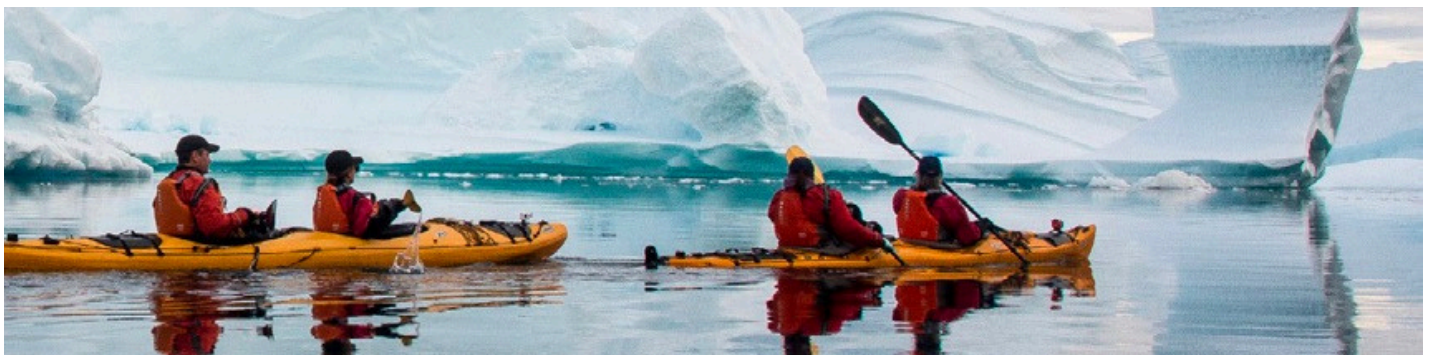
<https://www.united.com/en/us>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Flights to Greenland can be busy in the summer season and we recommend you book once we let you know the trip is a guaranteed departure to ensure the best timings, connections and cost. It is highly recommended to book changeable tickets. If you would like to take the worry out of your adventure, we offer flights out of Australia for an additional cost. For Australian guests we can also provide travel insurance. If you are planning additional travel, we may be able to assist with reserving additional tours or other activities. Please contact our office with any requests and we will do our best to assist.

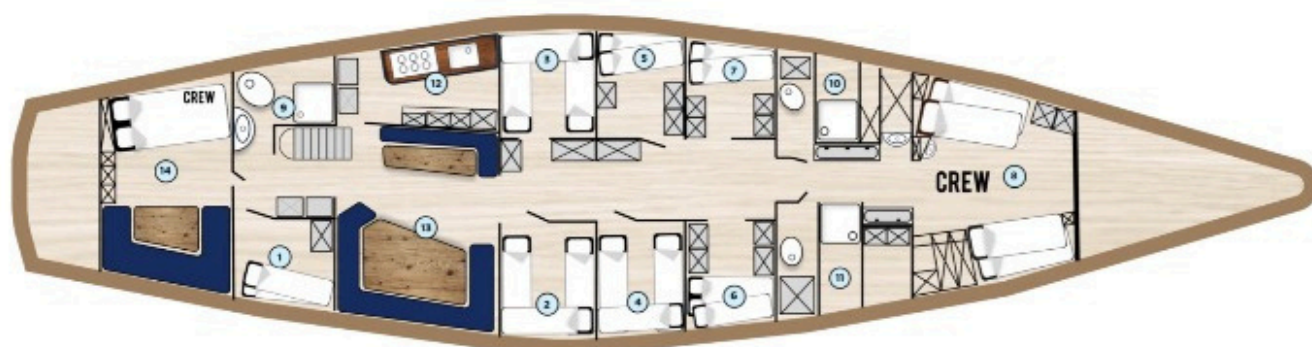
IS THIS TRIP FOR YOU

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/ kilometres 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.



A LITTLE ABOUT THE SCHOONER ELSI

Elsi was built in Germany in 1983 as a training expedition sailing vessel. Extensive renovations were made in 2013. Elsi is steel hulled and 37.7 metres in length. 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.



1,5,7 — двухместные каюты

8 — четырехместная каюта (для экипажа)

2,3,4,6 — трехместные каюты

9,10,11 — галлеон

12 — камбуз

13 — салон

14 — капитанская каюта

PRICES

Triple cabin US\$6200 pp

Twin cabin US\$7200 pp

Kayaking Package US\$599 pp



ZODIACS & LANDINGS

Thermal Base Layer

- Long sleeve top and leggings made of Merino wool or Polypropylene material is ideal. We recommend packing 3-4 long sleeve tops and 2-3 leggings for the expedition.

Insulation Mid Layer 1

- Polar Fleece top or lightweight wool jumper.
- Polar Fleece or warm (tracksuit) bottom.

Insulation Mid Layer 2

- Polar Fleece or Down zip up jacket or vest

Waterproof Outer Layer

- Waterproof jacket and Waterproof pants (essential to go ashore). The pants need to be durable and wide enough to fit over your Rubber boots.
- Make sure to try all the layers on before the trip to ensure a comfortable fit.

Footwear

- You will need to pack your own long Rubber boots with insulation for the expedition. Please ensure they are roomy enough to fit thick socks, or 2 layers of thinner socks.
- We recommend packing sheep wool inner soles for extra warmth and comfort in your Rubber Boots.
- Bring several pairs of socks so you can layer and work out the best combination for you. We recommend thick warm socks made of wool or synthetic fibres.

Gloves

- We recommend layering a pair of polypropylene or woollen gloves with a waterproof glove on top. We suggest packing 2 pairs in case one gets wet.

Headgear and Neck Warmers

- A Neck Gaiter is the easiest way to keep your neck warm from the cold. Make sure it is large enough to also pull up to cover your mouth.
- A Fleece or woollen beanie that also covers your ears is a must.

Other Items

- Sunscreen
- Polarised sunglasses
- Personal medication
- Sea sickness medication
- Moisturiser for face and hands
- Lip balm/Chapstick
- Personal toiletries
- A towel
- Waterproof bag for landings
- Dry bag or Ziplock plastic bag for camera
- Camera and accessories
- Spare batteries and memory cards for camera
- Adaptor [the plugs aboard are European 2 prong]
- Binoculars



- Earplugs and Eye mask
- Extra prescription glasses or contact lenses
- Personal first-aid kit with individual medicines
- Glasses cord for glasses/sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Hot tea thermos
- Collapsible adjustable walking poles (depending on your needs)
- Swimsuit (for the Polar Plunge!)

SOUTHERN SEA VENTURES SHOP

You may also like to have a browse in our online store!

<https://shop.southernseaventures.com/>