Greenland & Baffin Island
August 21 – September 10, 2016
Journey into the land of the midnight sun on this 19-day adventure, stopping at some of the most pristine and jaw-dropping destinations in the Arctic. Explore the crystalline icebergs, staggering wildlife, and colorful cliff-side villages of western Greenland. On Baffin Island, see the 1,000-foot limestone cliffs that are home to hundreds of thousands of nesting seabirds. Visit the ruins of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition on Beechey Island, and the majestic fjords of Northeast Baffin, with a chance to spot Narwhal, Belugas and Bowhead Whales, seals and Polar Bears. Sail on one of the world's most celebrated expedition vessels, the 354-foot Silver Explorer, and let our expert team of naturalists guide you through this spectacular and unspoiled terrain.
Itinerary

Sunday, August 21: Copenhagen
Arrive in Copenhagen and transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Join your Apex expedition leaders this evening for a welcome dinner and briefing. Overnight at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Monday, August 22: Copenhagen / Kangerlussuaq
Transfer to the airport for your flight to Kangerlussuaq. The scenery is sure to astound before you even touch down in Kangerlussuaq, the main gateway to Greenland. A former U.S. military base, Kangerlussuaq is located just above the Arctic Circle, and a short distance from the immense, 1,500-mile long and 2-mile high Greenland Ice Cap. On arrival, enjoy a drive through Arctic desert, tundra, and rolling countryside toward the edge of the Ice Cap in search of Caribou and shaggy Muskox. Enjoy lunch onboard the Silver Explorer, our expedition vessel and home for the next 19 days. Toast the adventure to come as we set sail down the 100-mile-long Kangerlussuaq Fjord under the midnight sun. Keep an eye out for Peregrine Falcons, as this fjord hosts 130 of their nesting sites.

Tuesday, August 23: Sisimiut
A former whaling port and the second largest town in Greenland (pop. 5,600), Sisimiut’s main trade is fishing, and the town accommodates a large fleet of trawlers and a modern shrimp-shelling factory. It is the southernmost town on Greenland’s west coast in which sled dogs are used. Meet a sled dog team and their owners, who will tell us about sledding in Greenland and how the Greenlandic sled dog has been bred to be amongst the strongest working dogs in the world. Stroll among the town’s charming jumble of 18th-century wooden buildings, making sure to stop in at the Sisimiut Museum and one of the local handicraft workshops to see a sampling of the beautiful native stonework and sealskin garments, and enjoy a performance by the local choir. This evening, sail through beautiful fjords, past abandoned villages.
Wednesday, August 24: Ilulissat
Be out on deck early this morning as we arrive in Disko Bay and dock in the town of Ilulissat, whose name actually means “icebergs.” A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the town sits beside the Ilulissat Icefjord, a magnificent waterway whose towering glacier calves up to 20 million tons of ice per day—one of the fastest and most active glaciers in the world. In town, see a demonstration of ancient fishing methods and stop in at the small museum located in the former home of Greenlandic folk hero and famed polar explorer, Knud Rasmussen. The afternoon tour continues via fishing boat, as we navigate amongst the brilliant white and turquoise icebergs that often clog the fjord’s entrance. Or, conditions permitting, you have the option to purchase a helicopter excursion to see the magnificent Ilulissat Icefjord by air.

Thursday, August 25: Qilaqitsoq & Uummannaq
The waters just north of Disko Bay are rich in Minke, Sei, and particularly Fin Whales this time of year, so keep an eye out as we enter Uummannaq Fjord. Today we visit Qilaqitsoq to view the gravesite of the 500 year-old Thule “Greenland Mummies,” where the best-preserved human remains in North America were discovered. They are now housed in the National Museum in Nuuk. We then head to Uummannaq, which translates to “in the shape of a seal's heart” due to the 3,300-foot heart-shaped basalt mountain towering over it. A walk through town will take you past preserved sod houses (one of which was occupied until 1989) and an impressive granite church. You may also hike the mountain for a magnificent view towards the Nuussuaq Peninsula.

Friday, August 26: Upernavik
Upernavik means “the place of spring”, where for centuries people came to fish, hunt, and trade when the ice broke up. Wildlife is certainly abundant here, and hunting is still crucial to the town's population. Birdlife includes Eider Ducks, Black Guillemots, Puffins, Little Auk and occasionally Common Loons. The mainstays of the area’s hunter culture are Ringed Seals, Harp Seals, Hooded Seals, Bearded Seals and Walrus, all of which can be found this time of year in the waters around Upernavik. You'll be sure to see seal skins as you walk in town. The small open-air museum houses the northernmost Viking artifacts ever found.

Saturday, August 27: At Sea
Enjoy lectures by our onboard experts on the wildlife and history of the Canadian Arctic as we make the roughly 500-mile trip across Baffin Bay today. This day at sea affords us the chance to watch for White-beaked Dolphins, Minke Whales, seals and Walrus. Birders may spot Pomarine Skuas, Little Auk, Thick-billed Murres, Northern Fulmars, and Glaucous Gulls.

Sunday, August 28: Pond Inlet
Picturesque Pond Inlet at the northern tip of Baffin Island is considered one of Canada’s ‘jewels of the north.’ Ringed by scenic mountains, it boasts awesome ice caves and hoodoos, and abundant wildlife. Orcas, Ringed and Harp Seals, Caribou, Arctic Foxes, Gyrfalcons, and Ptarmigan may all be spotted this time of year. Pond Inlet is renowned as a major center, maybe the center, of Inuit art, especially print-making and stone carving. View a variety of techniques and styles used in creating these unique pieces in the galleries in town. A short trip across Eclipse Sound is the Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary, which provides nesting habitat for over 70 Arctic birds, including Thick-billed Murres, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and the largest breeding colony of Greater Snow Geese in the Canadian High Arctic.
Monday, August 29: Milne & Navy Board Inlets
Lancaster and Eclipse Sounds, which surround Bylot Island, are known to contain the richest proliferation of marine mammals in the eastern Arctic. In particular, the great unicorns of the sea—Narwhal—congregate here once the ice pack breaks up, to escape the ravaging Orcas, who hound them mercilessly in deeper waters. We’ll spend today looking for Narwhal in the impressive Milne and Navy Board Inlets.

Tuesday, August 30: Prince Leopold & Beechey Islands
Prince Leopold, a small island further west in Lancaster Sound, is the most important station for breeding marine birds in the Canadian Arctic, with larger numbers and a greater diversity of species than anywhere else. The island is characterized by spectacular sandstone and limestone cliffs that rise almost 1,000 feet out of the water. This morning, board Zodiacs to get a close look around the island at the seabirds that make up the colony, including Black-legged Kittiwakes, Black Guillemots, Atlantic Brant, Parasitic Jaeger and Snow Bunting. Be on the lookout for Polar Bears patrolling the beach below the cliffs.

North of Prince Leopold, just off the much larger Devon Island, lies the site of one of the most significant events in Arctic exploration, and one that has made thrilling news lately—Beechey Island, the last known layover in Sir John Franklin’s 1845 expedition to find the Northwest Passage. Franklin’s ships, the HMS Erebus and Terror, disappeared and all 129 men were lost. This afternoon we’ll visit the graves of three of his seamen, which were uncovered on Beechey in 1850 and the remains of Northumberland House, built in 1852, as a base for recovery efforts. The whereabouts of the vessels have remained a mystery until September 2014, when the well-preserved Erebus was finally discovered off O’Reilly Island, some 485 miles south. There is no exaggerating the importance of the mythology that’s come to surround Franklin’s expedition—though the voyage was a failure, the relentless search for its relics led to much newly mapped territory.

Wednesday, August 31: At Sea
Our lecture series continues with presentations by the onboard team, who will introduce us to the awesome fjords of Northeast Baffin. Be sure to join the naturalists on deck as we continue our search for whales, dolphins and seabirds.

Thursday, September 1: Gibbs Fjord
Today, enjoy a spectacular cruise into Scott Inlet. Upon entering, feast yours eyes on the impenetrable fortress of 4,000-foot walls, towers, and buttresses that is Sillen Island, dividing Gibbs and Clark Fjords. As we circumnavigate the ice-capped island, keep your eyes peeled for the rare Bowhead Whale and Narwhal, as well as Polar Bears and seals on the ice floes, and Caribou roaming the mainland. Stops will be made to stretch our legs, with a chance to see Thule ruins, vast tundra, Arctic wildflowers and staggering views of the surrounding glaciers.

Friday, September 2: Sam Ford Fjord
South from Sillen Island stands this world-renowned 68-mile waterway lined with vertical walls etched into the mountains by ancient glaciers. Adventure travelers and climbers alike have called Sam Ford Fjord one of the most impressive sights in the world. There will be more chances to spot bears, seals, and whales as we cruise the fjord. We’ll start out early, as the low light of sunrise is perfect for helping to spot the faint blow of the Narwhal.
Saturday, September 3: Clyde River
Nestled in the fjord landscape of the Baffin Mountains, this tiny hamlet of 850 people is within arm’s reach of such amazingly beautiful glaciers, ice caps, tundra, icebergs and rugged Arctic coastline that the entire area is now a proposed territorial park site. Enjoy a walk through town led by a local guide, who will talk to us about the traditional Inuit way of life and show us Clyde River’s famous ‘Kangiqtugaapik’ whalebone carvings.

Sunday, September 4: Isabella Bay
This newly-formed National Wildlife Area provides key protection for an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 Bowhead Whales that inhabit the area during the late summer and fall feeding periods. Bowheads have been recognized as threatened in Canada, and this is the first sanctuary in the world designed especially for them. Pending permission, we set out to spot these powerful creatures today, swimming alone or in herds of up to six whales. Bowheads are known for their massive bony skulls, which they use to break through ice up to 24 inches thick to breathe.

Monday, September 5: Cape Dyer
A trip past Cape Dyer this afternoon will reveal the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line station, one of many such Cold War-era relics in the Arctic. Unlike others, this joint American-Canadian station is still in operation today. The coast around Cape Dyer is most likely where the Norsemen first landed when they crossed over to the New World from Greenland over 1,000 years ago. Moving south, we cross the Arctic Circle, past more of the spectacular scenery we’ve come to expect from eastern Baffin. As always, keep binoculars handy, as there’s a chance to spot Polar Bears and seals on the ice floes.

Tuesday, September 6: Cumberland Peninsula
Today we embrace the expeditionary nature of our voyage as we cruise along the Cumberland Peninsula, scanning the dramatic shoreline for signs of Arctic wildlife. Zodiaks are at the ready to whisk us ashore as soon as our curiosity is piqued.

Wednesday, September 7: Lady Franklin & Monumental Islands
Today is our last day in Canada, as we travel 25 nautical miles east into the Davis Strait, to the isolated small islands of Lady Franklin and Monumental. Both were named in honor of Sir John Franklin, and both harbor many thrilling species of Arctic wildlife. These islands are exposed and may be subject to variable weather conditions, including fog and sea ice. Weather permitting, take a Zodiac cruise around Lady Franklin in search of stranded Polar Bears and Caribou. The exposed rocky cliffs of Monumental Island are host to numerous bird species and are an excellent place to spot Black Guillemots, Gyrfalcons, and Peregrine Falcons. Walrus have been known to haul out here. We’ll look for them here and on the many skerries to the east of the island.

Thursday, September 8: At Sea
We recap our experiences and complete our onboard lecture presentations on the trip back toward Greenland. Be on deck as we approach the serpentine, 100-mile-long Kangerlussuaq Fjord, keeping an eye out for Peregrine Falcons, Gyrfalcon, and rare White-tailed Eagles. As the waning summer sun sets behind us, we toast the end of our Arctic journey.

Photos: Arctic Village, Polar Bear, Zodiac Cruising, Walrus
Friday, September 9: Kangerlussuaq / Copenhagen
Disembark in Kangerlussuaq this morning, and transfer to the airport for your flight to Copenhagen. Upon arrival transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hotel for the night.

Saturday, September 10: Copenhagen
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights homeward.

Due to the expeditionary nature of this itinerary, voyage highlights and wildlife listed are possible experiences but cannot be guaranteed. Our Expedition Team will work hard to ensure that opportunities for adventure and exploration are the best possible, taking into account the prevailing weather and wildlife activity.

Photos: Arctic Bay, Ice Cruising, Moss Campion
Your Expedition Leaders

Mike Messick

Mike is considered one of the most experienced Expedition Leaders in the business. His enthusiasm and determination for exploring the world is as infectious today as it was back in 1983 when he started his career on the M/S *Lindblad Explorer*, the frontrunner of expedition cruising. He has since led expeditions to over 170 countries on all seven continents aboard more than 20 different vessels, ranging from live-aboard dive boats to Russian nuclear ice breakers. His travels started at a very young age, but it was a trip to the Galapagos at 14 that cemented Mike's career path. He received a degree in Biology and Psychology from Skidmore College in New York, became an accomplished small boat operator while living in the Cayman Islands and qualified as a scuba instructor. One month prior to his college graduation, Mike was offered a job as Divemaster and Assistant Expedition Leader in Indonesia and embarked on what is now a 30-year career in expedition travel.

Kevin Clement

Not many people can say they have lived inside Alaska's Denali National Park, but Kevin Clement is one. Nowadays, however, he spends most of his time guiding ecotourism and adventure travel trips on all seven continents. Kevin has served as the Denali Foundation instructor for natural history and as a trainer for the Park's staff of naturalists. As a Certification Instructor for the Wilderness Education Association he led month-long outdoor leadership courses under the auspices of the University of Alaska. He has lived in several other national parks and has guided groups in whitewater rafts, on cross-country skis, by sled dog, and on foot, earning certifications in scuba diving, swiftwater rescue, and wilderness medicine, as well as a Coast Guard Master's license. Most recently, Kevin has been coordinating and leading kayaking excursions in South Georgia and Antarctica. Kevin is also a veteran of the South Atlantic expedition having visited the Tristan Archipelago five times. Kevin also continues to draw and paint. His first career was as an illustrator and he never travels without his sketchbook. Or his sense of humor.

Jonathan Rossouw

Jonathan Rossouw is one of the world's most experienced expedition leaders, having guided wildlife trips in over 150 countries on all seven continents. He combines a legendary energy and enthusiasm with a broad knowledge of all aspects of natural history, gained from three decades spent in the pursuit of the world's mammals, birds, reptiles and coral reef fishes. Indeed, having seen over 8,000 species of birds, 800 mammals and 2,000 coral reef fishes, he will likely experience more species of vertebrate animals than anyone in history! A medical doctor by training, Jonathan was born and raised on South Africa's east coast. He started a birding travel company in South Africa before joining Peter Harrison and Shirley Metz, to assist in expanding their global portfolio of natural history destinations. An accomplished photographer, Jonathan's images have appeared in many books and magazines, and he has co-authored birding site guides to Uganda, Southern Africa and Madagascar.
Giovanna Fasanelli

A life-long love affair with the sea propelled Giovanna into the world of marine biology, conservation, underwater photography and natural history documentaries. Whilst completing her marine biology degree at Australia’s James Cook University, Giovanna worked at an underwater film company during which time she gained experience tagging Tiger Sharks and Green Turtles in the Coral Sea and assisting with film production. This opportunity spawned a decade-long career in television, presenting the latest developments in aquaculture and fisheries science. Though Giovanna’s training is principally in the marine realm her passion for wilderness and animals has driven her to explore habitats around the world from Snow Leopards in the Himalayas to Komodo Dragons in Indonesia and Mountain Gorillas in Uganda. Fast approaching 100 countries visited, Giovanna has extensive experience as a guide and naturalist all over the world. A talented photographer and skilled writer, Giovanna’s work is regularly featured in several magazines.
Vessel Information - *Silver Explorer*

The *Silver Explorer* has been designed specifically for navigating waters in some of the world's most remote destinations, including both polar regions. A strengthened hull with a Lloyd's +100A1+LMC Ice Class rating for passenger vessels allows her to safely push through ice floes with ease. There is plenty of deck space for observing natural wonders and whenever possible the Captain will maneuver the ship to make the most of wildlife sightings.

### Vessel Specifications

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### Suite Categories and Rates

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### All Suites Include:

Twin or queen premium mattresses (except suites 512 & 513 which have a fixed queen bed) with a choice of nine pillow types; fine Pratesi bed linens and down duvets; refrigerator and bar stocked with your preferences; iPod docking station; writing table; personal safe; hair dryer; flat screen television with interactive video, on-demand movies and music, and satellite news programming; plush robes and slippers; daily suite service with nightly turndown.
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21 Days  Trip Length
Kangerlussuaq, Greenland  Start
Kangerlussuaq, Greenland  End

Included

Included in the price of your Apex expedition are all accommodations as noted in the itinerary; meals, activities and excursions; all gratuities; complimentary room service onboard the vessel; select wines and premium spirits onboard the vessel; local beer and wine with dinner in Copenhagen; services of four Apex Expeditions leaders, as well as the full onboard lecture team and expedition staff; local guides; airport transfers; permits; entrance fees; and taxes.

Not Included

Not included in the price of your Apex expedition are airfare to or from Copenhagen, or roundtrip Copenhagen/Kangerlussuaq/Copenhagen; select premium wines and liquors; travel insurance (Trip Cancellation and Interruption, as well as Emergency Medical and Evacuation insurance, are highly recommended); airport departure taxes; passport and/or visa fees; excess luggage charges; items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, souvenirs, etc.); onboard spa and salon services; and independent travel arrangements pre- or post-trip.

Payments & Terms

25% of the trip cost will confirm your place on the expedition. The final balance is due 150 days prior to departure. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Per person pricing is based on double occupancy. The Solo Rate is paid by participants who specifically request single accommodations and is subject to availability. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the published Solo Rate will be charged. Upon confirming your reservation you will be required to pay the published Solo Rate, if we are able to pair you with a roommate, the applicable difference will be refunded at the time that final trip payment is due for all participants. Please note that solo accommodations are limited and cannot always be guaranteed throughout. For our full set of Terms & Conditions, please visit our web site at www.apex-expeditions.com.
Suite Details - *Silver Explorer*

**Owner's Suite**
728 sq. ft., including private balcony (158 sq. ft.) • Teak-style balcony with patio furniture and floor-to-ceiling glass doors • Living room with sitting area • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower • Walk-in wardrobe • Vanity table • Second flat-screen television • Illy espresso maker • Four hours of Internet service per suite • Two hours of worldwide phone use from your suite

**Grand Suite**
618 sq. ft., including private balcony (86 sq. ft.) • Teak-style balcony with patio furniture and floor-to-ceiling glass doors • Living room with sitting area • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower • Walk-in wardrobe • Vanity table • Second flat-screen television • Illy espresso maker • Four hours of Internet service per suite • Two hours of worldwide phone use from your suite

**Silver Suite**
422 sq. ft., including two French Balconies (30 sq. ft.) • Two French balconies with floor-to-ceiling glass doors • Living room • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower • Walk-in wardrobe • Vanity table • Wifi available (fees apply)

**Medallion Suite**
400 sq. ft., including private balcony (86 sq. ft.) • Teak-style balcony with patio furniture and floor-to-ceiling glass doors • Sitting area • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower • Wifi available (fees apply)

**Expedition Suite**
388-397 sq. ft. • Two view windows on Deck 3 (31.5 in. x 31.5 in.) or two large picture windows on Deck 4 (47 in. x 43 in.) • Living room • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower • Walk-in wardrobe • Vanity table • Wifi available (fees apply)
Explorer Suite

175-190 sq. ft. • View window (31.5 in. x 31.5 in.) • Sitting area • Marble bathroom with tub/shower combination • Wifi available (fees apply)

Adventurer Suite

157-167 sq. ft. • Two portholes (15.75 in. diameter) • Sitting area • Marble bathroom with tub/shower combination • Wifi available (fees apply)

Suite diagrams and deck plans are for illustration purposes only.
Reservation Form

Greenland & Baffin Island  August 21 – September 10, 2016

Person 1: (Primary Contact)
Passport Name: ___________________________________________________________
Preferred Name: __________________________________________________________
Date of Birth: _____________________________________________________________
Email Address: ____________________________________________________________

Mailing Details:
Address: __________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________________ State: __________ ZIP Code: ________ Country: __________
Phone: __________________________ Fax: ________________________

☐ Double  ☐ Solo  ☐ Cabin Category Preference ____________________________

Person 2: (If applicable and at same address, otherwise please submit a second Reservation Form.)
Passport Name: __________________________________________________________
Preferred Name: __________________________________________________________
Date of Birth: _____________________________________________________________
Email Address: ____________________________________________________________

Deposit Information:
☐ My deposit check is enclosed
☐ Charge my deposit to my:  ☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express
Card #: ___________________________________________ Expires: ___________ CCV Code: ___________
Name on Card: _____________________________________________________________
Signature: ____________________________________________________________________

Please return this completed form to Apex Expeditions.
E-mail: info@apex-expeditions.com or Mail: 3275 36th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126