

# ROM

## High Arctic Explorer With Bob McDonald

August 12 to 24, 2022

A ROMTravel Art, Culture and Nature Trip  
Small-Ship Expedition



Figure 1: Polar bear mother and cub. © Adventure Canada.

## A Letter from Eric Morrison



Figure 2: Bob McDonald and Eric Morrison. © Eric Morrison.

The Canadian Arctic. Iconic. Majestic. A huge part of the way we view ourselves. Vast ice flows, polar bears, walrus, seals, caribou, pack ice and huge floating icebergs, the size of hotels, calving off the glaciers. The Arctic summer with wildlife abounding and wildflowers spread across the tundra. Franklin's doomed expedition searching for the Northwest Passage. The Inuit way of life and art.

But for how long? Our Arctic is changing quickly and perhaps forever. Climate change affects all of it.

ROMTravel invites you to come see the Canadian High Arctic before it disappears, in a truly unique and exclusive experience that only ROMTravel provides. Your special resource person and guide to understanding the Arctic ecosystem is Canada's favourite science journalist Bob McDonald, of CBC's "Quirks and Quarks". Bob makes science accessible, entertaining, and fascinating. He has been reporting on and studying climate change for thirty years.

Come travel part of the famous Northwest Passage with us. If you have ever wanted to go, now is the time and this is the one and only trip of its kind from ROM.

As Bob, who has been to the Arctic numerous times as a journalist, says:

"The ship did slaloms among the numerous icebergs. Truly spectacular. Travelling up the fjords to the toes of glaciers was a journey among a rainbow of colours from plants only a few inches high that coated the landscape. The High Arctic is truly another world."

Bob McDonald

It will be the experience of a lifetime full of images, memories, and people never to be forgotten.

Join us,

Eric Morrison



### **Bob McDonald Biography**

Bob McDonald brings his engaging and enthusiastic style to the Arctic, which he has visited many times as a journalist. It is a topic he has been studying for thirty years, well before it became fashionable and before the effects of climate change.

Bob is the award-winning host of CBC's "Quirks and Quarks" and "The National's" science correspondent. He makes science understandable and enjoyable. His latest book, "Canadian Spacewalkers: Hadfield, MacLean and Williams Remember the Ultimate High Adventure", was released in the fall of 2014. He was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2011 "for his contributions, as a journalist and educator, to the public understanding of science." On top of all that he is an awfully nice, easygoing, guy!

Bob has been the resource person for two ROMTravel trips, one to the Atacama Desert in Chile and one to Russia, which focused on the Russian space program.



### **Eric Morrison Biography**

Since 2011, Eric has lead trips for ROMTravel to Chile, Easter Island, Argentina, Japan and, most recently, to Russia to visit the space program there.

As a journalist he had extensive experience in national and international news. Eric served as Vice-President of CTV News, as Executive Producer of the CTV National News and Producer of "Canada A.M." during his twenty years at CTV. He then moved to the Canadian Press as Chief Executive Officer from 1997 to 2011. Most recently he has been Executive Producer of a BNN Bloomberg program about high tech startups in Canada called "The Disruptors" hosted by former CBC Dragon Bruce Croxon. Eric sits on The Board of Governors for the "National Newspaper Awards", Canada's Pulitzers.

## ROMTravel Exclusives

Enjoy the company of a small group of friendly, like-minded people.

Get personalized service from your dedicated ROMTravel Coordinator, Eric Morrison.

Travel and dine with renowned science journalist Bob McDonald as your ROMTravel expert.

Attend exclusive pre-trip events. Learn more about the Arctic culture, art, and wildlife.

Enjoy a private expedition orientation from Adventure Canada.

Join an exclusive tour of the Museum of Nature in Ottawa on August 12 with special "Taste of the Arctic" cuisine reception.

Attend two private onboard presentations and a guided bridge tour.

Reconnect with your fellow travellers at the Fall ROMTravel Reunion.

## ROMTravel Contact Information

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## Our Travel Partner: Adventure Canada



**ADVENTURE  
CANADA**

Adventure Canada is an award-winning family run travel company with more than thirty years' experience specializing in small ship cruises to the world's more remote coastlines. They engage, educate, and entertain by connecting people to each other and the land through travel. Adventure Canada's pioneering approach to expedition cruises and small group experiences emphasizes wildlife, culture, learning, and fun.

## Awards

TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Award

TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence

Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth

Cruise Vision Award

Best Adventure Cruise Line

Solo Travelers Choice Award

## Certified Safe Travels Operator

Adventure Canada has been awarded a Safe Travels certificate by the World Travel and Tourism Council and the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario. This accreditation recognizes us as a global leader in our adopted health and hygiene protocols and confirms our commitment to putting the safety, health, and security of our clients, staff, and crew before all else.

### Itinerary Overview

**Date** August 12 to 24, 2022, aboard the “Ocean Endeavour”.

**Cost** From \$7,595 United States Dollars, depending on cabin category; flights not included. Solo cabins based on availability.

**Starts** Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

**Ends** Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



Figure 3: Map of Greenland and High Arctic Canada, showing our planned route and ports of call.

**Day 1** Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

**Day 2** Qausuittuq (Resolute), Nunavut, Canada

**Day 3** Beechey Island

**Day 4 to 7** Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound) and Devon Island

**Day 8** Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet)

**Day 9** At Sea in Davis Strait

**Day 10** Western Greenland

**Day 11** Ilulissat

**Day 12** Sisimiut Coast

**Day 13** Kangerlussuaq, Greenland

### **Highlights**

Visit the Franklin Expedition graves at Beechey Island.

Watch for marine mammals and wildlife in Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound) National Marine Conservation Area.

Hike on Devon Island, the largest uninhabited island on Earth.

Enjoy an Inuit cultural welcome at Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet).

Take advantage of prime viewing opportunities for the rare ivory gull, considered a species "at risk".

Cruise among icebergs at Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

### **Daily Itinerary**

#### **Day 1 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**

Ottawa is the gateway to the North. Canada's capital city is a dynamic hub of activity with the population hovering just around one million. Home to impressive national sites, landmarks, and some of the country's best collections about the Arctic. We will stay in the historic Chateau Laurier Hotel by the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and gather in the afternoon for a visit to the Museum of Nature to explore the Arctic exhibit followed by a cocktail reception with Arctic inspired fare.

#### **Day 2 Qausuittuq (Resolute), Nunavut, Canada**

Qausuittuq, or "place with no dawn", is named for its dark winters. During our time in the summer months, we will experience the midnight sun, a time of no darkness.

The beginning of our journey is characterized by shoreline gravel flats, rocky coastal bluffs, and deposits of glacial moraine. More significant is the origin of the hamlet. In 1953, Inuit from Inukjuak, Québec, and Mittimatalik were relocated, under false pretenses, by the Canadian government with the aim of asserting Canadian sovereignty.

Today the community is home to just under 250 people and is an important staging point for High Arctic research, tourism, and military activities.

### **Day 3 Beechey Island**

In 1845, Sir John Franklin set out from England with HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, attempting to sail through the Northwest Passage. Franklin's crew overwintered at Beechey Island where three of his men died.



Figure 4: At Beechey Island National Historic Site. © Adventure Canada.

Numerous search parties later used Beechey as a depot and rendezvous. Amundsen, Bernier, and Larsen all visited Beechey. Thomas Morgan of the HMS Investigator was buried there in 1854 alongside Franklin's men. The graves, and the ruins of nearby Northumberland House, are a haunting memorial.

### **Day 4 to 7 Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound) and Devon Island**

We will spend four days exploring Tallurutiup Imanga (Lancaster Sound), one of Canada's newest National Marine Conservation Areas. Narwhal, beluga, and bowhead whales transit

and feed in this area. We will cruise by ship and Zodiac in search of wildlife.



Figure 5: A narwhal. © Michelle Valberg.

On the northern border of Tallurutiup Imanga lies Devon Island, the largest uninhabited island on Earth at over 50,000 square kilometres. The island's geology is stunning. Flat topped mountains, glacial valleys, and a substantial ice cap give Devon Island its unique character.

We will visit a number of the bays, hiking the tundra, discovering the botany, cruising a glacier face, and wildlife spotting from ship and from shore. Once home to Inuit and their ancestors, we will visit archaeological sites with expert interpretation to learn about the human history of this now abandoned island. We will also catch a glimpse of recent human history as we visit the remains of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Hudson's Bay Company site at Dundas Harbour.

### **Day 8 Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet)**

Mittimatalik is a busy Arctic community in a beautiful setting. The views of nearby Bylot Island are stunning. We

will have a chance to explore the town. The cultural presentation at the Community Hall is not to be missed. Handcrafted goods may be available here, too.

### **Day 9 At Sea in Davis Strait**

Our onboard presentation series will continue as we steam across Davis Strait towards Canada. This is an excellent time to enjoy workshops, watch a documentary, and get out on deck looking for whales, seabirds, and marine wildlife.

### **Day 10 Western Greenland**

Greenland's west coast is simply stunning. From mighty mountains to the tiniest tundra flowers, our stop in this area will offer many outstanding features of interest. Hikers, walkers, photographers, and contemplators will all be equally delighted.



Figure 6: Zodiac cruising. © Daniel J. Catt.

### **Day 11 Ilulissat**

Ilulissat translates literally into “iceberg”, an apt name for this site at the mouth of the Ilulissat Icefjord and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The icefjord is the outlet of the Sermeq

Kujalleq glacier, a source of many of the icebergs in the North Atlantic.

Here, we will cruise in our fleet of Zodiacs to appreciate the icebergs.

We will also visit the town of Ilulissat, with its museums, cafes, craft shops, and busy fishing harbour.

### **Day 12 Sisimiut Coast**

West Greenland's complex coastal waterways include glaciers, islands, and fjords against a towering mountain backdrop. The waters are relatively warm here, due to the West Greenland Current and the sub-Arctic location.

People have lived in the Sisimiut area for 4,500 years. For the first 2,000 years, the people of the Saqqaq culture occupied the area. 2,500 years ago, new people brought the Dorset culture to the Sisimiut area. They lived here for 1,500 years and were followed by the people of the Thule culture, the ancestors of the current population. The people primarily lived on fish, birds, whales, and seals.

### **Day 13 Kangerlussuaq, Greenland**

Søndre Strømfjord is one of the longest fjords in the world and boasts 168 kilometres of superb scenery. We will end our adventure by sailing up this dramatic fjord.

Kangerlussuaq, the town at its eastern head, is a former United States Air Force base and Greenland's primary flight hub.

Here we will disembark the “Ocean Endeavour”, and take a charter flight to Toronto, Ontario.

## **Expedition and Charter Flight Prices**

### **Expedition Prices**

All prices are per person, in United States Dollars.

**Cabin Category 10** \$ 19,295

**Cabin Category 9** \$ 17,995

**Cabin Category 8** \$ 16,695

**Cabin Category 7** \$ 15,395

**Cabin Category 6** \$ 14,095

**Cabin Category 5** \$ 12,795

**Cabin Category 4** \$ 11,495

**Cabin Category 3** \$ 10,195

**Cabin Category 2** \$ 8,795

**Cabin Category 1** \$ 7,595

### **Charter Flight Prices**

**Northbound Charter Flight** from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada to Resolute, Nunavut, Canada. Early morning departure.

**Price** \$ 1,078

**Southbound Charter Flight** from Kangerlussuaq, Greenland to Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Evening arrival.

**Price** \$ 1,417

## **How to Book**

To reserve your space contact Adventure Canada at 905.271.4000 or 1.800.363.7566 extension 1 or email at [info@adventurecanada.com](mailto:info@adventurecanada.com).

Adventure Canada is a registered Ontario company, licensed to sell travel packages through the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO). Adventure Canada is required to keep all customer deposits in Client Trust Accounts and may only use the funds once the trip has begun, or to make a deposit to an operator on behalf of the client. Our Client Trust Accounts are subject to audit by a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) on an annual basis and are regularly inspected by TICO auditors.

Adventure Canada’s TICO Registration Numbers 4001400 and 50021860

### **Expedition Cost Includes**

One hotel night, based on double occupancy, in Ottawa on August 12, 2022

Cocktail reception August 12, 2022

Passage aboard the “Ocean Endeavour”

Applicable taxes and credit card fees

Complimentary expedition jacket

Contribution to Adventure Canada's Discovery Fund

Special access permits, entry and park fees

Team of expedition staff

Guided activities

Sightseeing and community visits

All Zodiac excursions

Port fees

Pre-departure materials

Educational program

Nikon Camera Trial Program

Interactive workshops

Evening entertainment

All shipboard meals

### **Not Included**

Commercial and charter flights

Program enhancements and optional excursions

Gratuities

Personal expenses

Mandatory medical evacuation insurance

Additional expenses in the event of delays or itinerary changes

Possible fuel surcharges

Pre-trip and post-trip hotel accommodation and administrative fee

### **Program Enhancements**

We are pleased to provide the following optional program enhancements to help you make the very most of every day. In your own way!

#### **Expedition Jackets (Complimentary)**

You will receive a complimentary expedition jacket to keep you protected from the elements. Designed specifically for expedition travel, your jacket is waterproof and windproof. This jacket is yours to keep as a coveted and useful memento of your adventure.

#### **Nikon Camera Trial Program (Complimentary)**

Travellers aboard "Ocean Endeavour" expeditions will be able to use precision, professional quality photography equipment courtesy of the onboard Nikon Camera Trial Program. Together, we empower our guests to create truly dynamic images and tell vibrant stories.

#### **Qajaq/Kayak (Pay Extra)**

Explore at water level in small groups with our experienced kayak guides. We offer excursions on double kayaks, as well as the essential gear for safety and comfort.

#### **Biking (Pay Extra)**

Experience communities and landscapes at your own pace! For

fitness enthusiasts and independent explorers, we carry a fleet of Kona mountain bikes. These multi-gear,

all-purpose bikes are available during select community excursions.

## **Our Commitment to Safe Travel**

As leaders in the expedition travel industry for over thirty years, Adventure Canada takes very seriously the ongoing health and safety concerns of all our guests, community hosts, staff, and crew during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Much uncertainty remains about the future of safe travel, and we are doing our best to understand these new challenges and respond appropriately.

In consultation with recommendations from the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators and the World Health Organization, we have developed the below set of guiding principles in preparation for our upcoming 2022 season.

We closely monitor the situation and make changes to and further develop these protocols. Learn more about our [health and safety procedures](#).

### **Clean Ship**

The “Ocean Endeavour” is equipped with a HEPA filtered fresh air heating and cooling system. Medical grade virucidal cleaning agents and sanitization equipment will be used to clean and sterilize all cabins, public areas, crew areas, and ship’s equipment on an increased cleaning schedule.

### **Healthy People**

Mandatory prescreening and COVID-19 testing will be conducted before all guests, staff, and crew board the “Ocean Endeavour”. Daily health screenings will include temperature checks and health questionnaires for your personalized health log. Social distancing measures and small group programming will be the norm on our expeditions.

### **Responsible Experiences**

All staff and crew will be trained on infection control and COVID-19 outbreak prevention protocol, including two dedicated professional medical staff for each voyage. Our executive management team will complete a thorough review of all expedition logistical plans before each departure to ensure our plans are prioritizing evolving health and safety best practices and local requests.

### **Community Commitment**

All visits will be tailored to ensure community and guest safety is at the forefront of all our activities. Mandatory health and safety briefings will be conducted before each

community visit based on site specific best practices and community requests. We will continue to collaborate with community tourism partners to ensure specific guidelines are followed.

### **Contact Information**

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### **Internet Link for this Trip**

This document contains an internet link which can be clicked when viewing the document on a smartphone, tablet or computer screen.

The link is

Adventure Canada health and safety procedures

[https://www.adventurecanada.com/health-safety-advisory?utm\\_source=atwood\\_4\\_page\\_flyer&utm\\_medium=print&utm\\_campaign=arctic\\_atlantic\\_brochure\\_mailing](https://www.adventurecanada.com/health-safety-advisory?utm_source=atwood_4_page_flyer&utm_medium=print&utm_campaign=arctic_atlantic_brochure_mailing)

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**ROMTravel** is organized by ROM's Department of Museum Volunteers to provide support for the Museum. ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

The logo for the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), consisting of the letters 'ROM' in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.