

EAST GREENLAND EXPEDITION

Landscape Photography in Scoresby Sound



September 21–28, 2023

Led by Daníel Bergmann and David Ward

ABOUT THE EXPEDITION

East Greenland is an incredible place. It will inspire you, fire your imagination and fulfill even your wildest photographic ambitions.

It's home to some of the world's most extraordinary geology. Ice and water have shaped the landscape over thousands of years. The scarred red and orange rock contrasts with the electric blue icebergs that calve off its many glaciers and drift slowly down its deep fjords.

September is the ideal time to visit Greenland. That's when this majestic place hovers on the boundary between summer and winter, giving us the best chance of maximising everything Greenland has to offer landscape photographers. We can expect soft golden light and far more interesting skies than during the summer, when endless blue skies are common. We could also experience frosty mornings and even snowfall.

Our expedition will explore the Scoresby Sound fjord system in Eastern Greenland, which is the largest and most spectacular fjord system in the world.

We'll fly from Iceland to Constable Point where we'll board Balto, the expedition ship that will be our home for 8 days while we explore the fjords and circumnavigate Milne Land. At the end of our voyage, we'll fly back to Iceland.

We'll photograph icebergs from the safety of the ship as we cruise the fjords. We'll also go ashore, where we'll photograph from the coastlines and explore the Arctic tundra. We'll use the Zodiacs to cruise among grounded icebergs, like those at Røde Ø (Red Island).

This expedition is dedicated to landscape photography. While there is some wildlife in the area, it won't be our main focus. By September, most of the birds have migrated away for the winter. Musk ox roam in a few locations, but they are hard to approach as they are hunted by the local Inuits. And although we will be in polar bear territory (and will have to be vigilant on land at all times), Greenland isn't a good place to photograph them, compared with prime wildlife locations like Svalbard.

Daniél has led a number of trips to Scoresby Sound and has teamed up with expedition leader Morten Jørgensen, who has vast practical knowledge of the region. Renowned landscape photographer David Ward will co-lead the expedition with Daniél.

Right: Sunrise from Bjørneøer (Bear Islands). ©Daniél Bergmann







WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a photography expedition. The photographic opportunities in the Scoresby Sound fjords are limitless and we intend to take maximum advantage of our time here. We'll use the Zodiacs to make daily shore excursions, and use them to cruise among stranded icebergs and brash ice.

Scoresby Sound is the world's largest fjord network. It covers an area of more than 38,000 km² and branches out into countless waterways. Here you'll see some of the most incredible iceberg formations on Earth, created by the constant thawing and freezing of the glaciers. It's a photographer's paradise. Many of the icebergs are towering monoliths covered in electric blue cracks and fractures. The juxtaposition of these natural sculptures against the orange and red rock is unique. You won't see this raw and beautiful combination anywhere else on Earth.

This is a rare opportunity to visit this stunning place for the sole purpose of photography. Scoresby Sound is a relatively untouched wilderness. Few expedition ships ever visit this part of Greenland. Almost none of them tailor their itineraries to the needs of photographers.

Our expedition ship, the M/S Balto, is ideal for this type of adventure. It has low decks for ship-based iceberg photography and large Zodiacs for cruising where the ship can't go, and for making landings.

In addition to the crew, our group will consist of max. 11 participants, plus the three of us who will lead and guide you.

Once inside Scoresby Sound, we'll be in sheltered waters and you should rarely feel any motion of the water. However, while the ship is in transit from Constable Point (the airport) into the fjords and then while coming back, the ship may pitch and roll, which is usual on any open ocean journey.

Please note: The weather in the Arctic can be fickle. To make sure you get the best experience, we reserve the right to make last-minute changes to the itinerary to both avoid bad weather and to take advantage of good weather and light. Our intention is to make every effort to maximise the amount of time for photography in the best possible light.

Left: Early morning frost at Bjørneøer (Bear Islands). ©Dániel Bergmann



PLACES WE WILL VISIT IN SCORESBY SOUND

Ice, weather & time permitting, include:

Sydcap (South Cape) is a prominent south-facing peninsula between the mouth of Nordvestfjord and Nordøstbugt. It used to be a successful location for hunters, who were active here for a while from 1934 onwards. You can find the ruins of their houses west of the cape. You can also find hut rings from the ancient Thule culture here.

Bjørneøer (Bear Islands) are a group of islands located northeast of Milne Land. From a few of the islands, you'll get a view across Øfjord to some of the most incredible mountain peaks in the fjords. The mountains are dominated by Mount Grundvigskirken. We'll spend at least two days exploring and photographing the islands from the water and land.

Øfjord is the fjord north of Milne Land. It's a fairly narrow fjord with towering mountains on both sides, rising straight out of the ocean. It is dotted with icebergs of all shapes and sizes.

Rypefjord and **Harefjord** are two fjords separated by Cape Hoffman Halvø. Rypefjord is lined by superb rock formations at its entrance. Musk ox roam in this part of Greenland and there are opportunities to hike over the tundra in search of memorable photographs.

Rødefjord (Red Fjord) is another fjord west of Milne Land. As the name suggests, some of the fjord's mountains are a striking red. We'll make a landing at Rødeø (Red Island), as well as cruise through the iceberg graveyard near the island.

We'll anchor at **Hekla Havn** on the island of **Danmark Ø**. Here, we'll explore the mesmerising ridges, furrows and marks carved into the rock. These patterns command your attention and lead the eye out towards the massive icebergs and mountains across the fjord.

Please note: This isn't a complete list of the places we'll visit. The final itinerary will depend on the conditions we have at each location. How long we spend in each location will be decided by what we find there. This expedition is just that—an expedition. We are free to spend as much, or as little, time at any given location within the time frame of the expedition.



Left: Iceberg formations. ©Daniel Bergmann

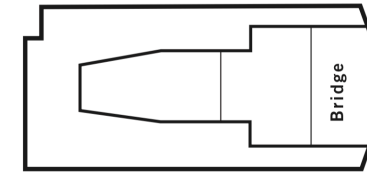
Our ship, M/S Balto

M/S Balto was built for the highest ice class in Rauma, Finland, to serve as a government service vessel in the Baltic sea. During 2019-2020, she has been totally refurbished and is now one of the roomiest and most elegant small polar expedition yachts in service.

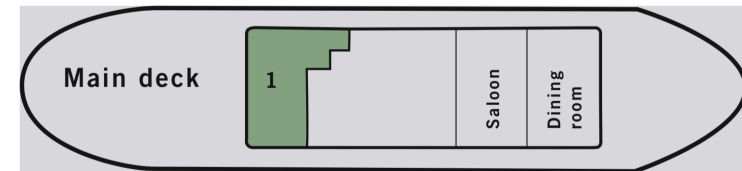
There are several open and semi enclosed deck spaces from where you can enjoy the stunning Arctic sceneries. On the guest deck you also find a cedar lined sauna, accommodating 4-6 persons, with a cold shower and a small changing room. The richly appointed saloon and the beautiful dining messroom feature crotch-mahogany panelling, a bar, a card table, a library, coffee and tea stations.

The ship has been fitted with an electric diesel propulsion capable of maintaining versatile manoeuvring and survey speeds with no vibration. It is therefore ideal as film and photo platform. There is also a mud room for expedition gear and two Zodiacs for wilderness cruises and offshore experiences. M/S Balto is truly one of a kind when it comes to small polar expedition ships. Travelling with this unique 12-passenger ship offers a completely different and much more intimate experience of Greenland compared to a larger expedition ship. The M/S Balto is designed to explore the most remote fjord systems and maximise each guest's experience in the unspoiled wilderness. This is true micro cruising.

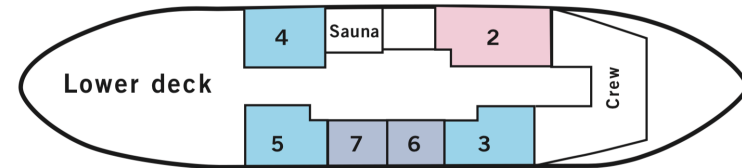
Top deck



Main deck



Lower deck



FACTS ABOUT THE EXPEDITION

Dates: September 21–28, 2023

Group Size: 11 guests plus leaders

TRANSPORTATION: M/S Balto & Mark V Zodiacs

COST (per person in USD): \$12,450

There is no single supplement fee and cabins are either sole use or dual occupancy based on booking priority. Flights between Iceland and Greenland are not included and will be billed separately (estimated at \$1,600).

INCLUDED IN THE EXPEDITION FEE:

- 7 nights of accommodation aboard the ship
- all meals while on board
- water, coffee/tea ad libitum
- guides and crew services
- daily excursions by Zodiac
- instructions from highly experienced photo leaders
- one of Greenland's most experienced expedition leader
- lectures, briefings and shore side interpretations
- magnificent scenery and wonderful wildlife encounters
- great company and safe and friendly travel

EXCLUSIONS:

- any pre- or post-cruise expenses including flights between Iceland and Greenland
- other drinks than mentioned above
- customary tips for crew and staff
- mandatory insurance
- anything else not specified as included

PAYMENT TERMS

\$2,500 deposit at registration

\$4,500 due November 15, 2022

Balance before May 15, 2023

For registration and further info please contact Daniel Bergmann

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EXPEDITION TEAM



Photography leader David Ward

As a professional David has photographed everything from huskies to Ferraris but landscape has always been his passion. As well as making images he writes about the philosophical side of photography and leads photographic workshops. Although he specialised in large format photography for over twenty years, his emphasis in teaching is on the photographer's vision, rather than on what format is being used, and he tries to pass on his knowledge in an accessible and humorous manner.

www.davidward.photo



Photography leader and guide Daniel Bergmann

Daniel is a professional nature photographer from Iceland with over 25 years of experience. He leads photography tours and workshops in Iceland, Greenland and Svalbard. He is widely published in his home country and recognised as one of Iceland's leading landscape and wildlife photographer. Daniel brings to the expedition an intimate knowledge of Arctic wildlife and an experience of photographing in Greenland on a number of previous expeditions.

www.danielbergmann.com



Expedition leader Morten Jørgensen

Morten was born in Copenhagen and has always loved the natural environment and especially its wildlife. He has been working in the Arctic since 1997, on small cruise ships as guide, lecturer, Zodiac driver and expedition leader. Since the mid-eighties, Morten has been an active ornithologist, a passion that has been supplemented with a love for marine mammals, whales and dolphins, seals and polar bears alike. He is also a keen photographer.

