

Epic High Arctic



AUGUST 9 - 19, 2012

ABOARD THE CLIPPER ADVENTURER

Epic High Arctic Adventure 2012

This is the Big One!

An expedition to where the continental ice sheet spawns glaciers calving icebergs into the ocean, where explorers dared, died, and triumphed, where polar bears lumber, where the ground is permanently frozen, where plants grow small, where narwhal spout, and walrus sport oosiks.

Together through the years, we have marveled at the intricacies of a footprint, the power of a bear, the minuteness of Alpine flora, and shared our concerns about wildlife and the environment.

Now join me as we venture far to the north where climate change has already reared its ugly head as thinning pack ice, massive ice berg releases, glacial collapses, and polar bear deaths. Experience the world's climate first hand in a unique ecosystem - the Arctic.

For hundreds of years, explorer's tried to find the short cut to Asia and Europe - the Northwest Passage, but only since 2007 have ships really traversed the Passage. The Passage is where our journey will start as we explore the Passage from east to west. An open Passage creates questions of which nations own what lands and who will profit from oil drilling. Armies are securing their hold on northern lands as rapidly as geologists and geographers map the continental shelf to prove national ownership.

In Canada, we visit lush bird rookeries, the Northern-most Inuit (or Eskimos) at Grise Fiord. On Davis Strait we follow the coast of west Greenland north to see how far we can go - hopefully to archeological ruins of northern Inuit camps. Perhaps we will observe a polar bear, a walrus, a narwhal during our crossing. Along the route, we'll stop at local towns and historical base camps of the explorers. We will meet native people, see their life styles and goods they produce. What will be the role of Ecotourism in the future of these newly charted waters? Daily presentations will provide background on geology, ecology, archeology, history, and culture.

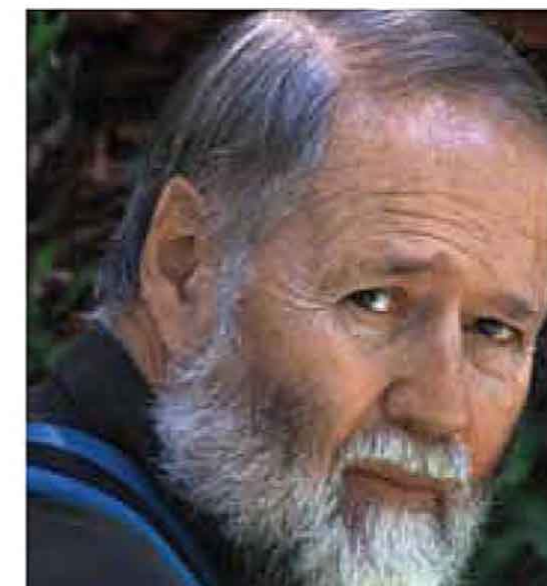
For Yellowstone aficionados, we hope to get near where the U.S. Calvary from the Yellowstone Indian wars set up their base during the doomed expedition to establish an American presence in the Arctic. And these are only a sampling of our stops during this expedition.

What can I say?! This is it - my biggest expedition that I can share with those I know love nature and what is wild. Please join me. If you wish to talk with me personally about this expedition call me at (406) 848-9458. I have posted pictures from our succesful 2011 expedition on our website at www.tracknature.com (scroll down).

Our ship, the *Clipper Adventurer*, is an ice-strengthened, Zodiac equipped, expedition vessel. We will be treated as first rate guests with food and lodging fit for an Arctic king or queen. You do not have to be in great shape for this journey as trips ashore only include walks that are as long as you wish. Register soon as we only have a few berths reserved and the less expensive berths will sell-out quickly.

Jim Halfpenny

Jim Halfpenny, Ph.D., President, A Naturalist's World



Jim Halfpenny
Author / Scientist

Jim is an author, scientist and educator whose interest in cold (altitudinal, latitudinal, and seasonal) has taken him to all seven continents and Greenland. Jim's specialties include environmental ecology, animal tracking and carnivores. His greatest love, bears, led to 20 years studying polar and grizzly bears. Jim authored over 25 books and videos including his latest, *Yellowstone Bears in the Wild* and *Track Plates for Mammals*. He is a Fellow of the Explorer's Club and received the Antarctic Service medal. A past Research Fellow of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, Jim was Director of the Mountain Research Station and the Long-Term Ecological Research program in the Alpine. Currently he is president of *A Naturalist's World*, an ecological education company.

The magic and mystery of the far north can hardly be escaped as we once again combine its landscapes, people and communities into our favourite high Arctic adventure. We will undertake an exploration of Devon Island before visiting Grise Fiord - the community with the honour of being the furthest north in Canada.

From here, we will journey further north (dependant on ice conditions, of course!) into the Smith Sound. Here the vista should be filled with ice - a perfect scene for photographers!

After crossing the Davis Strait, we arrive in Greenland, a place where the ice comes alive in iridescent blues, jagged peaks reach for the heavens, delicate tundra flowers nestle in tiny crevasses, towns are a brilliant montage of colour and much of the landscape seems untouched by human hands. This self-governing province of Denmark is the largest island in the world, covering nearly 3.5 million km², more than 80 percent is covered either by the ice cap or small glaciers.

Throughout the voyage we may have opportunities to view and photograph the unique wildlife that calls the Arctic home. Narwhal, beluga, polar bears, and the rare and immaculately white Ivory Gull are all found here. Nesting colonies on Coburg and Prince Leopold Islands host tens of thousands of Thick-billed Murres and Black-legged Kittiwakes. We are also likely to encounter shorebirds, Dovekie, Northern Fulmar, and, with luck, Gyrfalcon. At each stop, we board zodiacs to go ashore, or position ourselves for the best views or photographs of the wildlife, flowers, icebergs and landscapes.





“I loved the expedition format which was reinforced by the breadth of information provided by the resource staff. I learnt an amazing amount and had a wonderful wilderness experience as well.”

-Mary, High Arctic 2009

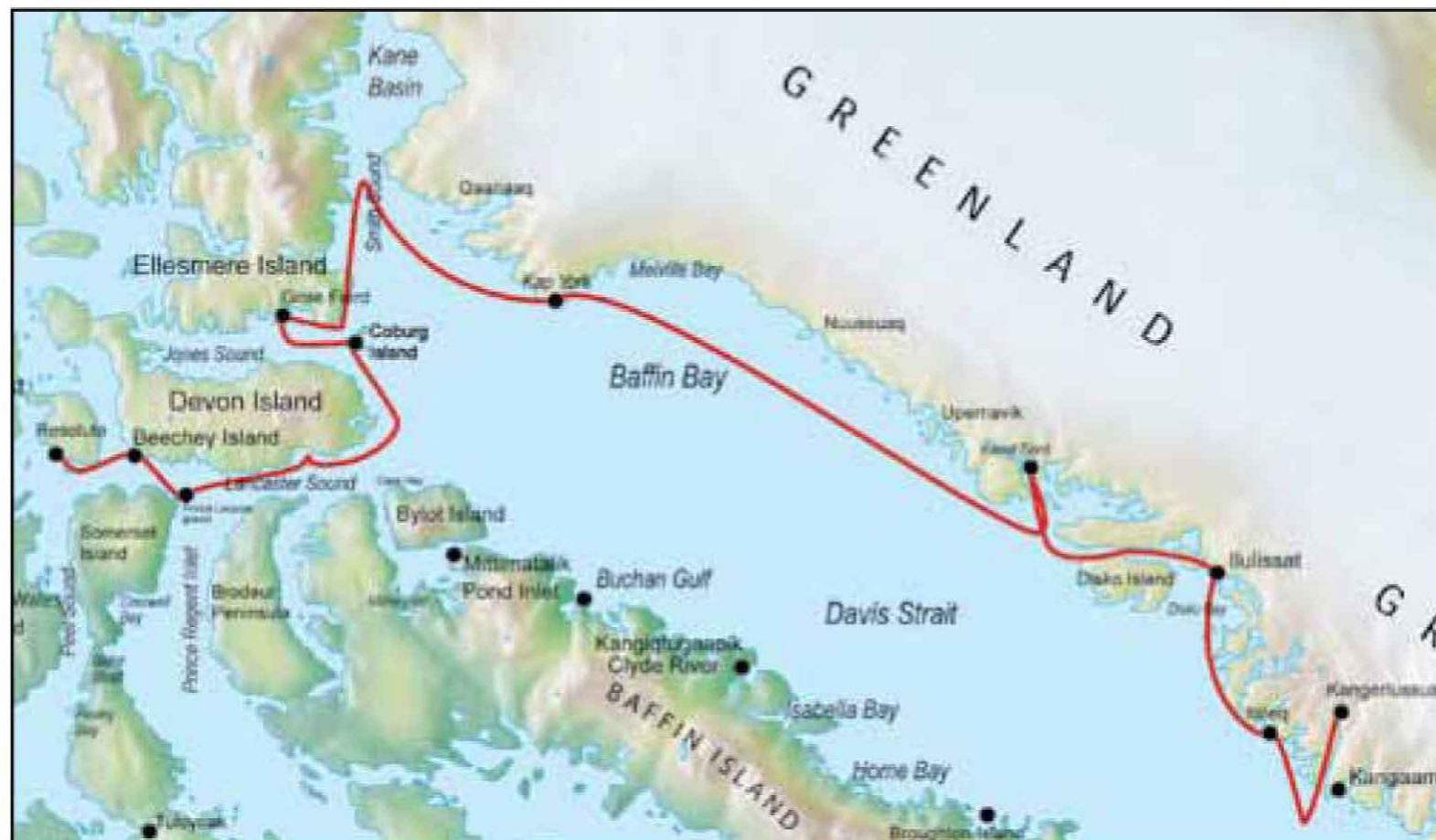
photos by Halfpenny



Our Intended Itinerary

- Day 1: Resolute
- Day 2: Prince Leopold & Beechey Island
- Day 3 :Devon Island
- Day 4: Coburg Island
- Day 5: Grise Fiord (Ajuittuq)
- Day 6: Smith Sound

- Day 7: Kap York
- Day 8: Karrat Fjord
- Day 9: Ilulissat
- Day 10: Itilleq
- Day 11: Kangerlussuaq



Highlights

- Thousands of birds on the cliffs of Prince Leopold Island
- Visit the largest uninhabited island on earth during our stop at Devon Island
- Cross the Arctic circle while sailing in the shadow of the second-longest fjord in Greenland
- Visit the historic graves of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition
- Travel by zodiac rubber boat among the giant icebergs of Karrat fjord and visit ruins of early occupants.
- Follow the route to the North Pole as we journey up Smith Sound
- Marvel at the Ilulissat icefield, where 90% of the north Atlantic's icebergs are born
- Enjoy a cultural presentation at Canada's northernmost community, in Grise Fiord

Clipper Adventurer

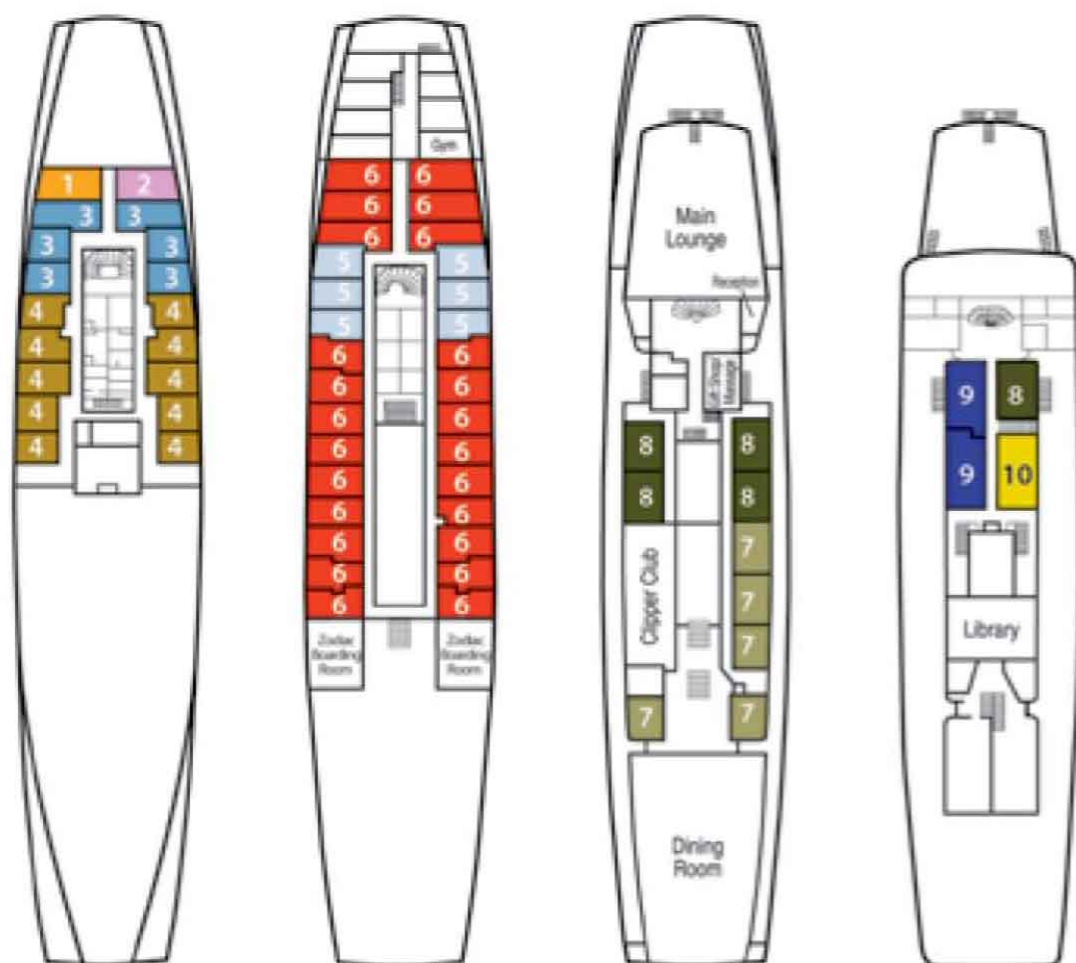


photo by Halfpenny

The 118-passenger *Clipper Adventurer*, is among the very few vessels in the world specifically constructed for expedition voyages to the far reaches of remote lands. She has advanced communications and navigation equipment, and newly installed, state-of-the-art Sperry Gyrofin stabilizers.

With extensive renovations, the *Clipper Adventurer* is a handsome expedition vessel, done in the style of great ocean liners. With lots of varnished wood, brass, and wooden decks, the ship has all new outside cabins, with private showers & facilities. You will enjoy relaxing in the Main Lounge, Clipper Club, library/card room, sauna or beauty salon, keeping trim in the gymnasium, or picking up souvenirs in the gift shop. Meals include International and Continental cuisine. The ship has a fleet of 10 Zodiacs and a special loading platform. An ice class rating of A-1 allows the *Clipper Adventurer* to go to places that larger cruise ships can only dream of, and she does it in comfort and style unsurpassed by other vessels her size.

| Voyage | Epic High Arctic |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Dates | August 9-19, 2012 |
| Vessel | <i>Clipper Adventurer</i> |
| Category 1 | \$4,045 |
| 2 | \$5,145 |
| 3 | \$6,245 |
| 4 | \$6,895 |
| 5 | \$8,545 |
| 6 | \$9,045 |
| 7 | \$9,345 |
| 8 | \$9,945 |
| 9 | \$10,545 |
| 10 | \$11,445 |



| Category | Amenities |
|----------|---|
| 1 | Quad Lower Forward , 2 upper 2 lower berths, porthole window. |
| 2 | Triple Lower Deck , 1 upper 2 lower berths, porthole window. |
| 3 | Junior Double , two lower berths, porthole window |
| 4 | Double , two lower berths, midship, porthole window. |
| 5 | Main Double , two lower berths, porthole window. |
| 6 | Deluxe Double , two lower berths, midship, porthole or picture window. |
| 7 | Superior Double , two lower berths, picture window. |
| 8 | Junior Suite , two lower berths, sitting area, picture window. |
| 9 | Suite , two lower berths, sitting area, picture window. |
| 10 | Owner's Suite , two lower berths, shower & bathtub, picture window |

Prices are USD, cheque/cash discounted, and based on double occupancy unless otherwise stated.

A word from A Naturalist's World

Operations in the High Arctic are very expensive. No one company can afford to rent a class 1-A icebreaker. Thus several companies pool their resources to make operations feasible in the far north. A Naturalist's World and others subcontract through Adventure Canada to rent The Clipper Adventurer for our exploration activities.

Adventure Canada handles logistical arrangements for the ship and bookings of participants. Those who go on an A Naturalist's World sponsored expedition register through Adventure Canada who handles bookings, rooms, transportation and food for us.

Our partnership with Adventure Canada has been excellent for the last four years. Their ship, The Clipper Adventurer, goes further north than any cruise ship and offers unprecedented opportunities for exploration.

To book your expedition call Adventure Canada at 1-800-363-7566. Tell them you are with Jim Halfpenny and sponsored through A Naturalist's World. Also call A Naturalist's World at 1-406-848-1579 and let us know you are going on the High Arctic 2011 expedition. Put a deposit down on your adventure. Early enough payment in full may receive a discount.

photos by Halfpenny

WORD TO THE WISE

These trips fill early, even a year early for lower cost berths.

Reserve now!

REMEMBER

There are costs getting to and from rendezvous points.

A NATURALIST'S WORLD

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