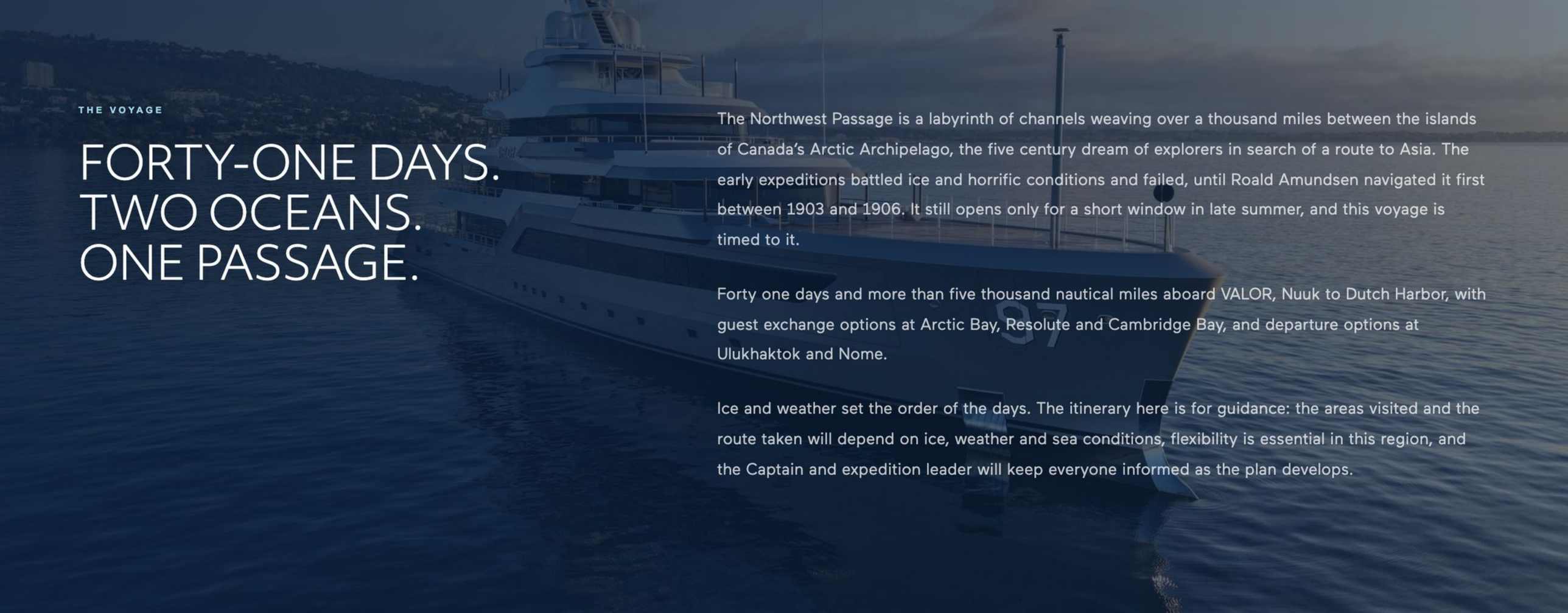
THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE.

Nuuk to Dutch Harbor aboard VALOR, 29 July to 7 September 2027: the fjords of West Greenland, the walls of Baffin Island, Franklin's and Amundsen's route through the heart of the Passage, and out through the Bering Strait to the Pacific.



THE VOYAGE

FORTY-ONE DAYS. TWO OCEANS. ONE PASSAGE.

The Northwest Passage is a labyrinth of channels weaving over a thousand miles between the islands of Canada's Arctic Archipelago, the five century dream of explorers in search of a route to Asia. The early expeditions battled ice and horrific conditions and failed, until Roald Amundsen navigated it first between 1903 and 1906. It still opens only for a short window in late summer, and this voyage is timed to it.

Forty one days and more than five thousand nautical miles aboard VALOR, Nuuk to Dutch Harbor, with guest exchange options at Arctic Bay, Resolute and Cambridge Bay, and departure options at Ulukhaktok and Nome.

Ice and weather set the order of the days. The itinerary here is for guidance: the areas visited and the route taken will depend on ice, weather and sea conditions, flexibility is essential in this region, and the Captain and expedition leader will keep everyone informed as the plan develops.

DAY BY DAY

FORTY NIGHTS ABOARD VALOR.

BUYERS TOO GUESTS · 13 TO 26 JULY

VALOR stages in St. John's, Newfoundland, where the expedition team joins on 16 July, and sails for Nuuk at midday on Saturday 17 July, weather permitting. About 1,010 nautical miles and four days later she arrives in Nuuk on Wednesday 21 July. David may join for this passage, or at Isaluk on 22 July if his yacht diverts. A week in Nuuk is held as preparation and weather buffer, if David is aboard, that time can be spent in the fjords around Nuuk, or heading north early.

00

THU 16 JUL

NUUK

QUEEN ANNE · SAIL AT 16:30

Nuuk is Greenland's small but bustling capital, where modern European and traditional Greenlandic life meet. Founded as a trading post and colonised in 1728, it is the cultural and administrative centre of the country: the Greenland National Museum shows mummies and Inuit skin boats; the Nuuk Art Museum holds local works, and the Katuaq cultural centre offers films, concerts and art. Guests arrive and board VALOR, and the yacht sails north in the evening.

01

FRI 17 JUL

EVERNITE FJORD

ICEBERGS · GLACIERS · HARBOUR SEALS

Kangerlussuaq, known to Danes as Evigheds fjorden, the Fjord of Eternity, is one of Greenland's most spectacular fjords. It reaches some 75 kilometres inland from the open coast between towering mountains and hanging glaciers, and at its inner reaches, Greenland's largest ice sheet flows into ice sheet to calve into the fjord. Cruise the fjord for the scenery, explore the coast by tender and kayak, or go ashore for a first hike on the tundra.

02

SAT 17 JUL

KANGAAMIUT

HARBOUR · FISHING VILLAGE

A last morning in the fjord, then out to Kangaamiut at its mouth, a small coastal settlement whose long tradition of trading and fishing is one of the oldest continuous ways of life on this coast. A walk through the town gives a glimpse into the daily rhythms of a community that lives largely outside the tourist economy: drying racks heavy with fish, boats drawn up on the beaches, the constant movement around the sea and the seasons.

ETERNITY FJORD & KANGAAMIUT

03

SUN 18 JUL

KANGERLUSSUAQ FJORD

LAST DAY IN GREENLAND · FLEXIBLE DEPARTURE

Kangerlussuaq means 'the long fjord', and that carries the name runs some 180 kilometres inland from the coast to the settlement and airport at its head. The day is spent in the fjord region, the last of the Greenland coast. Departure in the evening is flexible, timed to the weather for the crossing to Canada.

04

MON 19 AUG

The Crossing

CAPE DYER

DAVID STREET · 66N 61W · BFFD CANADA

Overnight across the Davis Strait, about two hundred nautical miles, to the east coast of Baffin Island. The morning is the approach to the coast through the ice pack, the first of the Canadian Arctic, with a landing possible once the yacht arrives off Cape Dyer at midday. Clearance into Canada is handled remotely.

05

TUE 20 AUG

QIKIQTARJUAQ

TOWN VISIT · EXPEDITION LANDINGS

North along the Baffin coast to the Qikiqtarjuaq region: a possible visit to the town, and expedition landings on the coast nearby.

KANGERLUSSUAQ FJORD

CAPE DYER

QIKIQTARJUAQ

06

WED 21 AUG

HOME BAY

CRUISING · LANDINGS

Further north along the east coast of Baffin Island to the Home Bay region, a day of expedition cruising and landings with the programme set on the day by ice and weather.

07

THU 22 AUG

Baffin

SAM FORD FJORD

GRANITE WALLS · WILDLIFE · LANDING

Sam Ford Fjord, where granite walls rise sheer from the sea in one of the most spectacular fjord systems in the Arctic. A day of cruising beneath the walls and watching for wildlife, with a landing where conditions allow.

08

FRI 23 AUG

SCOTT INLET

GRANITE WALLS · VIDEO

Scott Inlet is the next fjord system north, the same architecture of sheer rock out of deep water: walls of well over a thousand metres, glaciers hanging between them, and no settlement in any direction. Work it by tender under the walls, with landings for hikes, scenic cruising and whitlife.

HOME BAY

SAM FORD FJORD

SCOTT INLET

09

SAT 24 AUG

BUCHAN GULF

FJORD LANDSCAPES · BEARS · NARWHAL

Buchan Gulf, named for the Scottish naval officer David Buchan, who led an 1818 Arctic expedition, cuts deep into northern Baffin Island through a corridor of glacially sculpted mountains. These coasts are prime summer polar bear habitat, so all eyes work the shoreline on the approach. Narwhal are known to frequent the sheltered waters of the gulf, the long spiral tusk of the males occasionally visible when they surface to breathe.

10

SUN 25 AUG

PHILPOTS ISLAND

WALRUS · GLACIERS · TENDER ENDEARS

Philpots Island sits off the east coast of Devon Island, and its walrus haul outs are the reason to come: heavy bodies stacked on the ice pans, bulls coming and going from the water, the whole colony rearranging itself constantly. Glaciers meet the sea on the neighbouring coast. The afternoon runs by tender along the haul outs at the distance the guides set, and on foot where the ground allows.

11

MON 26 AUG

Devon

DUNDAS & CROKER

WALRUS · POSSIBLE WALRUS · WALRUS

Two calls on the south coast of Devon Island, the largest uninhabited island in the world. Dundas Harbour holds the buildings of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police outpost established in 1924 to assert a Canadian presence in the Arctic, abandoned now, with archaeological sites nearby and unusually lush tundra for the hiking. Croker Bay, next door, is a twenty-five mile fjord that ends in two massive tidewater glaciers, with ice drifting in the bay late into the summer and a walrus haul out worked from the tenders.

BUCHAN GULF

PHILPOTS ISLAND

DUNDAS HARBOUR & CROKER BAY

12

TUE 27 AUG

Beaufo

POWELL INLET

FOSSIL FOREST · HIKING · WILDLIFE

Further west along Devon's south coast, Cuming Inlet and Powell Inlet are two of the deep fjords that indent the island, good places to find wildlife, with long tender runs under terraced mountains and hiking on the shoreline.

13

WED 28 AUG

ARCTIC BAY

COMMUNITY VISIT · GUEST EXCHANGE OPTION

Arctic Bay is an Inuit community on a sheltered bay of northern Baffin Island. The day is a community visit and time in the town. Guests can join or leave here by charter flight.

14

THU 29 AUG

BURNETT INLET

DEVON'S SOUTH COAST

Back to the south coast of Devon Island for Burnett Inlet and Blanley Bay. Devon was first sighted by Robert Byrot and William Baffin in 1616 and has no permanent population today: ashore, the silence is the point.

CUMING & POWELL INLETS

ARCTIC BAY

BURNETT INLET & BLANLEY BAY

15

FRI 30 AUG

Lancaster Sound

MAXWELL BAY

DEVON'S SOUTH COAST · LANDING

Maxwell Bay is another of the deep indents in Devon Island's south coast, and a name from the history of the Passage. The day is kept flexible: a landing and a walk if the timings allow, and otherwise the coast from the water, with Lancaster Sound's wildlife around the yacht. The sound is the eastern gateway of the Northwest Passage, its waters rich enough in Arctic cod to feed narwhal, beluga, bowhead whales, seals and the seabird colonies of the coast.

16

SAT 31 AUG

BEECHEY ISLAND

FRANKLIN'S WINTER · THE DERVICH · CRAMBELL TOWER

Beechey Island is the most notable historic site in the exploration of the Northwest Passage. Sir John Franklin's ships Erebus and Terror wintered here in 1845 and 46 before sailing south to their fate; three of his crew are buried on the beach, and the island later became the base and meeting place for the searches that followed. Amundsen stopped here in 1903, paying respect, on the first successful transit. Radstock Bay next door is dominated by Caswell Tower, with Thule sites at its base and some pre-dorset dwelling country behind it. Beluga work this coast, and the hiking is real.

17

SUN 1 SEP

RESOLUTE

NAVIGATION · GUEST EXCHANGE OPTION

Resolute, on the southern coast of Cornwallis Island, lies its English name from HMS Resolute, one of the ships of the Franklin search. Its Inuktitut name, Qausuittuq, means the place with no dawn, for the long winter night the far north. The bay is a good anchorage on the Parry Channel, right in the middle of the Northwest Passage, and its long gravel runway makes the hamlet a logistics hub: a possible guest exchange and a day of exploring nearby, and the call can be skipped if no exchange is needed.

MAXWELL BAY

RADSTOCK BAY & BEECHEY ISLAND

RESOLUTE

18

MON 2 SEP

Barrow Strait

PORT LEOPOLD

SOUTH WOLSTENHOLME · ICE DEPENDENT

South across Barrow Strait toward Somerset Island. Port Leopold at its north east corner, or straight on into Peel Sound, decided on the day by ice and weather.

19

TUE 3 SEP

Wilkins

CRESWELL BAY

BELUGA · CAIN FJORDS · DORMSDET ISLAND

Creswell Bay cuts into Somerset Island, whose coastal waters hold some of the largest beluga aggregations in the Canadian Arctic. The day is built around them from the tenders, with hiking on the tundra behind the bay and Arctic char fishing in the rivers that empty into it. Peel Sound is the alternative if the ice favours the western side.

20

WED 4 SEP

Peel Sound

BELLOT STRAIT

ZENITH POINT · 2 RIVET FORD · PORT RIDER

Bellot Strait separates Somerset Island from the Boothia Peninsula: about sixteen miles long, under half a mile wide in its fast tide and narrow section, with tide streams that run to eight knots and demand a slack water transit. Halfway through it passes Zenith Point, the northernmost point of mainland North America. At the eastern entrance sits Fort Ross, the last trading post the Hudson's Bay Company ever established, in 1937. Its two buildings still stand, and the day starts with a landing there before the yacht takes the narrows.

PORT LEOPOLD & PEEL SOUND

CRESWELL BAY & PEEL SOUND

BELLOT STRAIT & FORT ROSS

21

SUN 8 SEP

Bellot Strait

CONINGHAM BAY

WILDLIFE · SEALS · STONES OF BELLOT ISLAND

Coningham Bay, on Prince of Wales Island, is one of the Passage's notable wildlife anchorages: beluga gather in the shallows of the bay, and the polar bears of the region know it. Tender cruises along the bay, hiking on the island behind, and the high tundra of Prince of Wales beyond it, an ecosystem of gyrfalcons, Arctic wolves and muskoxen that feels prehistoric.

22

FRI 20 AUG

Ice Navigator

LARSEN SOUND

PACK ICE · BEARS ON THE FLOES

Larsen Sound is one of the major intersections of the Northwest Passage, where the routes from the Victoria, Franklin and James Ross Straits converge. It is known for its high concentrations of sea ice, as polar pack drifts south from the McClintock Channel, and WILDR's passage will likely meet significant ice and also her pace. That is the opportunity to search for polar bears on the floes.

23

SAT 21 AUG

GJOA HAVEN

EXPEDITION'S ANNIVERSARY · VILLAGE VISIT

Gjoa Haven on King William Island is the harbour where Amundsen spent two winters during the first transit of the Passage, and it carries the name of his ship. A village visit ashore.

CONINGHAM BAY

LARSEN SOUND & JAMES ROSS STRAIT

GJOA HAVEN

24

SUN 22 AUG

Victoria Strait

JENNY LIND ISLAND

ICE DEPENDENT · GUEST EXCHANGE

Well through Victoria Strait and past the southern end of the Victoria Street, where the Franklin expedition's Erebus and Terror were finally beset in 1846 and never freed. Navigating between the islands and the pack ice, a landing may be made on uninhabited Jenny Lind Island at the south western entrance of the Victoria Strait.

25-26

MON 23 TO TUE 24 AUG

CAMBRIDGE BAY

CHALLENGER POINT · GUEST EXCHANGE

Cambridge Bay, on the southern coast of Victoria Island, is Ipiatuktuktitut in Inuinnaqtun: a good place with lots of fish. People have lived here for at least four thousand years. The Hudson's Bay Company and the RCMP established posts in the 1920s, a Distant Early Warning site followed in 1955, and the community has grown to about 1,400 people. It is the mid point of the Northwest Passage and its main western resupply stop. Arrive early on the first morning and sail in the afternoon of the second; guests can join or leave here by scheduled or charter flight.

27

WED 27 AUG

Amundsen Gulf

PORT EPWORTH

TUKKOYA TO EPWORTH · CRAIG RIVERS

West of Cambridge Bay the path carries the broad, shallow waters of the Coronation Gulf, the least travelled reach of the Canadian Arctic. Port Epworth is a mainland anchorage of extraordinary remoteness, the tundra plateau running uninterrupted to every horizon, and the rivers emptying into the gulf draw with Arctic char running to their spawning grounds.

CAMBRIDGE BAY

PORT EPWORTH

28

THU 25 AUG

Victoria

BERNARD HARBOUR

WILDLIFE · CARIBOU · THE BOWLAND COAST

Bernard Harbour sits on the mainland coast. Muskoxen graze the upland plateau above the anchorage in small herds, their coats already thickening for the winter, and caribou may be seen crossing the coastal lowlands in groups. A full day ashore in country that has changed very little since the shore parties of the exploration era mapped it.

29

FRI 27 AUG

ULUKHAKTOK

VICTORIA ISLAND · DEPARTURE OPTION

Ulukhaktok, once known as Holman, is a high Arctic community on the west coast of Victoria Island in the Northwest Territories. A community visit, and a possible departure point for guests leaving the voyage, by charter flight to Yellowknife.

30

SAT 28 AUG

Darroch

THE SMOKING HILLS

FRANKLIN BAY & THE SMOKING HILLS

BURNING BANKS · SAIL ASTHURST

Franklin Bay holds one of the most geologically extraordinary features of the entire voyage: the Smoking Hills of Cape Bathurst, where coal and oil shales exposed by coastal erosion have been smouldering continuously for centuries, streaking the cliffs in burnt reds and sulphur yellows and sending smoke off the slopes into the sea wind.

BERNARD HARBOUR

ULUKHAKTOK

FRANKLIN BAY & THE SMOKING HILLS

31-32

Parker

PERSEVERANCE HARBOUR

ICE DEPENDENT · WHALING STATION

A day at sea west across the Beaufort toward the Yukon coast, then Herschel Island, Qikiqtaruk. Pauline Cove is the westernmost of the Passage's historic anchorages: the wintering harbour of the 1890s bowhead fleet, kept now as a territorial park, where the whalers' graves still stand in the tundra above the cove. The last call in Canada; the yacht sails for Alaska in the evening.

33-34

TUE 31 AUG 1:00 AM TO 2 SEP 6:00 AM

Alaska

POINT BARROW

ICE DEPENDENT · 156 TOP OF ALASKA

Westward across the Beaufort, skirting between the Alaskan coast and the pack ice that extends north toward the pole, the country ice dependent and described daily from the bridge. This is bowhead and beluga water. Early on the second morning the yacht passes Point Barrow, the northern tip of Alaska, without stopping: rounding it turns the voyage south for the Bering Strait.

BEAUFORT SEA & HERSCHEL ISLAND

THE BEAUFORT SEA & POINT BARROW

CHUKCHI SEA & THE BERING STRAIT

35-36

THU 2 SEP 6:00 AM TO 3 SEP 6:00 AM

The Gulf

BERING STRAIT

DIOMEDE ISLANDS · 1ST TO THE PACIFIC

Two days south through the Chukchi Sea to the gate itself. The Diomede Islands stand mid strait, Russia's Big Diomede and Alaska's Little Diomede two miles apart with the date line between them, and passing them marks entry into the Pacific Ocean and the completion of a legendary voyage across the top of the world. The Northwest Passage ends here; the miles that remain are the Pacific's.

BEAUFORT SEA & HERSCHEL ISLAND

THE BEAUFORT SEA & POINT BARROW

CHUKCHI SEA & THE BERING STRAIT

37-38

SUN 5 TO MON 6 SEP

Nome

NOME

TOWN VISIT · THE GOLD · GOOD DEPARTS

Nome sits on the Bering coast of the Seward Peninsula, a gold rush town with a jet capable runway and the first practical departure point beyond the strait. Arrive in the evening and clear into the United States, with landings by tender. David flies out that evening or the next day, and the yacht sails for Dutch Harbor at midday on the second day.

39

MON 6 SEP

Bay Passage

BERING SEA

ICE · STORMS · THE ALEUTIANS

A final day at sea, south across the Bering Sea shelf toward the Aleutian chain and out of polar waters. The water here is among the most productive on earth, fished by trawlers, shearwaters and albatrosses that follow the yacht for hours, and the last sea day gives the expedition team room for the voyage's summary: what was seen, what was logged, and what almost nobody else has done.

NOME

THE BERING SEA

40

TUE 7 SEP

Dutch Harbor

DUTCH HARBOR

VOLCANOES · END OF EXPEDITION

Come alongside at Dutch Harbor on Unalaska Island at midday, green volcanic hills over a working fishing port, bald eagles on the light poles. The expedition ends here, more than five thousand nautical miles from Nuuk, with the Atlantic behind, the Pacific ahead, and the Northwest Passage in the wake.

DUTCH HARBOR

THE ROUTE

NUUK TO DUTCH HARBOR. ATLANTIC TO PACIFIC, ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD.



DAY 0 NUUK	DAY 1 ETERNITY FJORD	DAY 2 KANGAAMIUT	DAY 3 KANGERLUSSUAQ FJORD	DAY 4 CAPE DYER	DAY 5 QIKIQTARJUAQ	DAY 6 HOME BAY
DAY 7 SAM FORD FJORD	DAY 8 SCOTT INLET	DAY 9 BUCHAN GULF	DAY 10 PHILPOTS ISLAND	DAY 11 DUNDAS & CROKER	DAY 12 POWELL INLET	DAY 13 ARCTIC BAY
DAY 14 BURNETT INLET	DAY 15 MAXWELL BAY	DAY 16 BEECHEY ISLAND	DAY 17 RESOLUTE	DAY 18 PORT LEOPOLD	DAY 19 CRESWELL BAY	DAY 20 BELLOT STRAIT
DAY 21 CONINGHAM BAY	DAY 22 LARSEN SOUND	DAY 23 GJOA HAVEN	DAY 24 JENNY LIND ISLAND	DAYS 25-26 CAMBRIDGE BAY	DAY 27 PORT EPWORTH	DAY 28 BERNARD HARBOUR
DAY 29 ULUKHAKTOK	DAY 30 THE SMOKING HILLS	DAYS 31-32 HERSCHEL ISLAND	DAYS 33-34 POINT BARROW	DAYS 35-36 BERING STRAIT	DAYS 37-38 NOME	DAY 40 DUTCH HARBOUR

EYOS

TO DISCUSS THIS VOYAGE

THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE.

Forty nights aboard VALOR, 29 July to 7 September 2027, Nuuk to Dutch Harbor through the Northwest Passage.

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