WONDERS OF THE ARCTIC:
Voyage from Greenland to Canada’s Nova Scotia

September 23 – October 10, 2024

The largest island in the world, stretching from the Arctic to the Atlantic Ocean, Greenland invites discovery. While communities existed on this vast island as early as 4,500 years ago, it was the Norsemen who settled Greenland’s southwest shores in the 10th-century, followed by the Inuit, who migrated from Alaska in the 13th-century, making up the majority of the island’s population today. Traditional ways of life can still be seen in hamlets and villages against a backdrop of stunning Arctic scenery.

On this voyage, the new-generation expedition cruise ship Vega, which accommodates only 152 guests, will navigate through Greenland’s magnificent fjords from which float incredible icebergs, and then cross the Davis Strait to land on Canada’s Arctic Baffin Island, continuing along the coast of Labrador and the Island of Newfoundland to Halifax in Nova Scotia.

Throughout the voyage we will explore coastal villages and the countryside, discover UNESCO-listed World Heritage sites and Viking ruins, meet with local Inuit communities, and look for the wildlife.

We will be joined throughout the voyage by prolific scientist and author Jared Diamond, who has, among honors too many to name, been awarded the National Medal of Science, a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, and a Pulitzer Prize. An extensive section of Diamond’s 2005 book, *Collapse*, is devoted to a comparison of the different strategies pursued by Norsemen and Inuit to survive in the forbidding climate and geography of Greenland.
Jared Diamond is a Pulitzer-prize-winning author of six best-selling books, translated into 38 languages, about human societies and human evolution: Guns, Germs, and Steel, Collapse, Why Is Sex Fun?, The Third Chimpanzee, The World until Yesterday, and Upheaval. As a professor of geography at UCLA, he is known for his breadth of interests, which involves conducting research and teaching in three other fields: the biology of New Guinea birds, digestive physiology, and conservation biology. His prizes and honors include the U.S. National Medal of Science, the Pulitzer Prize for Non-fiction, the Tyler Prize for Environmental Science, and election to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. He is a director of World Wildlife Fund/U.S. and of Conservation International. As a biological explorer, his most widely publicized finding was his rediscovery, at the top of New Guinea’s remote Foja Mountains, of the long-lost Golden-fronted Bowerbird, previously known only from four specimens found in a Paris feather shop in 1895.
ITINERARY OUTLINE

Sept. 23  Depart the USA.

Sept. 24  Arrive in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland. Transfer to the Hotel Hilton Reykjavik Nordica (or similar).

Sept. 25  Fly to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. Board Vega and sail.

Sept. 26  Morning at sea, afternoon in Disko Bay. Explore the bay, known for its huge icebergs.

Sept. 27  Continue exploring Disko Bay in the morning, then sail to nearby Qeqertasuaq, Disko Island.

Sept. 28  Ilulissat for the magnificent Icefjord.

Sept. 29  Sisimiut. Explore the picturesque town and the backcountry.

Sept. 30  Nuuk. Tour Greenland’s capital, its fjord system, and look for whales.

Oct. 1  Cross the Davis Strait to Baffin Island, Nunavut, Canada.

Oct. 2  Iqaluit, the capital of the Canadian territory of Nunavut. Visit the town and look for wildlife at the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park.

Oct. 3  Lady Franklin Island. Discover the uninhabited island’s rich wildlife.

Oct. 4  Torngat Mountain National Park. Located on the Labrador peninsula, the park protects wildlife, including caribou, black bears, polar bears, and several species of birds, among others.

Oct. 5  Call in Hebron, on Labrador’s coast, a National Historic Site of Canada.

Oct. 6  At sea.

Oct. 7  Land in L’Anse aux Meadows, on the northernmost tip of the Island of Newfoundland, to explore the remains of the first European settlement in North America, founded by the Vikings 1,000 years ago.

Oct. 8  Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland. Explore this incredibly beautiful park and area.

Oct. 9  At sea.

Oct. 10  Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Disembark and transfer to the airport.
Explore with the ship's fleet of Zodias.

Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland
Built in Finland and launched in July 2022, Swan Hellenic’s Vega is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 10,250 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 250 passengers, Vega will accommodate a maximum of 152 guests in 76 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, Vega is among the world’s first environmentally responsible ships. Equipped with hybrid engines, a system of powerful batteries, and a unique water filtration system, Vega leaves a minimal footprint. For cruising in Polar regions, the ship meets the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code with its high PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull and other advanced features. A computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 120 experienced European officers and international crew members, Vega will carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

Vega’s interior spaces exude sophisticated elegance, with most rooms opening to panoramic views of the sea. All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections, and other amenities. Of the ship’s 76 staterooms, 60 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna with an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis. The outstanding cuisine is complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner.
All accommodations aboard Vega are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

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<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>RATES PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY</th>
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<td>E</td>
<td>Oceanview staterooms with two large oval window. Deck 4. 206 sq. ft. Staterooms 401–404.</td>
<td>$11,990</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. Deck 4. 206 sq. ft. Staterooms 405–416.</td>
<td>$12,490</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>Suites with balcony &amp; living room area. Deck 5. 300 sq. ft. Suites 501 – 504, 530 – 533.</td>
<td>$13,790</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Suites with balcony &amp; living room area. Deck 5. 300 sq. ft. Suites 505 – 514, 517 – 529.</td>
<td>$14,290</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Suites with balcony and living room area. Deck 6. 300 sq. ft. Suites 601 – 614, 617 – 627.</td>
<td>$15,190</td>
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<td>AA</td>
<td>Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom &amp; living room. Decks 5 &amp; 6. 440 sq. ft. Suites 515, 516, 615 &amp; 616.</td>
<td>$17,890</td>
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**FOR SOLO TRAVELERS**

A limited number of cabins are available for single occupancy in categories D to B at no additional charge. Additional single cabins are available at a supplement of 50% of the per person double occupancy rate, instead of the normal 70% supplement.

WONDERS OF THE ARCTIC | SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 10, 2024
**PROGRAM INCLUSIONS**

- One night at the Hotel Hilton Reykjavik Nordica (or similar).
- Welcome dinner in Reykjavik.
- Cruise aboard the new expedition cruise ship Vega.
- All meals aboard ship with a selection of wines, beers and soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night aboard ship.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages aboard ship.
- 24-hour room service aboard ship.
- Group airport/ hotel/pier transfers at designated times, and handling of luggage.
- Complete program of tours, excursions and other activities ashore, planned by Thalassa Journeys, and led by professional local guides.
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by experts provided by Thalassa Journeys and/or sponsoring organizations.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, local guides, drivers and porters.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard ship.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.

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**REGISTRATION**

**WONDERS OF THE ARCTIC,** September 23 – October 10, 2024 with Thalassa Journeys.

To book your journey, please visit: [https://alumni.ucla.edu/travel/reservation-form/](https://alumni.ucla.edu/travel/reservation-form/)

A deposit of $1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour.

**NAME 1 (As it appears on passport)**

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**ITINERARY:**

**PLEASE SELECT STATEROOM CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE**

1st choice [ ]

2nd choice [ ]

3rd choice [ ]

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the “General Information” section and agree to its terms.

**SIGNATURE**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of $1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All cancellations are subject to a $300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

**INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

**ITINERARY:** The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler’s safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, illness, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler’s behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour’s itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person’s health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler’s risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

**RATES:** Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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TO BOOK YOUR JOURNEY
PLEASE VISIT
https://alumni.ucla.edu/travel/reservation-form/

IF YOU CANNOT ACCESS THE ONLINE RESERVATION LINK ABOVE
PLEASE CONTACT
UCLA Alumni Travel at 310-206-0613 or email travel@alumni.ucla.edu