

# Expedition Canadian Arctic and North Greenland

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## "Northwards to the pack ice"



**with MS HANSEATIC inspiration  
from Kangerlussuaq to Kangerlussuaq  
(INS2316)**

**from 05 to 22 August 2023**

written and illustrated by Dr Eckart Pott

Translated from German to English  
with a translation Program – corrected by Elisabeth Spitzer

## **Friday, 04 August, and Saturday, 05 August 2023 (Arrival to and flight from Hannover / GERMANY to Kangerlussuaq / GREENLAND)**

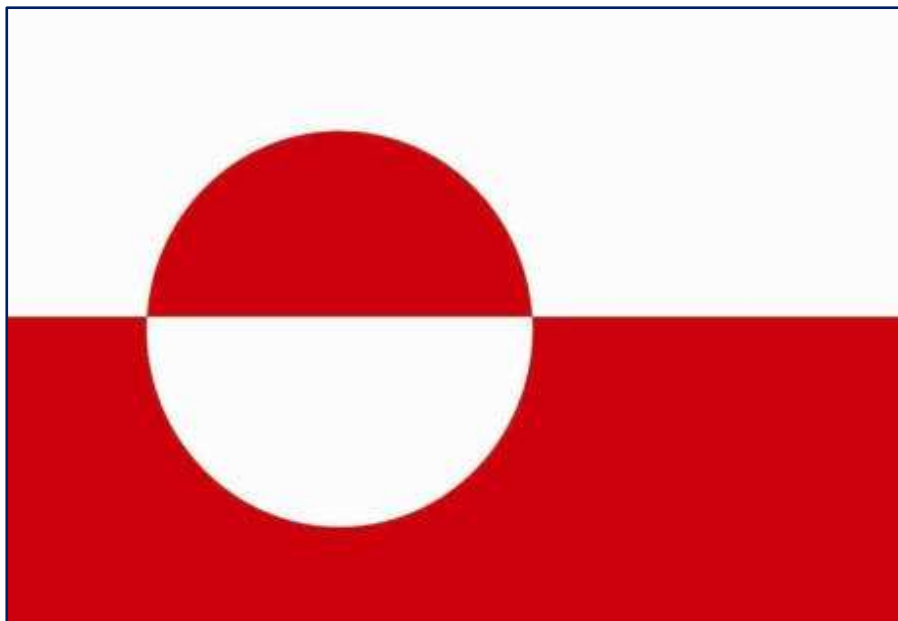
"Departure!" is the motto of these two days, to the "wide world" or the "white world" or to Kangerlussuaq, the "hub" of aviation in West Greenland, and from there on to North Greenland and the Canadian Arctic - "up" to the pack ice and from there southwards again to Kangerlussuaq in West Greenland.

From all points of the compass, though essentially from the south, we arrive at Hannover Airport (not necessarily by plane!). The Maritim Airport Hotel Hannover is there, and those who have a long journey prefer to stay overnight again before boarding the plane to Greenland.

After a leisurely breakfast, we make our way on foot to the check-in (counters 307 to 310) in Terminal C at around 10.30 a.m. At around 12.30 p.m., we start boarding the waiting FINNAIR Airbus 330 (flight AY 7635) at Gate 17. Departure is at 1.30 pm. The flight - 3,563 km = 4 hours 30 minutes - is extremely pleasant; everything is well taken care of.

At 2.05 pm local time, our plane glides into Kangerlussuaq airport (established by the USA in 1941; 25 km from the edge of the ice sheet) in perfect weather. Buses take us to the pier, from where the tenders take us over to the HANSEATIC inspiration. So our arrival is already somehow "expedition-like" at the last part.

### **Tikilluarit, welcome to Greenland!**



After a ten-minute trip along a chain of buoys, we board the HANSEATIC inspiration, our floating home for the next two and a half weeks. After registration and a security check, General Expedition Manager Uwe Mannweiler welcomes us, and of course today is an important day for Hotel Director Tiziana La Rocca and her team. The usual first activities follow: check in, move into the cabins, unpack a little and explore the ship a little.

At 6.30 pm the obligatory drill takes place. We gather at the Observation Lounge and listen attentively to our security officer Björn Jankowski. He explains to us the possible emergencies on board, the essential signal tones and ultimately how abandoning ship would proceed. Let us hope that an emergency never happens! - In addition, we get an introduction to the zodiac operations. We are introduced to Elisabeth Spitzer who is responsible for taking care of the international guests; she is welcoming us warmly and gives us additional information regarding the cruise.



At 7.30 p.m. Captain Ulf Wolter announces himself from the bridge via loudspeaker. He welcomes us and gives us the current weather data: Air temperature 15 °C, it is clear to cloudy, and the wind is blowing from the south-southeast at 3 Beaufort.

At 8.00 p.m. the HANSEATIC inspiration leaves its anchorage in the "farthest corner" of the 185 km long Søndre Strømfjord and sets course for Uummannaq, which equates to a distance of 444 nautical miles. That means tomorrow will be a sea day, and the day after tomorrow the anchor will be dropped off at Uummannaq, and we plan to have a look around the town and its surroundings. In the meantime, we enjoy sailing through the fjord, which is framed on both sides by 1,000 to 1,500 m high mountains - with the sun setting. Every now and then a glacier can be seen, but none reaches down to the fjord.



During the fjord trip we get our first beautiful impressions of the West Greenlandic landscape. The rocks in this area are 2.5 to 3 billion years old. They are gneisses and granites with dark basalt veins.

After dinner, only a few are entertained by our guitarist & singer Alex Mel in the HanseAtrium or by our pianist Davide Lorenzato in the Observation Lounge. Because it has been a long day and we have to struggle a bit with the time difference. So then: Good night!





## Sunday, 06 August 2023 (at sea towards Uummannaq = Umanak / GREENLAND)

Sunrise: 03.59 h		Sunset: 23.26		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
68° 01.8' North		054° 41.8' West		216
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.021	5	4,5	East North East / 4	Fair to cloudy

\* Data at the noon position in each case

It starts beautifully, this first day on board. The sun is shining - a little cautiously - on the part of Greenland we are touring. Today is a sea day, which means we will be sailing north along the coast of West Greenland (on the starboard side) for the entire day.

During the night, something important happened: at around 2 a.m. we left the Søndre Strømfjord and reached the open sea. But the sea is peaceful, so most of us just sleep through the night. Most of us also didn't notice that there was a rumbling in the ship between 4.30 and 5.00 a.m.. At that time we crossed the Arctic Circle again. (Kangerlussuaq airport is already a little north of the Arctic Circle, and in the fjord we crossed it again - this time heading south).

At 10.00 a.m. - after the morning gymnastics "Fit in the Day", breakfast and the "Introduction to the Fitness Area" - the next important appointment is scheduled: the introduction of the tour guide and expedition team in the HanseAtrium. Afterwards we will get some information about life on board.

At 11.00 a.m. a first meeting of the "young explorers" takes place. At the same time, the bridge reports "Seals in sight!". Our biologist Dr Eckart Pott explains the sighting to us: they are migrating harp seals, and this species is a relatively common seal in the waters around Greenland. At the same time, we learn about the fulmar as a typical seabird of these latitudes. The biologist is joined by the captain. He is able to announce that we have now sailed 202 nautical miles since our departure from Kangerlussuaq; we still have 241 nautical miles to go to Uummannaq. We are navigating Davis Strait (30 m deep at our position) and running at a speed of 13 knots. The great weather is explained by the fact that there is an extensive area of high pressure over Greenland.

Between 11.30 and 12.30 we find ourselves on the pool deck = deck 8 to grab warm parkas and rubber boots. The choice is easy: all the parkas are a medium blue; we find out the right size quite quickly with advice and help from the expedition team. For the boots that will help us get ashore dry-footed, the process is similar: we choose a sample pair of suitable size and have that registered. The boots will then be provided in the appropriate compartment in the boot room on deck 3. All in all: comfortable! And now we can look forward calmly to the planned landings in the Arctic.



Most use the time after lunch to rest a little. Between 2pm and 4pm, our experts sit and stand by in the Ocean Academy to explain what is on offer there, answer questions and just chat. Most of those interested take their time, because a table iceberg has appeared near the ship, which of course has to be circled and photographed from all sides. It gives us a foretaste of its mates in front of the entrance of the ice fjord near Ilulissat.

At 2.30 p.m., the single travellers (XX are present) can meet with Guest Relation Manager Brigitta Hoffmann in the Observation Lounge. You just get to know each other and ..... who knows!?

At 4 p.m., doctors meet doctors - again in the Observation Lounge: the medical women and men gather for a casual round of talks around on-board doctor Dr Ortwin Bitzer. They get to know each other and can also exchange professional views.

As the evening approaches, the HanseAtrium is busy again. Separated by language, our expedition leader Heike Fries familiarises us with the AECO (= Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators) rules that apply to us as visitors to the Arctic. Directly afterwards, the first "precap" of the trip takes place: We learn everything important we need to know for our landing tomorrow morning in Uummannaq and tomorrow afternoon on Storøen. Based on the information we have received, we can now make concrete plans for tomorrow.

(On the term "precap": A review of what has been seen and experienced on a past day(s) of travel can be associated with the term "recap". In English, and briefly, it becomes a "REcap". If, on the other hand, one looks ahead to a day or several days of travel, it becomes a "PREcap". That's historically grown expedition cruise jargon.

At 6.30 pm we gather again on the pool deck. The "Captain's Welcome Cocktail" is on the note. In bright sunshine (which also shines on the disco island to starboard!) but cold wind, Captain Ulf Wolter introduces us to the ship's senior officers and also to himself. So now we get to know the other people who are responsible for making sure that "everything runs smoothly" on the ship: Staff Captain, Hotel Manager, Purser / Purser, Ship's Doctor, Housekeeper and Chef.



All in all, we now know quite a few people from the ship's management and the tour guide, whom we will meet again and again over the next two weeks. We are not yet completely familiar

with their names, but we have the feeling that we will be! And it seems that none of the people introduced to us will bite either.

This is followed by a phase of relaxation - in the form of a visit to the restaurant. We discuss our first impressions and our plans for tomorrow further over dinner, of course. And since the cooks have produced delicacies again, everything is a lot of fun.

Outside it is still sunny, and the sea lies around us almost without ripples on the surface. So the rest of the day: looking, looking, looking ..... All in all, it was simply a beautiful, sunny, informative, relaxing Arctic day - and there is only one thing to say in conclusion: Good night!

## Monday, 07 August 2023 (Uummannaq = Umanak / GREENLAND)

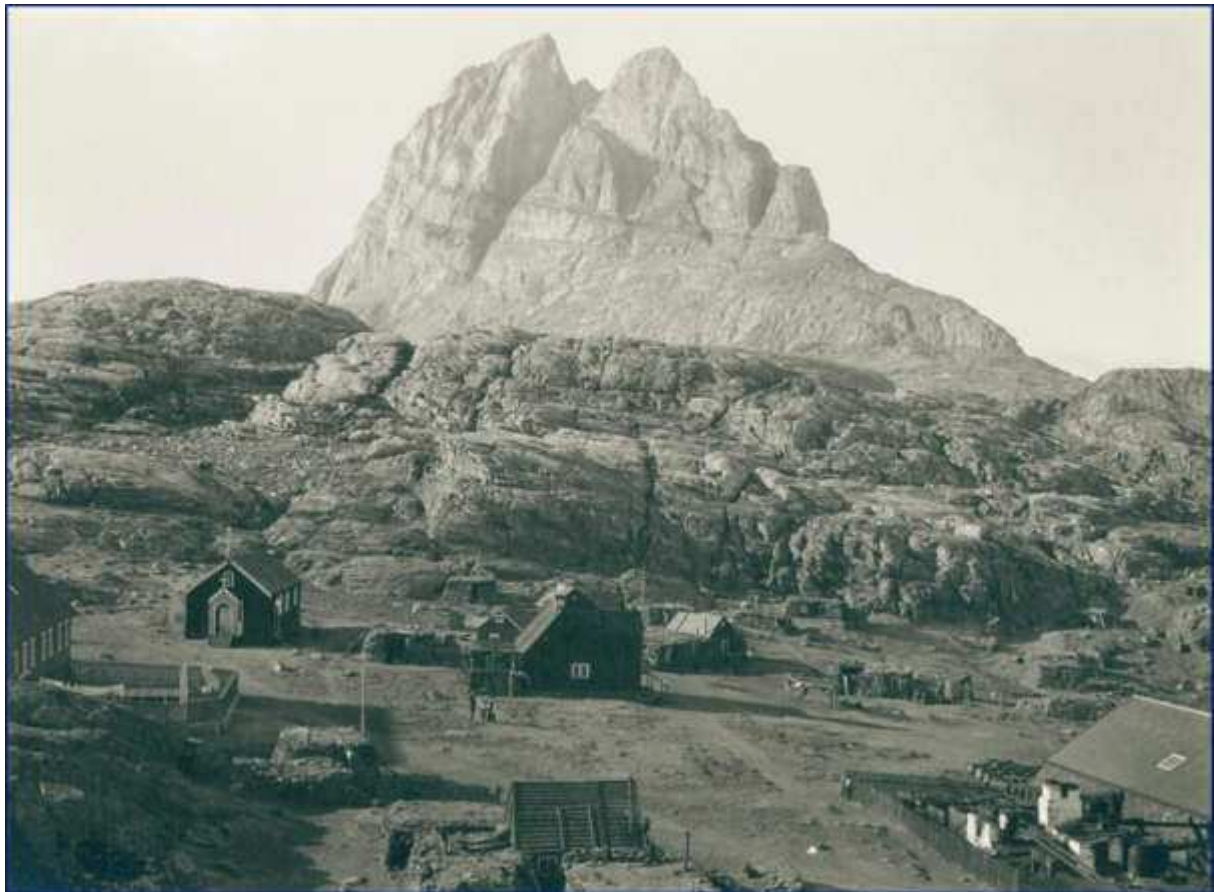
Sunrise: 03.23 h		Sunset: 23.39		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
70° 40.3' North		52° 06.4' West		445
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.020	13	8,5	Southeast / 4	Fair to cloudy

\* Data at the noon position in each case

Today we want to have a look around the settlement of Uummannaq - or Umanak according to the old spelling. The settlement is situated on a 12 km<sup>2</sup> (7 km long, 4 km wide) island in the Uummannaqfjord (approx. 70° 40' North). Behind the village, the striking 1,175 m high mountain of the same name rises unmistakably. Its shape is reminiscent of a seal's heart, which is how Uummannaq got its name. Especially when the sun is low, the mountain glows in various shades of red, and it is not without reason that the settlement with its colourful houses is considered one of the most beautiful not only in West Greenland, but in the whole of Greenland.







*Uummannaq = Umanak around 1900 - Photo: Krabbe*

About 1,300 people currently live in Uummannaq, and another 1,300 in the smaller outlying settlements. Thanks to its location almost 600 km north of the Arctic Circle, the town is spoiled by the midnight sun from mid-May to the end of July. During the winter months, however, there is polar night from the beginning of November to the end of January.

The Seal Heart Cliff was climbed for the first time on 13/14 July 1929 as part of Alfred Wegener's pre-expedition to the main expedition of 1930/1931. (Incidentally, the first ascent of the Matterhorn by Edward Whymper's 7-man rope team took place on the same day in 1865). The names of the first climbers of the Herzfelsen (Heartrock): Johannes Georgi and Ernst Sorge, who both wintered at the "Eismitte" station in 1930 / 1931.

Before its official founding, Uummannaq was a whaling town, as the sea here is rich in narwhals and belugas. Colonisation was accompanied by a focus on seal hunting. Today, fishing is of utmost importance in Uummannaq. Besides Greenland halibut, striped bass, redfish, cod, lumpfish and capelin are also fished on a smaller scale and processed in the local Royal Greenland factory.





More exciting for us is the centre of the village, where we find the fieldstone church built in 1935 (unusual for Greenland - most other churches are made of wood!). Surrounding the Church there are three traditional grass sod houses, which we look at not only from the outside but also from the inside. The small house (No. B-803) was built in 1925 and lived in by an old Greenlander woman until the early 1980s. The large house next to it (nos. B-807A and B-807B) also dates from 1925 and has served as accommodation for two families for many years. The interior is as it was in those days, so we get a good idea of how the Greenlanders used to live. (By the way, you can also spend the night in this house - request e.g. in the museum). The third house (No. B-19) dates from 1949 and was originally used as a potato store; today it belongs to the furniture shop.



And then there is the museum, well worth seeing, in which Alfred Wegener (01 November 1880 - ca. 15 November 1930), one of the most important German polar researchers and patron of the AWI (Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven), is given a lot of space. In the museum's garden, there are still remains of the snowmobiles that Wegener used during his 1930 / 1931 expedition on the inland ice. On the fence is a commemorative plaque that was placed there by the AWI in 2005. The year marks the 125th birthday and 75th death anniversary of Alfred Wegener.

Tourism plays a bigger role in Uummannaq today. Among other things, dog sledding and whale watching are offered to tourists. The surrounding area is also interesting for hiking and climbing tourists.

The first to go ashore by tender are those who, accompanied by members of the expedition team, want to take the 4 km hike to "Santa's House". You will experience the wild landscape of ochre and black tones at the foot of the Heart Rock, where you will walk over hill and dale to a wooden hut in a green valley similar to an alpine pasture. And again and again, grandiose views into the distance!

The hikers are on their way for around 2 ½ hours, after which they can take a look around the town - as far as the remaining time allows. Because at 12.30 p.m. the HANSEATIC inspiration leaves its berth and makes its way over to Storøen, for whatever reason not directly translated as "Big Island" but as "Desert Island". Expedition leader Heike Fries already explained in her preview last night that a very barren landscape awaits us there. But before that, there is a short stop. A fisherman is spotted, and soon a Zodiac is lowered so that our hotel manager Tiziana La Rocca can go shopping. So tonight, the menu in the on-board restaurants will include Greenland halibut from Uummanaq.

Storøen has the shape of a lying club (stem pointing east). It is 20 km long and around 9 km wide at its widest point in the west. In the western part, the island has a glacier cap with a maximum height of 1,418 metres. The secondary peaks have heights of 1,295 m and 1,140 m. The eastern part of Storøen is up to 440 m high.



Offshore to the east is the small island of Akugdleq, which has a maximum elevation of 205 m. We land on a sandy beach to the west of Akugdleq. From there you can take a nice hike through the landscape eastwards up to a hill and down again to see an iceberg graveyard, among other things.

As the name "desert island" suggests, we find little vegetation. There are, however, extensive low stands of dwarf birch. Extensive patches are also covered with crowberry and Greenland porst.



The last Zodiac makes its way back to the ship at 6.30 p.m. and shortly after 7 p.m. the HANSEATIC inspiration sets off. Our next destination is Cape York, which is a distance of 426 nm. On the way there - and in the very first hours: the extensive observation of two humpback whales in search of food and that in front of a spectacularly shaped / weathered iceberg.

## Tuesday, 08 August 2023 (at sea towards Cape York / GREENLAND)

Sunrise: Clock		Sunset: Clock		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
73° 11.8' North		058° 34.3' West		688
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.020	3	4,3	North / 4	Fog

\* Data at the noon position in each case

There is not much to see around the ship this morning; there is fog - sometimes denser, sometimes less dense. It doesn't matter, because we are on our way to Cape York and essentially have to "make distance" anyway.

Today is a sea day, i.e. the day's programme has a variety of points and we are all quiet busy. You could start your activities today on the Ocean Walk. A round in the fresh sea air, that's something! "Tube fit" is the alternative at 9 a.m., "a functional whole-body workout for everyone" under the guidance of fitness coach Karim Regreg.

At 09.00 Captain Ulf Wolter reports from the bridge. We have arrived in Baffin Bay at a latitude of 72° 38' north and are continuing northwards along the Greenland coast at 13.5 knots in 20 nm. Since Storøen we have covered 203 nm, and there are still 223 nm to go before we reach Cape York.

The lecture programme for this trip starts at 10.00 am. Ethnologist Dietman Neitzel starts in German with "Inuit means "people"", while at the same time our "weatherman" Dr. Alexander Hildebrand asks the question "How will it be?".

The two are interrupted briefly every now and then, because there is also a "general drill", a safety exercise for the entire crew, and orders have to be given over the ship's loudspeakers. The various announcements and the entire exercise serve to ensure that every crew member of the HANSEATIC inspiration knows what to do in an emergency - and this is practised regularly.

At 11.30 a.m. the speakers change. Geology expert Dr. Alf Grube will talk about the "Geology of Greenland", while our biologist Dr. Eckart Pott will give a lecture with the topic "Between Timberline and North Pole - Ecology of the Arctic".

Lectures are also on the agenda for the afternoon. At 3.30 p.m. meteorologist Dr Alexander Hildebrand answers the question "What will it be like?" and Dietmar Neitzke explains: "Inuit means "Humans"". Our intellectual efforts naturally require an extended coffee and tea break. At 5 p.m. there will be a precap / recap in the HanseAtrium, and then we could slowly prepare for refreshments in the restaurants. But there is still some time before dinner, and a surprising announcement at 6.30 p.m. comes just in time. The motto from now on is "Door to door with ...?" If you like, just step in front of your chamber door with an empty champagne glass and see who lives on the left or right - and who steps in front of the door. Stewards and stewardesses are busy preventing empty glasses from remaining empty. Otherwise: you meet, you chat, you get to know each other. Great!

After dinner, there is another important appointment at 9.30 pm in the HanseAtrium: Tom Walker, one of the English fellow travellers, introduces us to "The Hayes Expedition 1860 - 1861". Photos have already been taken on this expedition, and seeing these historical treasures is more than exciting. Tom Walker, by the way, is the great-grandson of Samuel McCormick, the captain of the UNITED STATES (ex SPRING HILL, see the historic photo), the ship of the expedition. Of course, the US-American physician and polar explorer Isaac Israel Hayes (1832 - 1881) did not reach the ice-free Arctic Ocean that was in question at the time,



because it did not exist. And thus the North Pole was also "gone", but Hayes at least reached a northern latitude of around 80° North.



*UNITED STATES (ex SPRING HILL)*

### **Wednesday, 09 August 2023 (Cape York and Parker Snow Bay / GREENLAND)**

Sunrise: Clock		Sunset: Clock		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
76° 01.7' North		068° 38.2' West		944
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.018	2	3,3	North / 2	Fog

\* Data at the noon position in each case

As always, our activities in Baffin Bay today depend on the situation at our planned destination and the weather. Our course is aimed at an area east of Cape York, where "normally" many icebergs are stranded, and there we would like to do a Zodiac tour. Wishful thinking! There are just a few larger icebergs around the ship, and we can't go any further and further because there are no depth charts to be found. No captain in the world would sail further here! In addition, there is dense fog over the sea, which is loosely covered by old sea ice.

Some variety is provided by the seabirds we can observe around the ship: fulmar, kittiwake, little oak, thick-billed guillemot and black guillemot.

Although we cannot see land, we can assume that Cape York (Serfarmiut Nuuat in Greenlandic) is on our port side. The cape is located at around 76° north at the southern tip of the long narrow peninsula of Innaanganeq in the district of Qaanaaq in the Avannaata Kommunia. It forms the north-western boundary of Melville Bay.

Melville Bay (greatest water depth: approx. 300 m), in turn, extends to the east of Baffin Bay between Kiatassuup Nuua (Wilcox Head), the western tip of Kiatassuaq Island (Holm Ø), in the south and Cape York in the northwest. Interrupted by headlands and offshore islands, the Greenland ice sheet advances in extensive glaciers to the coast in Melville Bay, some 300 km wide, making it one of the largest sources of icebergs in

Baffin Bay. 19 large glaciers calve, more than a thousand icebergs, here every year, with a total volume of 60 km<sup>3</sup>.

From mid-October to late July, the bay is covered by fast ice, which reaches a maximum thickness of 1.30 to 1.80 metres. In some summers, the ice cover even remains.

The coast of Melville Bay is largely uninhabited. The only coastal towns are Kullorsuaq in the south (which we passed yesterday at a distance) and Savissivik in the north, both on islands of the same name off the coast of Greenland.

Around 09:00 it is clear that we will "get nowhere" in the prevailing fog. So - Plan B - we will continue slowly northwest and invest the time saved in our stay at Parker Snow Bay this afternoon. That's it!

Cape York - we suspect it more than we see it - was visited on 16 August 1818 by Sir John Ross as the first white man and named after Frederick Augustus, Duke of York and Albany on the occasion of his birthday. John Ross is also the first white man to come in contact with the Inughuit, the polar eskimos.

Apart from that, the well-known US polar explorer Robert Edwin Peary (1856 - 1920) also has been active in this area. He claimed to have been the first to reach the North Pole. Unfortunately, Peary was rather sloppy in documenting his advance, and today no one actually believes that his information is correct. Nevertheless, about 3 km northwest of Cape York in 1932, during the Peary Memorial Expedition, Robert A. Bartlett and Peary's daughter Marie Peary Stafford erected an obelisk about 20 m high, normally visible from afar, the Robert Peary Monument. Unfortunately, it remains hidden from our view due to the prevailing fog.

Before we continue, our meteorologist Dr Alexander Hildbrand explains the current weather situation to us: Cold air from the inland ice is flowing towards the relatively warm sea. Fog is forming and the prevailing wind speed of 4 Bft is not enough to dispel it.

Meanwhile, the tour guide discusses an alternative morning programme. The result: at 9.30 a.m. you can exercise with fitness coach Karim Regreg. Those who prefer intellectual food will find themselves in the HanseAtrium at 10.00 am. Geographer Elisabeth Spitzer will give a talk on "The Greenland Ice Sheet - From Snowflake to Iceberg". The "young explorers" will also meet at 10.00 a.m. in the Ocean Academy for an exciting quiz. And at 11.00 a.m. Elisabeth Spitzer will repeat her lecture in English. At around 1.30 p.m. the HANSEATIC inspiration reaches its anchoring position off Parker Snow Bay. Since Cape York we have sailed about 42 nm west along the Crimson Cliffs (to starboard).

Parker Snow Bay lies - like Cape York - at around 76° North. It is named after William Parker Snow (1817 - 1895), an English sailor, polar explorer and writer who was also involved in the search for the lost expedition under Sir John Franklin (mid-19th century).



*William Parker Snow (1817 - 1895) – 1867*



*Parker Snow Bay – 1903*





At 14.00 hrs we start our landing in Parker Snow Bay - near an abandoned and further decaying hut. From there, soon our guests stretches out into the wide landscape. Keep to the foot of the slope on the left side of the valley to hike towards the glacier. On the way, you first notice a more or less black appearing gravel surface. There is nothing banned there, but the stones are densely overgrown with umbilicaria lichens. Still in the further area of the hut, some bones are lying around. In most cases they belong to the walrus.

Further inland, the gravel surface changes into a plain partly covered with lush vegetation. We are not surprised to find the remains / metabolic waste products of musk reindeer / caribou and geese (snow geese) here. This is a great area for herbivores to feed.

All this in bright sunshine, and we are grateful that the fog does not affect us here inside the bay as well. Outside over the sea we see the dense bank lying.

The last Zodiac departs from the landing site back to the ship at 18.30. Where great things happen: In the marina area at the stern of the ship, "ice bathing" is offered. In the end, 47 passengers have climbed into the cold waters.

At 7.45 p.m. the HANSEATIC inspiration weighs anchor. The course continues in a north-westerly direction. The plan is to spend tomorrow in the drift ice in southern Smith Sound. Ice means there is a chance of sighting polar bears. Let's keep all available fingers crossed!

And of course the day doesn't end without the 10 p.m. hole iceberg floating past the ship. - Thank you!



## Thursday, 10 August 2023 (Smith Sound, Thule / Dundas / GREENLAND)

Sunrise: Clock		Sunset: Clock		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
76° 48.3' North		071° 02.4' West		1.094
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.010	2,5	3,5	Southwest / 3	Fog

Around 7 a.m. the ship begins to rumble violently. The HANSEATIC inspiration is also moved sideways from time to time. In addition, someone is more or less constantly scratching at the ship's side from outside - sometimes more, sometimes less violently. In other words: We have reached the edge zone of the ice field that lies up here, as we know from the current ice maps.

Otherwise, visibility is quite limited by the fog, even if the sky is overcast. At 08:00, the air temperature is 0 °C, the water 2 °C. It would be good for us now if there was some wind that could push the fog away. But at the moment the wind is only 3 Bft from the north. "3 Bft" translates as "weak breeze". So we can't hope for too much pushing effect. The sun, if it rises even higher, may help to burn away the fog. At any rate, the weather at 9 a.m. is unfortunately unfavourable for polar bear sightings.



Moreover, the ice cover is more suitable for bears than for us sailors. Thick, extensive floes soon prevail, which the HANSEATIC inspiration can barely navigate through. At some point the ship is forced to stop. But that's the way it is up here in the Arctic: ice charts help, but ultimately you have to see on the spot what is possible and what is not.

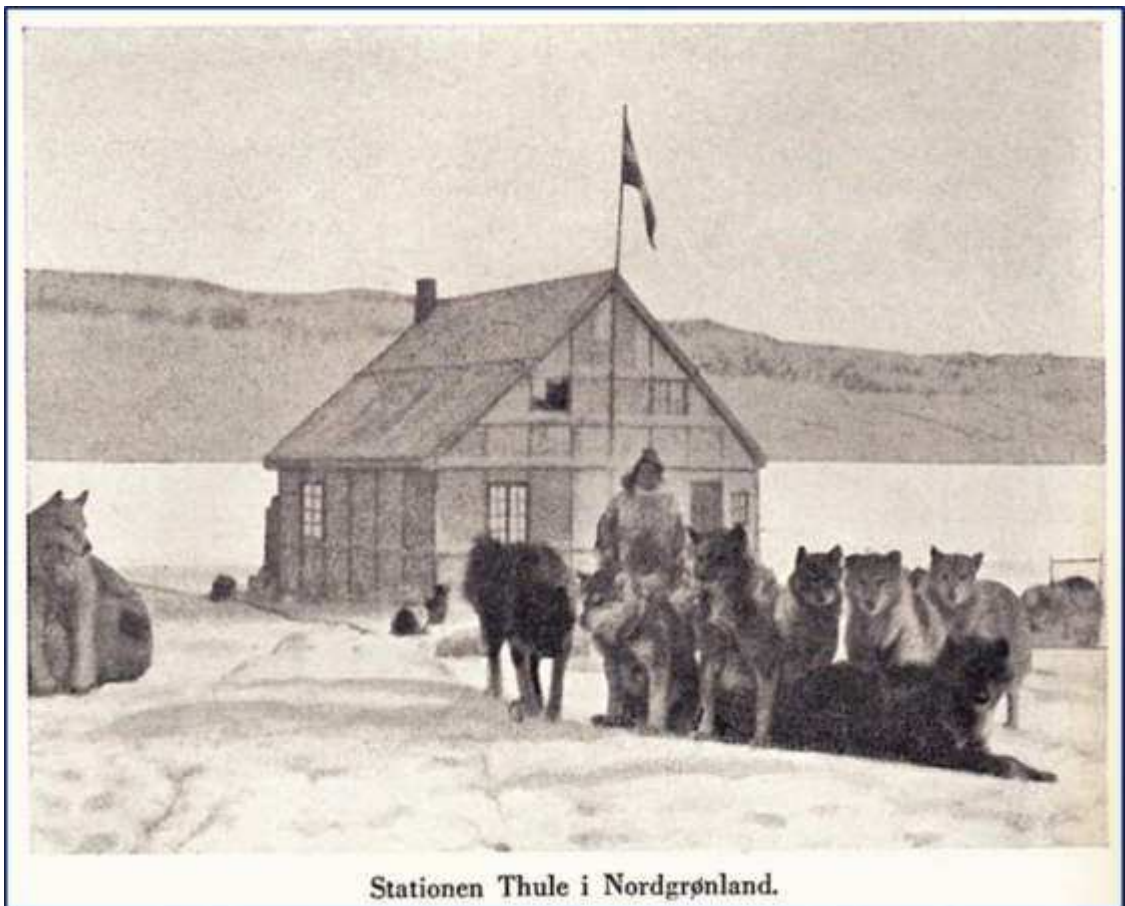
We cannot penetrate far into the drift ice, so we continue along the ice edge to the north-west, and the bridge and expedition leaders begin to think about a possible plan B. This soon becomes clear, and a precap in German is scheduled for 10.30 am. Captain Ulf Wolter explains the ice situation again on the basis of the ice charts. Then EL Heike Fries explains that we are on our way to "Old Thule" = Thule / Dundas. We want to land there this afternoon. And the destinations for tomorrow are Qaanaaq = Thule / Qaanaaq and Siorapaluk. The analogue event in English follows at 11.30 am.

Our approach first runs from Nares Strait into Bylot Sound. To the south lies Wolstenholme Ø, to the north Saunders Ø. While entering the North Star Bugt, we see Pituffik Space Base = Thule Air Base to starboard, which was completed in 1953. Our landing site, however, is close to Thule Trading Station, which was founded in 1910. Around 3.00 p.m. the mountain hikers are the first to go ashore. Led by our ethnology expert Dietmar Neitzke, a group of around 20 sets off to climb the striking Dundas Fjeld, 220 m above sea level.

The trading station Thule was operated by the Danish-Greenlandic polar explorer Knud Rasmussen (1879 - 1933) and his friend Peter Freuchen (1886 - 1957), from 1910 to 1933 (see the historical photos from the period between 1910 and 1915). The former is commemorated by a large memorial stone (from 1935 / 25th anniversary of Thule Station!), which we head for from the beach as the first destination on our hiking trail. The circular walk is about 6 km long and includes, among many other impressions, the



sighting of Arctic hares. (Our biologist Dr Eckart Pott even spots a white gerfalcon!) And plant lovers will get payed of as well, as extensive areas are overgrown with Arctic wildflower, which is in full purple-violet bloom.





Full of new impressions of North Greenland, we climb into the Zodiacs back to the ship. At 7.00 p.m. everyone is back on board and at 7.30 p.m. the HANSEATIC inspiration sets sail. We head northwest towards the two destinations for tomorrow, Thule / Qaanaaq and Siorapaluk.

## Friday, 11 August 2023 (Thule / Qaanaaq and Siorapaluk / GREENLAND)

Sunrise: Clock		Sunset: Clock		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
77° 27.4' North		069° 14.7' West		1.235
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.016	3	4	Northwest / 3	covers

\* Data at the noon position in each case

It is grey, this new North Greenland morning. The sky is overcast and isolated ice floes drift on the sea as the HANSEATIC inspiration approaches the destination for the landing, Thule / Qaanaaq, through the Hvalsund. The town is located on the southwest coast of the Piulip Nunaa Peninsula at the point where the Kangerlussuaq (Inglefield Bredning) becomes the Ikersuaq (Hvalsund) through the junction of Murchison Sound. The nearest inhabited place is Siorapaluk, 49 km to the northwest, which we plan to visit this afternoon. With a latitude of 77° 29' 0" North, Qaanaaq is considered the northernmost town in the world. It was founded in 1953, when the inhabitants of the village of Uummannaq had to make way for the newly built Thule Air Base (Pituffik) there. Most of the inhabitants have been forcibly relocated to Qaanaaq.



Knud Rasmussen took up the old name "Thule" when he founded a missionary and trading station in North Greenland in 1910, which had not yet been colonised. When the Inughuit resettled in 1953, Thule was adopted as the Danish name for the newly founded Qaanaaq. When one speaks of "Thule" today, one should therefore say whether one means the old Thule = Thule / Dundas or Thule / Qaanaaq.

Qaanaaq today has just over 600 inhabitants. The main occupation is hunting; fishing is to be strengthened in the future. Around Qaanaaq live walrus, various other seals, narwhals, reindeer and several bird species. Most of the town's inhabitants, however, are employed in trade, handicrafts and administration. In addition, tourism plays a larger role in Qaanaaq.

Since 2001 Qaanaaq has had an airport through which the town is connected to Greenlandic air traffic. Transport in the surrounding area is by boat in summer and by dog sledge and snowmobile and dog sled in winter.





The church in Qaanaaq was built in 1954. The town also received a hospital, a school, a power station and a waterworks in 1954. In the 1960s, a children's nursing home, a home for the elderly and a youth centre were also established. There has been an assembly building since 1953, which was also used as a cinema. In the school, the Avanersuup Atuarfia, about 120 pupils are taught in grades 1 to 10. The school also includes a library and a school dormitory. There is, of course, a supermarket in town, and for tourists there is a small hotel, a restaurant and the Qaanaaq Museum. The museum is dedicated to the history of the far north of Greenland, as well as to the expeditions of Knud Rasmussen (1879 - 1933). These so-called Thule expeditions are directly related to his trading station, which we visited yesterday afternoon.

The state-owned utility company Nukissiorfiit is responsible for the supply of electricity, water and heat in Qaanaaq. Electricity is generated by a diesel-fuelled power plant. Water is supplied by surface water in summer and by melting ice in winter.

Getting to know Qaanaaq and its inhabitants is the plan for this morning. The community centre, the church, the museum and the Women Club wait to be visited. In addition, the sports hall (keyword: Arctic Games) is open. There are activities and things to see everywhere. And finally, you can wander out to the cemetery and see if you can find the house name "Peary" on one of the grave crosses.

At 12.00 noon we are all back on board, the ship starts moving through Murchison Sound and Robertson Fjord towards Siorapaluk. We have a distance of 35 nm in front of the bow. We can't quite keep up the planned speed, because we have to cross or sail around some fields with loose drift ice. Nevertheless, we reach our goal around 3 p.m.; the HANSEATIC inspiration anchors off Siorapaluk.

***Before Siorapaluk we  
Reached the northernmost position of our journey  
- on Friday, 11 August 2023 at 3.33 pm:***

***77° 34.7905' North / 070° 38.7 West***

Siorapaluk is a Greenlandic settlement in the district of Qaanaaq in the Avannaata Kommunia. The village is situated on the south coast of a glaciated peninsula on the north shore of Siorapaluup Kangerlua (Robertson Fjord). The nearest town is the district capital Qaanaaq 49 km further southeast. Siorapaluk is considered the northernmost natural settlement in the world inhabited today. The coordinates: 77° 47' 10" North / 70° 38' 13" West, i.e. it is still about 1,400 km to the North Pole.

The village is mainly inhabited by the descendants of Canadian Inuit who came to North Greenland via Smith Sound around 1880. On 01 January 2023, the settlement had 41 inhabitants. They live mainly from hunting little oaks, thick-billed guillemot Arctic foxes, Arctic hares, seals, walruses and polar bears. Other employment opportunities are provided by handicrafts, the school, the shop, administration and tourism, which is mainly based on the presentation of Inuit culture with drum dancing, choral singing and kayaking, and dog sledding tours.



Around 3.00, 3.30 p.m. we go ashore there. Overall, the sea is ice-free and navigable from about July to September. Once a year, the place is visited by a supply ship, but today Air Greenland provides helicopter flights all year round via the Siorapaluk heliport. The rest of the transport to and from Qaanaaq is by boat, dog sled or snowmobile.







The village has a school, which also covers the chapel and a small library. A Pilersuisoq branch is responsible for supplying goods to the population. There is also a village office, a dispensary and a service building, as well as an assembly building in Siorapaluk. Nukissiorfiit provides electricity through a power plant, but there is no regulated drinking water supply. The residents obtain water from the river that divides the village or from snowmelt in winter. TELE Greenland ensures the telecommunication connection of the residents.

At around 6.30 p.m. the HANSEATIC inspiration is ready to set off for new destinations. The next destination is Pond Inlet on the Canadian side of Baffin Bay / Davis Strait, more precisely: on the coast of northern Baffin Island. In the beginning, the bridge has to work piano and concentrated, because of course we have to go back through the ice fields we crossed on the way there. There is no alternative route to Robertson Fjord - Murchison Sund - Hvalsund. The nautical chart for up here shows many and large white areas where the seabed has never been surveyed. So: follow the depth contours and then gain the open Baffin Bay and Davis Strait.

Cinema is still on for 9.30 pm in the HanseAtrium. The programme is "Dr. Knud Rasmussen's Greenland film "Palo's Bridal Journey"". - introduced and - where necessary - commented by ethnology expert Dietmar Neitzke. The story told in 80 minutes of film: the two sealers Palo and Samo court the hand of the beautiful Navarana, who feels flattered by their advances. When Samo tries to attack Palo with a spear after an argument, it is decided that the two suitors should have a singing contest. The winner gets to ask for Navarana's hand in marriage. So it happens that the two rivals duel in a drum dance with singing in front of the villagers. In the competition, Samo stabs his opponent when he is in danger of losing. Palo is then nursed back to health by a shaman. After recovering, Palo sets off in his kayak on an adventurous journey to his beloved.

However, the initiator of the film, the Danish-Greenlandic polar explorer Knud Rasmussen (1879 - 1933), was not really interested in this "love story". Rather, he had in mind a documentary film about a culture that was disappearing at the time. And so in 2023 we see scenes that were still possible to film in 1933 and are now history.



## Saturday, 12 August 2023 (at sea towards Pond Inlet, Baffin Island, Nunavut / CANADA)

Sunrise: Clock		Sunset: Clock		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
74° 49.9' North		073° 50.3' West		1.481
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.016	6	5,6	East / 4	Fog

\* Data at the noon position in each case

This morning, too, a light to medium grey is the predominant colour of the sky above the HANSEATIC inspiration. We don't want to let that bother us, because we are at sea all day anyway.

And where to? - We need to get to Pond Inlet in northern Baffin Island to clear in for Canada. So we have to cross Davis Strait / Baffin Bay diagonally.

At 9 a.m., captain Ulf Wolter gives us some information about the course of our journey: The ice is behind us, but unfortunately so is the midnight sun. The course is SSW. We are sailing at 10 knots and have 195 nm to go before we reach Pond Inlet. Tomorrow at 9.30 a.m. we want to arrive there. And the best for the end: We stay on our ship's time and do not change our watches to the local time in Canada.

So let's devote ourselves to the activities named in the day's programme! The most important are again the lectures. At 10.00 a.m., two topics are on the agenda: "Between the timberline and the North Pole - the ecology of the Arctic" by and with biology expert Dr Eckart Pott and "Geology of Greenland" by and with Dr Alf Grube. The programme continues at 11.30 a.m. with "The Climate of the Arctic" (speaker: Dr Alexander Hildebrand) and "Igloo, Kayak, Dog Sledge - Inuit Survival Techniques" (speaker: ethnology expert Dietmar Neitzel).

In the afternoon, the lecture programme continues with the two morning topics, each in the other language: "Climate of the Arctic" and "Igloo, Kayak, Dog Sled - Survival Techniques of the Inuit".

If you like, you can of course keep yourself busy all day long at the Sport Club. You can do this independently, but also under the guidance of fitness coach Karim Regreg.

At 6.15 p.m., before dinner at 7 p.m., there will again be a precap / recap. EL Heike Fries gives an outlook on the activities planned for tomorrow. And some of the experts will look back a little. Their topics are: Seabirds we observed, sled dogs, soils in the Arctic affected by frost and the CITES regulations or the regulations to be observed when importing certain souvenirs offered in the Arctic into the EU.

The peaceful day at sea comes to an end in the various restaurants. Some still listen to our musicians for a nightcap.

## Sunday, 13 August 2023 (Pond Inlet , Baffin Island, Nunavut / CANADA)

Sunrise: Clock		Sunset: Clock		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
72° 42.0' North		077° 59.8' West		1,645
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.011	8	4,7	windstill	cloudy

\* Data at the noon position in each case

The night behind us passed peacefully. At around 6.30 a.m., however, there was a strong rumbling through the ship; we entered the 12-nautical-mile zone along the coast of Canada, so we crossed the border of Canada, so to speak. At around 08:00 we have Bylot Island to starboard and the north of Baffin Island to port. Otherwise, the sky is arctic grey.

**Welcome to Canada!**





**And to elaborate: Welcome to Nunavut!**



We went to the north coast of Baffin Island because we have to clear in for Canada. And this officially happens from 9.30 a.m. on the roadstead in front of the Inuit



settlement of Pond Inlet. As soon as the anchor is dropped, Staff Captain Alexander Rabe-Bär sets off with the Zodiac to bring the authorities on board. Pond Inlet (Territory of Nunavut) is located on the east coast of Eclipse Sound and on the Pond Inlet estuary. Today, about 1,600 people live in the settlement; 93 % of them are Inuit.



When the settlement was built in the first half of the 20th century, it was given the same name as the inlet: Pond Inlet. The Inuit call the place Mittimatalik, "Mittima's place". Who Mittima is or was is unknown.



Pond Inlet is one of the most beautifully situated settlements in the Canadian Arctic. Surrounded by the iceberg-bearing waters of Eclipse Sound and the Inlet, where belugas, narwhals and sometimes bowhead whales cavort, the landscape is dominated by the cliffs and glaciers of Bylot Island, part of Sirmilik National Park, rising from the sea 25 km away.

While our Chief Purser Magdalena Rieger and the authorities deal with the paperwork (including scanning each passport), an interesting lecture programme is running. The topics (and speakers) at 10.00 a.m.: "What does frost do to the soil of the Arctic?" (Dr. Alf Grube), "Between Baffin Bay and Beaufort Sea: the Canadian Arctic" (Dr. Eckart Pott). At 11.30 a.m. it's: "It won't work without women" (Dietmar Neitzke) and "Ice, glow and flood: climate change once and now" (Dr Alexander Hildebrand).

Shortly after 2.00 p.m. the clearance procedure is over, the authorities are brought ashore and the HANSEATIC inspiration weighs anchor. We are now heading east towards Eric Harbour, as Captain Ulf Wolter announces over the ship's loudspeakers. There are 47 nautical miles to go. A beautiful trip, an expedition afternoon in the best weather awaits us.

Apart from watching, you can also do some sport. Fitness coach Karim Regreg offers "Core Training" at 4.30 pm and "Reling fit" at 5.30 pm.

There will be a precap at 6.30 pm. Captain Ulf Wolter explains the ice situation and what weather is to be expected in the next few days, and what consequences are to be drawn from this. Overall, the wind will increase to 7 to 8 Bft and wave heights of 3 to 4 m will be measured. These are all unpleasant figures, because some activity in the planned form is forbidden. Means: The route will be rescheduled again. We hope to go ashore in Eric Harbour tomorrow morning as planned. Then we will move to Admiralty Inlet. There we are reasonably protected and can weather the strong wind and storm.

At 20.00 hrs the anchor drops in Erik Harbour - or as the units say: Kangiqlugaapik. Rooster at rest, we stay here overnight. And what a great place it is! Great coastal stretches with textbook debris cones, a great glacier, a great glacial river, a great tundra with a great troop of snow geese. We're dying to go ashore tomorrow morning on the coastline spread out in front of us.



It only remains to record that there will be a piano concert at 9.45 pm in the HanseAtrium. Our pianist Davide Lorenzato takes us on a musical journey through opera evergreens, with beautiful melodies by Handel, Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Bizet and other composers. "The magic of opera" captures us and continues to work its magic into the night.

**See you tomorrow then!**

### **Monday, 14 August 2023 (Erik Harbour, Baffin Island, and Admiralty Inlet, Nunavut / CANADA)**

Sunrise: 03.00 h		Sunset: 23.11		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
72° 30.0' North		076° 04.4' West		1.692
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.012	5	1,4	East / 2	Rain

\* Data at the noon position in each case

What is there to report "animal-wise"? We observed red-throated divers, Canada cranes, snow goose, Canada goose and rock ptarmigan, the latter, however, only in the form of its leftovers / metabolic end products lying around in the tundra.





At 12.00 noon everyone is back on board and the anchor is hoisted. We sail around Bylot Island "on the outside", i.e. along the east coast, then the north coast. The route continues along the coast of the Borden Peninsula of Baffin Island, and then we "turn left" and enter Admiralty Inlet.



Admiralty Inlet was first mapped during the second Arctic expedition (1819 - 1820) by Sir William Edward Parry (1790 - 1855) with the two ships HMS HECLA and HMS GRIPER. Parry subsequently undertook further expeditions in the area of the Canadian Archipelago: 1821 - 1823 with the ships HMS HECLA and HMS FURY and 1825 - 1826 with HMS Fury. In 1827, Parry attempted to reach the North Pole from Svalbard. However, he only got as far as 82° 45' north latitude (27 July 1827).

What is there to report "animal-wise"? We observe red-throated divers, Canada cranes, snow goose, Canada goose and rock ptarmigan, the latter, however, only in the form of its leftovers / metabolic waste products lying around in the tundra. At 12.00 noon everyone is back on board and the anchor is hoisted. We sail around Bylot Island "on the outside", i.e. along the east coast, then the north coast - and reach Lancaster Sound. The route continues west along the coast of the Borden Peninsula of Baffin Island, and then we "turn left" and enter Admiralty Inlet. Admiralty Inlet was first mapped during the second Arctic expedition (1819 - 1820) by William Edward Parry (1790 - 1855) with the two ships HMS HECLA and HMS GRIPER. Parry subsequently undertook further expeditions in the area of the Canadian Archipelago: 1821 - 1823 with the ships HMS HECLA and HMS FURY and 1825 - 1826 with HMS Fury. In 1827, Parry attempted to reach the North Pole from Svalbard. However, he only got as far as 82° 45' north latitude (27 July 1827). The afternoon is marked by a leisurely nap for most. After tea or coffee, those who like can listen to a speaker and pursue "lifelong learning". Dr Eckart Pott introduces us to the country "Between Baffin Bay and Beaufort Sea", the Canadian Arctic. Dr Alf Grube will lecture simultaneously in English; his title question: "What does frost do to the Soil of the Arctic?"

A precap / recap follows at 6.15 pm. We look ahead to the day after tomorrow and the landing planned for Dundas Harbour on the south coast of Devon Island. And the recap topics are of course the lichens and the glacier-and-moraine area we explored this morning.

After dinner, those who like can have a cocktail mixed in the HanseAtrium. This time it is the officers and the young explorers who show - have to show - their skills.

## **Tuesday, 15 August 2023 (Adam Sound and Arctic Bay, Admiralty Inlet, Nunavut / CANADA)**

Sunrise: 23.36		Sunset: 21.33		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
72° 49.0' North		084° 17.1' West		1.964
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.003	9	1	Southeast / 7	overcast, rain

\* Data at the noon position in each case

A landing is planned for this morning in the middle of the wilderness of Adam Sound, which branches off from Admiralty Inlet to the southeast. Unfortunately, the weather does not look good. When it is still dark outside, the anemometer on the bridge shows 45 knots of wind, that is 9 Bft = storm. Correspondingly many and large whitecaps dance over the surface of the sea around the ship.

At 08.00 Captain Ulf Wolter confirms the weather data by announcement. We will proceed a little piano this morning, because there is actually a positive trend in the weather. Let's have a leisurely breakfast and wait a little longer.

Nevertheless, at 8.30 a.m. the scout boat with Staff Captain Alexander Rabe-Bär, EL Heike Fries and two bear guards set off, with everyone on board getting pretty soaked. But a landing site is found and the operation can begin!

From the beach, the slope in front of us rises, on the left runs a "meadow stream", on the right the terrain goes up to a hill or mountain. As we walk towards the plateau of the hill in front of us, we look at all kinds of plants on the lush ground: various



louseworts, alpine sorrel, various saxifrage species, alpine knotweed, silverroot, various willow species, etc., etc.. So we have a decidedly lush tundra under our boots.



Fortunately, the majority of us didn't miss the opportunity to "go out". Of course the crossing is wet, of course it is raining, of course a stormy wind is whistling around our noses, but it is warm, we are not made of sugar, and we are here to experience the Arctic. What a first landing morning!

At 12.00 noon we are underway again. The HANSEATIC inspiration has 14 nm to sail to Arctic Bay. The anchor drops there at around 2.15 pm.

Arctic Bay is located directly on Admiralty Inlet on the Borden Peninsula in the north of Baffin Island (Territory of Nunavut, Qikiqtaaluk Region). The coordinates: 73° 2' North / 85° 9' West. Today, the settlement has just under 900 inhabitants. Of these, 91 % are Inuit. The Inuktitut name is Ikpiarjuk (more rarely Tununirusiq), which means "pocket", referring to the small sea inlet where Arctic Bay is located.





To get there, you can - like us - come by boat. But you can also get there by plane. There are regular connections by First Air Ltd. to Resolute on Cornwallis Island and Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, about 1,200 km away in the south of Baffin Island.

Incidentally, a 21 km long road leads from Arctic Bay into the hinterland. The road runs past Nanisivik Airport to the village of Nanisivik, a mining settlement that was built in the early 1970s and was probably finally abandoned in 2006. (A new airfield close to the settlement is under construction).

What do the people of Arctic Bay do for a living? Only a few still live from hunting today. At the moment it is the season for narwhals and white whales or belugas. Otherwise, seals and caribou play a role as hunting prey and of course various bird species. There are jobs in the administration of the municipality, district and territory. Then, of course, there is a need for services in such a remote settlement as Arctic Bay - in the shops, the health centre and, last but not least, in tourism (hotel business, outfitting, guiding). For us, a visit to Arctic Bay is scheduled from 15:00. It is still very, very windy, but the crossing with the Zodiacs goes well, even if not completely dry. We take a look around the settlement. The main focus is the Community Hall = Sea Hall, where we have an appointment for 16.00 hrs: At short notice, the residents of Arctic Bay have put together a small "show" for us, which again includes "arctic games", but also, for example, some of the typical throat songs. We also look into the two supermarkets and search for souvenirs. There is also a small museum-like house where we find a small exhibition and a few souvenirs. Again and again we come across examples of the syllabic writing common in the Canadian Arctic. And by the way, our vet, Dr Matyas Tatar, treats a young dog that had pulled a fishing hook through its nose.



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From the landing site (last Zodiac: 5.30 p.m.) we say goodbye to King George V Mountain, 564 m high, in the south-east of the settlement. We learn that in winter people sometimes drive up there by skidoo. What an idea!?

Two more appointments will take place later in the evening. At 6.15 p.m. there will be another recap, and after dinner General Expedition Manager Uwe Mannweiler and three of the polar bear guards will sit down on the stage in the HanseAtrium for a round of talks.



Around 10.30 p.m. the talk comes to an end and the masters head more or less straight for the horizontal. It has been suggested that tomorrow at the crack of dawn there might be a chance to spot one or more polar bears.

### Wednesday, 16 August 2023 (Dundas Harbour and Croker Bay, Devon Island, Nunavut / CANADA)

Sunrise: 02.41 h		Sunset: 23.27		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
° ' North		° ' West		0
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.010	9	3	South-Southeast / 3	cloudy

\* Data at the noon position in each case

At around 05.00 it gets rumbling and scratchy in the ship. Apparently there is still some of the ice off the south coast of Devon Island, which has caused the ship's command to change our entire itinerary. At this time of year, the ice situation can change quite quickly. We have already heard this in Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay. (To get to Devon Island, we crossed Lancaster Sound tonight).



However, the HANSEATIC inspiration is sticking its nose into Croker Bay for the time being. Maybe there is a chance of finding at least one polar bear there. Colleagues on other ships who have been there in recent days have reported seeing several bears in the bay.

At 07.30 we leave Croker Bay and head east to the next bay that stretches north along the coast. This is Dundas Harbour and there we want to go ashore and have a look at the abandoned RCMP / HBC post.



But before we "turn left", we first have to get a glimpse of a polar bear and then another. At first the animals are not much more than moving little snowfields. The only thing suspicious is the slightly ivory or yellowish tone of the snow fields. So the bow is pointed towards the coast and the navigators stalk closer very carefully. In the end we have a great observation. And - to say it right away. Later in the day, we spot two more individual polar bears and then a female with a cub.

Devon Island is the second largest of the Queen Elizabeth Islands. Like most of the Canadian archipelago, it belongs to the territory of Nunavut. The island is separated from Baffin Island in the south by Lancaster Sound, which is about 70 km wide here, and from Ellesmere Island in the north by Jones Sound. It borders Baffin Bay to the east and Wellington Channel and Penny Strait to the west. With an area of 55,247 km<sup>2</sup>, it is the largest uninhabited island on earth.

The majority of the island is made up of a plain at an altitude of 300 to 500 metres. The average annual temperature there is -16 °C. As a result, permafrost soil predominates. The land has a high polar tundra vegetation of mosses and lichens. In addition to lemmings, musk oxen can also be seen there all year round.

There are several mountain ranges on the island, including the Treuter Mountains, the Haddington Range and the Cunningham Mountains. The eastern third of the island is covered by an ice cap of about 14,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the Devon Ice Cap, which is about 500 to about 800 m thick. This is also where the island's highest point of 1,920 m is located.

The settlement history of Devon Island began around 2,500 BC. As far as the history of discovery is concerned, the west coast of the island was discovered in 1616 by William Baffin, who may also have landed there.

From 1924 to 1933 and from 1945 to 1951, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police operated an outpost at Dundas Harbour. From 1934 to 1936, it was used by the Hudson's Bay Company. And this is exactly the place we want to visit.

At 08.00 we are moored in front of the landing site in Dundas Harbour. From there we hike up a hill from which we get a good overview of the small ensemble of six houses (one RCMP building, one HBC building, two warehouses and two outhouses) and the cemetery that make up the police / trading post. To the right is Johnson Bay, where some drift ice can still be seen.



*For example, two of the buildings in Dundas Harbour until just a few years ago (2018) have stood. The one on the right lies on the roof today "blown away by the wind".*

At 12.30 pm we continue our journey. We have 255 nm to go to Icy Arm on the east coast of Baffin Island. But a new plan is already in place because the conditions are just what they are: The ice has risen well in the past week, the weather is fine, no other ship claims the space for itself, and the navigators have sharpened their pencils once more and calculated. In concrete terms, this means that we want to go back to Croker Bay and do a Zodiac tour there.

The detour is worthwhile if only because we spot a swimming polar bear near the ship. We see another bear - probably already known to us - on the coast.



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After lunch, the HANSEATIC inspiration enters Croker Bay. This is not only a beautiful bay, at the "end" lies what the expedition team calls the "Zipfelmüt-zen Glacier", the added destination for this afternoon. Glaciers often have a number of parallel crevasses in the area of the tongue. Often there are two crevasse systems that intersect at right angles. The crevasses thus create tower-like formations that later break off ("calve") at the glacier front and create tower-shaped icebergs. If such ice towers gradually lose their edges due to melting, rounded shapes come into being, creating "pointed cap-like" formations.



Along the impressive front of the glacier we do zodiactours for about an hour - and enjoy every minute. Around 6 pm we are all back on board and the ship starts moving quickly - roughly in a southeasterly direction.

Another recap / precap is on the agenda for 6.30 pm. Tomorrow and the day after we will explore some areas on the east coast of Baffin Island: Icy Arm in Buchan Gulf and Sam Ford Fjord.

The finale of this fantastic Arctic polar bear glacier day\* is a concert by the "HANSEATIC inspiration CREW BAND". It's amazing what musical talent can be found among the crew members. The HanseAtrium is shaking!

\* In total we sighted 6 polar bears today - or 5 ½, because in the last case we had a female bear with a cub in our binoculars.



**Thursday, 17 August 2023 (Icy Arm, Buchan Gulf, Baffin Is-land, Nunavut / CANADA)**

Sunrise: 03.44 h		Sunset: 22.11 h		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
70° 35.8' North		71° 34.2' West		2.594
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.011	6	2	Northeast / 4	Fair to cloudy

\* Data at the noon position in each case



The sun is shining on the coast of Baffin Island today. How well the new Arctic day is starting! Captain Ulf Wolter in his 09:00 announcement: We are sailing southeast at 16 knots at a distance of 10 nm along the east coast of Baffin Island. There are still isolated icebergs can be seen. The latitude is 72° 22' north. We have travelled 221 nm since Croker Bay - and still have 60 nm to go to Buchan Gulf / Icy Arm.

Two lectures are on the agenda this morning at 10.00 a.m.: "Nanog - the white bear of the Arctic" by and with biologist Dr Eckart Pott and "Without women it's not possible" by and with ethnologist Dietmar Neitzke.

At around 11.00 a.m. the HANSEATIC inspiration changes course; it enters the outer Buchan Gulf. Already here we have striking snow- and glacier-covered mountains around us, reaching a maximum of around 1,000 metres. There are also imposing rock faces rising vertically from the sea.

Soon we have Livingstone Island on our port side. Diagonally ahead lies a stretch of coastline with the thought-provoking name Executioner Cliffs. And a dark to black triangle rises up, Suilven Island, with a height of 483 m.

Im Icy Arm, der nach rechts abzweigt, können wir mehrmals Narwale beobachten - wie immer nur kurz und knapp. These animals really represent the high school of whale

watching. Von den von Kollegen vor uns gesichteten Eisbären sehen wir nichts – was wir gerade durchaus nicht bedauern, denn wir würden an diesem Meeresarm gerne irgendwo an Land gehen. Und als Landestelle konkretisiert sich mehr und mehr eine Stelle „ganz hinten rechts“. We want to go inland in a wide river valley. The river has dug a canyon there. Various meltwater streams flow into this canyon from the rock face on the right. These streams indicate that there are glaciers or ice caps on top of the mountains, which of course are losing a lot of their mass nowadays.

We hike through this enormous, untamed river landscape. We walk over gravel, sand, crushed stone and rock - which is quite manageable with a little concentration. The variety of stones is captivating. We can hardly get enough of the colours and the changes and inclusions. And the view into the canyon is really impressive. All this in sunshine and hardly any wind - can you ask for more?



At 6.00 p.m. everyone is back on board and the HANSEATIC inspiration leaves the inner Icy Arm. About two hours later we also leave the Buchan Gulf and soon turn towards the southeast. Tomorrow's destination is Sam Ford Fjord, about 150 nm away. Of course, this great Fjord day does not end without an evening programme. This time the stage belongs to Alex Mel, the man with the guitar and the incredible voice, who gives us a real treat with "The Latino Experience". Latin American rhythms like salsa, bachata and bolero go straight into your blood. Graças, señor! Y buenas noches!



**Friday, 18 August 2023 (Walker Arm, Sam Ford Fjord, Baffin Island, Nunavut / CANADA)**

Sunrise: 03.44 h		Sunset: 22.11 h		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
70° 35.8' North		71° 34.2' West		2.594
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.011	6	2	Northeast / 4	Fair to cloudy

\* Data at the noon position in each case

Today the early bird really does catch the worm. Already at 5.30 a.m., a strong rumbling and scratching can be heard and felt in the ship. There is still some drift ice in the mouth of the Sam Ford Fjord, which the ship has to overcome in order to penetrate the interior of the inlet.



To starboard is now the Remote Peninsula, to port the Akuliaqattoq Peninsula. At 6.30 a.m. there is - again - a polar bear alert; we can very nicely observe a female bear with her eight-month-old cub.

In front of an impressive mountain panorama, we then "turn right" into Walker Arm. We go ashore there at 08.30. The tundra hike is long and beautiful. It starts at the ruins of some Thule winter houses (which our experts explain to us) and ends at a place with a beautiful view of a glacier lake. Glacial lake.





At 13.00 hrs everyone is enthusiastically back. But the landscape around us is also really impressive. At 3 p.m. we will leave the fjord and finally set off for Greenland. Meaning: To say goodbye to the Canadian Arctic, there will be a "Pölser Party" on the pool deck. And since the offer also includes free beer, there is a lot of activity "upstairs". In addition to fitness and sports events, there will of course be several lectures in the afternoon: "The Strength of Women" with Teena Kahee will start at 3 pm. She will be followed at 4.30 p.m. by ethnologist Dietmar Neitzke with "It doesn't work without women" and biologist Dr Eckart Pott with "Nanoq - The White Bear of the Arctic".

The traditional Hapag-LLOYD Cruises Club Cocktail will take place at 6.30 p.m. - meeting point: boot washing area on deck 3. All Club members are cordially invited. Cruise Consultant - or in new German - Cruise Sales Heike Plura has new offers, new voyages and generally "news from the Club" to present. A cosy and at the same time interesting time before dinner - with Cruise Consultant Heike Plura, with General Expedition Manager Uwe Mannweiler and with Captain Ulf Wolter!

At 8 p.m. we have to drive through another ice field. So dinner is a bit of a bumpy ride. The conclusion of this great expedition day in the realms of the magnificent Sam Ford Fjord is an "Officers' Talk". General Expedition Manager Uwe Mannweiler talks to Captain Ulf Wolter, Head Chef Dominik Igl, Hotel Manager Tiziana La Rocca and Hotel Inventory Controller Sina Helmle in the HanseAtrium about many things that make up an expedition cruise to remote parts of the world.

## Saturday, 19 August 2023 (at sea towards Ilulissat / GREENLAND)

Sunrise: 04.14 h			Sunset: 22.02	
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
70° 39.0' North		061° 13.8' West		2.833
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.009	3	4,5	South / 8	overcast, passing rain

\* Data at the noon position in each case

The HANSEATIC inspiration needs today at sea to get across to the Greenland coast. Nothing helps.

The day's programme naturally features a variety of activities, unfortunately also some that have to do with the imminent departure. Fitness coach Karim Regreg starts with "Reling Fit" at 08:00. An hour later, his topic is "Aqua Fit". Together with breakfast in one of the on-board restaurants, you should now be able to take note of the day in a relaxed and laid-back manner.

Between 10.00 and 11.30 a.m. we will meet in the HanseAtrium. Why? Check-in for the upcoming special flight from Kangerlussuaq to Hanover is about to begin.

Of course there will also be lectures today, the first at 11.30 a.m. is "Miss Piggy flies the arctic" by and with meteorologist Dr Alexander Hildebrand. It is about the past large drift expedition of the German research icebreaker POLARSTERN. At the same time, geologist Dr. Alf Grube will give a lecture in German on: "Das Werden und Vergehen von Inlandeis und Gletschern".

After lunch, it's back to fitness. "Ocean Walk with Karim Regreg is the order of the day. At 3.00 p.m. Miss Piggy flies around the Arctic in German, and inland ice and glaciers become and pass away in English. But that's not all! At 4.30 pm, intellectual fare is once again on the menu. Biologist Dr. Eckart Pott presents "The Bird World of the Tundra", and ethnologist Dietmar Neitzke devotes himself to "Inuit Religion".

Afterwards, there's more exercise, this time a "HIIT", a "high-intensity interval training". This is followed at 6.15 pm by a preview of the planned ventures in West Greenland. The watchwords: Ilulissat, Kangia, Sisimiut.

After the refreshments in one of the restaurants, some people feel so invigorated that they show up again at the HanseAtrium at 9.30 pm to meet Teena Kahee at "Qauruti". Together they make a traditional headband out of beads. Teena not only explains "how to do it", but also the meaning of the headbands.

Well, see you tomorrow!

## Sunday, 20 August 2023 (Ilulissat = Jakobshavn and Disko Bay / GREENLAND)

Sunrise: 04.52 h			Sunset: 21.59	
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
69° 13.7' North		051° 06.7' West		3.078
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1.020	7	4	Northeast / 3	overcast, haze

\* Data at the noon position in each case



Today is another highlight of this trip: exploring the area in front of Kangia, the Ilulissat Isfjord! We want to spend the morning in the town, "sailing in" with the Zodiacs due to the given narrowness of the harbour, and the afternoon on the sea between the icebergs with the help of the Zodiacs.

Ilulissat (Danish Jakobshavn) is a Greenlandic town in the district of Ilulissat in the Avannaata Kommunia. The Danish merchant Jacob Sørensen Severin (1691 - 1753) founded it in 1734. Today it has 4,848 inhabitants (01 January 2023), making it the third largest town in the country.



Just south of Ilulissat runs the Ilulissat Icefjord (Kangia), which flows into Disko Bay and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2004. The nearest settlement 14 km north is Oqaatsut (= Rodebay / about 30 inhabitants) and 15 km south is Ilimanaq (= Claushavn / about 50 inhabitants).

One of the most important economic pillars in Ilulissat is fishing and fish processing. Greenland halibut and shrimp in particular are caught and processed in the Royal Greenland fish factory. Other major areas of work are administration, the service sector, trade and transport and the repair trade.

And of course tourism. Many thousands of tourists visit Ilulissat every year, making it the country's most important tourist destination even before Nuuk. Among other things, tourists can visit the town, hike in the mountains, sail, go dog sledding and visit the ice fjord. There are several thousand sled dogs in Ilulissat.

In July 2021, the "kangaiata illorsua", the "Ilulissat Isfjordscenter", the "Iluliussat Icefjord Center" was opened near the - as mentioned - UNESCO-listed Ilulissat Icefjord - explicitly as a tourism and knowledge centre about the icefjord. It was designed by the Danish architect Dorte Mandrup (born 1961), who was inspired by a snowy owl landing on a hill. The exhibition "A Tale of Ice" informs about the history of ice, the culture in and around the ice fjord and climate change. The exhibition at Isfjordscenter, which we view in the futuristic building, occupies 400m<sup>2</sup> of space and is more than just informative.

Which brings us to our landing. We use the five hours we spend in Ilulissat, for example, to hike out to the ice fjord - looking at icebergs. In the town itself, we explore



the Zion Church and the museum opposite, which has found a home in the birthplace of the Danish-Greenlandic polar explorer Knud Rasmussen (1879 - 1933), of whom we have already seen and heard a lot. In front of the house are busts of Jakob Severin and Knud Rasmussen. Of the latter, another monument stands on a rocky knoll between the church and the pier. A shuttle bus helps us to easily reach all points of interest.

What else? Of course, it's a good idea to look for souvenirs in Ilulissat. Several shops are open, even if it's Sunday. Last but not least, you can get nice things in the museum shop; unfortunately, the museum is only open from 12.00 noon. You can send cards back home, etc., etc..



**Knud Rasmussen:** *"Give me winter, give me dogs, you can keep the rest!"*  
(Painting by Rasmussen's friend Harald Moltke (1871 - 1960))

At 13.00 hrs the last Zodiac departs back to the ship. The way is not far. Only a little south of the town of Ilulissat, the Isfjord flows into the sea, and if we were to walk about 55 km along its shores to the east, we would come to the approximately 7 km wide front of Jakobshavn Isbræ, one of the most productive glaciers on earth. The front advances about 30 m - per day! Even though this is a value measured by glaciologists, we can hardly believe it!

The icebergs produced by the glacier are released into the fjord and drift towards Disko Bay. However, there is a submarine sill at the mouth of the fjord where the water depth is only around 200 m. This means that some of the large icebergs, weighing up to 1 million tonnes, run aground there first. This in turn means that some of the large icebergs, weighing up to 1 million tonnes, run aground there first. The following

icebergs then pile up in the fjord for a while - until a lot of ice is pushed out into Disko Bay again and the cycle begins anew. At and in front of the mouth of the Isfjord, you can experience an ice world that is unique on earth - and rightly a World Heritage Site since 2004.



So let's set off on one-hour tours with the Zodiacs! What we experience between 2.30 pm and 5 pm can almost only be described as: Overwhelming! And everyone is speechless.

At 5.15 hrs the HANSEATIC inspiration sets course south towards Sisimiut = Holsteinsborg, another Greenlandic settlement that we want to take a closer look at before flying home. We have a distance of 176 nm ahead of us. That should be doable at a brisk pace.

After the farewell dinner, at 9.45 pm, we follow - with great pleasure! - Captain Ulf Wolter's invitation to the traditional farewell cocktail. And it is also a tradition on board the ship that this evening does not go without a concert by the famous HANSEATIC INSPIRATION NIGHTINGALES. The much sought-after crew choir presents a series of snappy sea shanties in the HanseAtrium under the direction of safety officer Björn Jankowski, interrupted by the raffle of the souvenir sea map of the voyage and other "found objects"; on the other hand, the Inuit art made last night is auctioned off. Afterwards, the conversations - musically underpinned by guitarist & singer Alex Mel - go on lively, and some people leave for their chambers quite late.

**What a fantastic day!**



## Monday, 21 August 2023 (Sisimiut = Holsteinsborg / GRÖNLAND)

Sunrise: 05.26 h		Sunset: 21.47		
Midday position: Width		Midday position: Length		Total nautical miles
66° 55' 08 North		53°58'02 West		3.142
Air pressure (hPa)	Temperature Air (°C)	Temperature Water (°C)	Wind: Direction / Force (Beaufort)	Weather
1013	11	7	E 2	cloudy

\* Data at the noon position in each case

***For technical reasons - this logbook still needs to be final edited and copied onto sticks - the chronicler's exact report ends here.***

***The editorial deadline was 24.00 last night.***

***What is reported from this point onwards is that which is then still had added what is planned - and what is likely to take place.***

***So from here on, "blurring" is to be expected, and correspondences with reality are purely coincidental!***

We can once again take note of this morning calmly - which is not at all wrong for us. So let's fortify ourselves for the planned activities!

And they look like this: the HANSEATIC inspiration will first go alongside at the pier in Sisimiut (= Holsteinsborg) at 6.00 am. Around 10.00 a.m. the ship will then lay in anchor. The harbour (ice-free all year round!) of this town, Greenland's second largest with around 5,500 inhabitants, is bubbling with activity. At the edge of the harbour is the pier where cruise ships usually moor. The Greenlandic name of the town means something like "the settlement at the foxholes". (Whereby "fox" in Greenland means the ice fox or arctic fox; the red fox is not common here).



First destination (reached by foot or shuttle bus): the historical ensemble with the striking arch made of the pines of a Greenland whale stranded in the fjord in 1902, the Old Church (consecrated in 1775 and the oldest preserved church in Greenland),



the museum complex and the new church from 1926. Through the exhibits we learn a lot of new things about the history of Greenland and life on the island as it was not so long ago. And we can only enter the grass sod house in the museum garden in a humbly bowed posture, but we get a good idea of how the Greenlanders traditionally lived.



Another point of interest is the fish market (commonly called "brædtet" in Greenland!), where cod, wolffish, halibut and Arctic char are regularly on offer, as well as seal meat and the meat of hunted reindeer and whales (especially minke whales). From the fish market, the main road leads out into the valley. If you follow it, you will pass Hotel Sisimiut and Knud Rasmussenip Højskolia, a large residential college. Behind it begins the realm of the sled dogs of Sisimiut, i.e. the teams are chained there during the summer. As a reminder: Despite the general southern course, we are still so far north in West Greenland that the "dog equator" (in West Greenland = the Arctic Circle) has been crossed.

Some people also drop in on the artists, who have their shared workshop in a former warehouse in the old harbour, and happily carry a beautiful piece of Greenlandic handicraft to the ship (and home).

At 1 p.m., an amazingly diverse hiking group gathers at the foot of the gangway on the pier. Led by our ethnologist Dietmar Neitzke, they want to explore Teleøen (= Tele Island); the topics: above all the history of settlement in this place, which spans a total of 4,500 years, but also the typical flora and fauna. The most beautiful plant we encounter in bloom is again the broad-leaved = Arctic willowherb, the national flower of Greenland. Its Greenlandic name is Niviarsiaq, which means "young woman" or "virgin". We also notice: the alpine helmet, some saxifrage species, the rosewort and the blue heath. And in damp depressions, cotton grasses have already begun to fruit. There is no forest, of course, but woody plants are present in the form of willows and dwarf birch. The former turn yellow in autumn, the latter get orange-reddish leaves.

We finally stand in front of the still clearly recognisable, but long since overgrown by vegetation, remains of about 300-year-old dwellings of Thule Culture people and realise why they built their winter dwelling place at this spot (and not somewhere else), and how the houses were built. Above the dwelling place we also find a grave from a long time ago.



Shore leave ends at 3.30 p.m., and shortly before that one of Greenland's best kayakers appears alongside the HANSEATIC inspiration. His demonstration of the "art of kayaking" is impressive, especially as he deliberately capsizes several times with his slender boat - and gets up again without any problems. This technique is essential for survival in waters where high waves can occur at any time - for example due to the sudden onset of downdrafts or the breaking apart of icebergs.

At 4.00 pm we are on the road again. Now we head quickly towards the mouth of the 185 km long Søndre Strømfjord and Kangerlussuaq Airport at the inner end of the fjord. We again enjoy the drive through the fjord, which is framed on both sides by 1,000 to 1,500 m high mountains.

After dinner, some stay up to experience live how the HANSEATIC inspiration crosses the Arctic Circle (66° 40') from the north. For the penultimate time on this voyage, a powerful jolt goes through the ship - and we are "over". (Inside the fjord we cross the Arctic Circle once more - to the north).

Some people don't really like to go to sleep now. The last night .....

**Nevertheless: Farewell!**

**And: Good night! Rest well!**



## **Tuesday, 22 August 2023 (Departure from Kangerlussuaq / GREENLAND and flight to Hannover / GERMANY)**

Overnight we have sailed the 185 km long Søndre Strømfjord to its end. Early in the morning (ETA = 05.00) the anchor of the HANSEATIC inspiration drops in the "furthest corner" of the fjord - within sight of the pier.

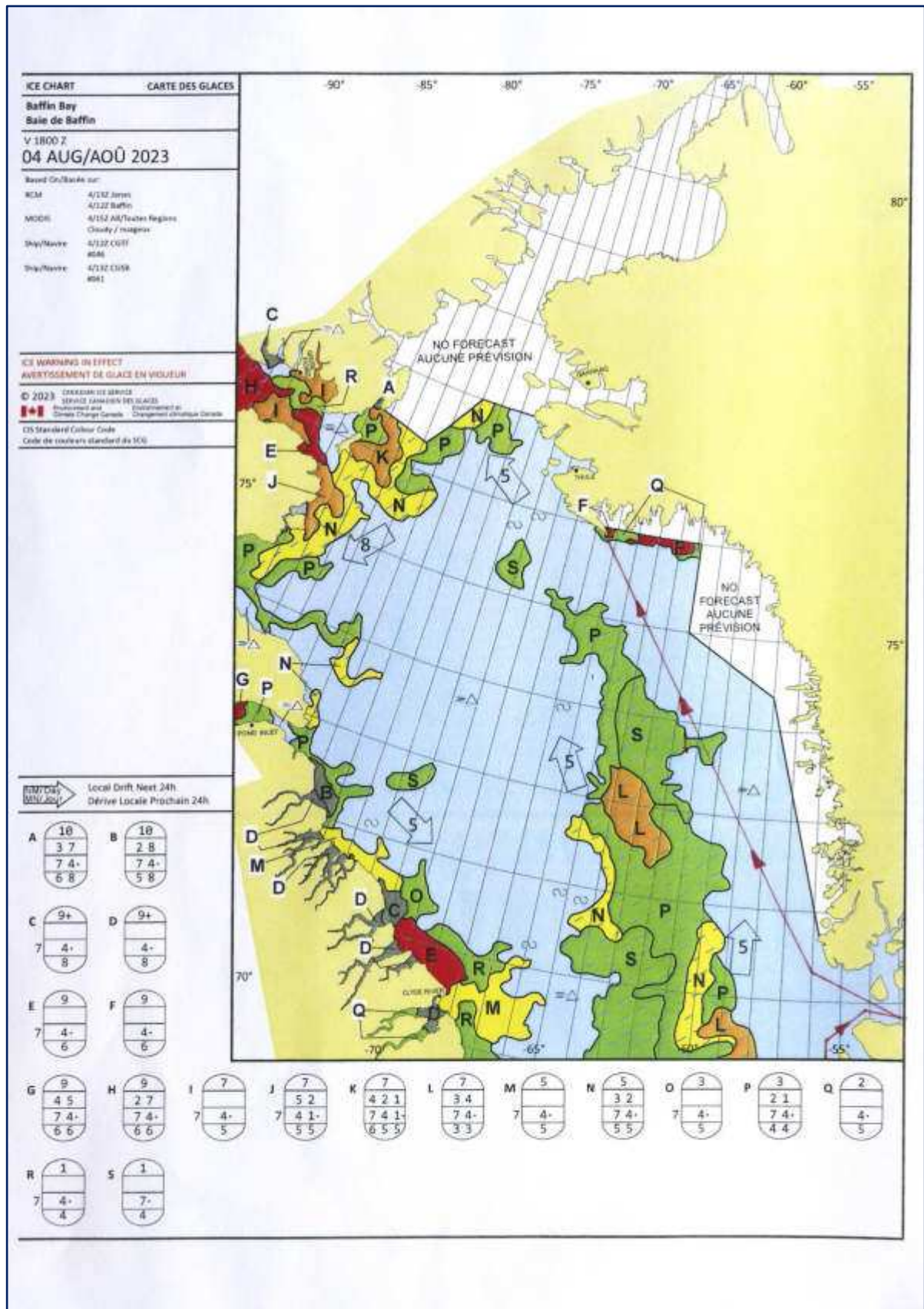
A departure day like this is always associated with early rising and a hectic pace at reception and in the corridors. It is with great melancholy that we leave the HANSEATIC inspiration, which has been such a pleasant home to us over the last few weeks. A last handshake, a last wave, then the tenders take us ashore and the buses from the pier to Kangerlussuaq Airport. The FINNAIR special flight AY 7636 (scheduled departure: 4.10 p.m.) will take us to Hanover, from where we will continue our journey in all directions - directly or after a night at the Maritim Airport Hotel Hanover. Our Arctic adventure will remain a wonderful to the best memory.

*And so ends this trip!*

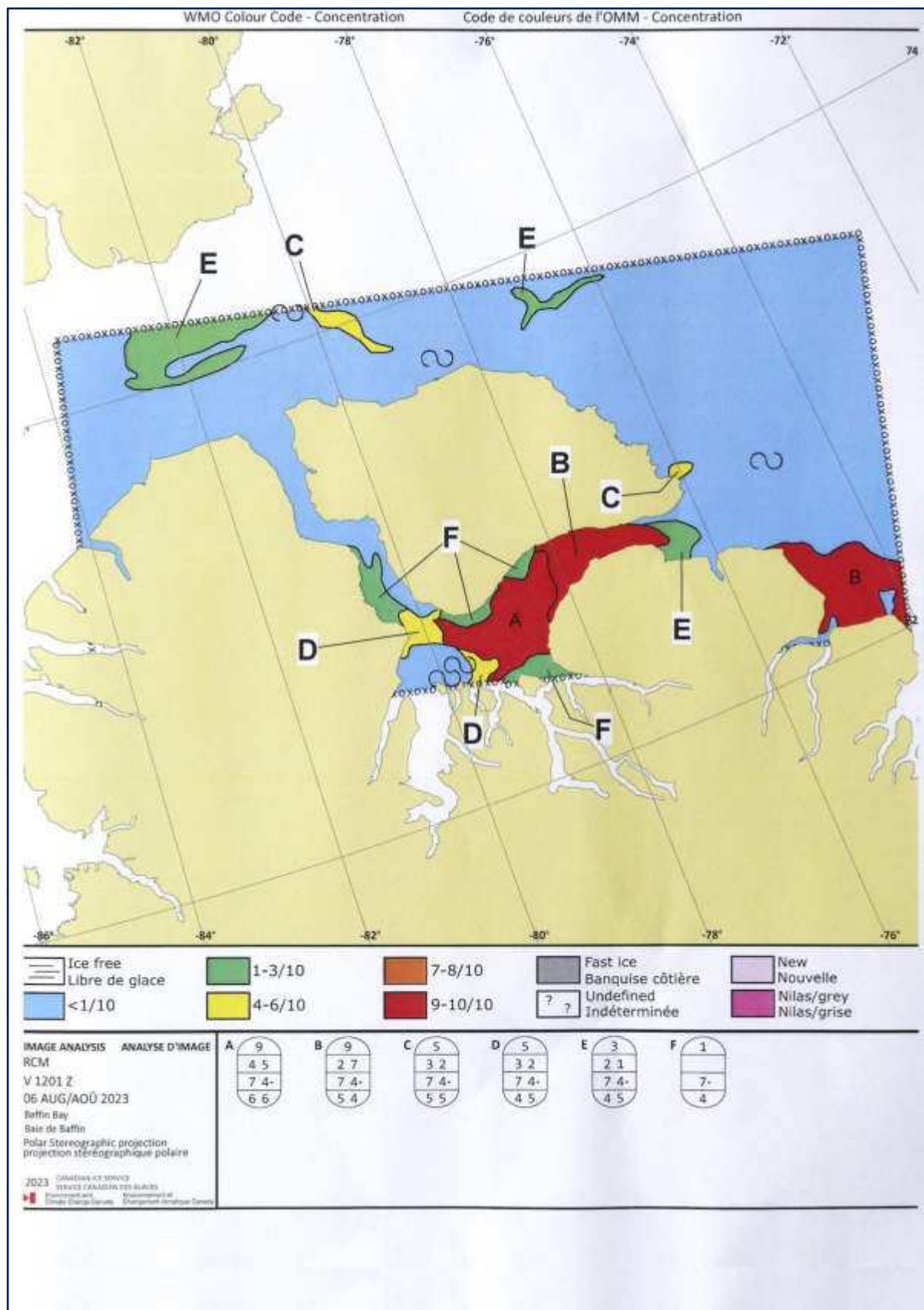
*(as an English whaler captain would have said at such a point).*







*Ice map of 04 August 2023 - right: Greenland, left: Canada*



Ice map as of 06 August 2023 - above: Bylot Island - Pond Inlet is still completely "closed".





## Trip INS2316 - animals and plants observed Greenland, Canada

### Birds

#### Birds / Non-Passerines (Non-Sperling Birds)

Sterntaucher  
 fulmar  
 Snow Goose  
 Canada Goose  
 Common Eider  
 Rock Ptarmigan (only loos)  
 Peregrine Falcon  
 Gerfalke  
 Ringed Plover  
 Arctic Skua  
 Great Black-backed Gull  
 Glaucous Gull  
 Iceland Gull  
 Thayer's Gull  
 Kittiwake  
 Ivory Gull  
 Arctic Tern  
 Thick-billed Guillemot  
 Little Auk  
 Black Guillemot



### **Birds / Passerines (passerine birds)**

Pacific Pipit  
Wheatear  
Common Raven  
Common Redpoll  
Snow Bunting

### **Mammals**

#### **Mammals / land predators**

Polar Bear  
Ice fox = Arctic fox (only loose)  
Arctic Hare  
Reindeer (only loin + antlers) Reindeer / Caribou  
Musk Ox

#### **Mammals / Seals**

Walrus (as hunting prey)  
Ringed Seal  
Harp Seal  
Bearded Seal

#### **Mammals / Whales**

Narwhal  
Fin Whale  
Humpback Whale



*Arctic hare - © Photo and copyright: Dr Kai Borkenhagen, 2023*

## **Plants (alphabetical)**

Alpine acidulous  
Arctic poppy  
Hairy lousewort  
Blue-green willow  
Three-toothed saxifrage  
Rock flower (yellow and white flowering species)  
Cinquefoil  
Counter-leaved saxifrage = red saxifrage  
Large-flowered Wintergreen  
Hawkweed saxifrage  
Hornwort  
Crownless campion  
Lousewort  
Lapland lousewort  
Spoonwort  
Mertensia = Oyster plant = Oyster-leaved lungwort  
Bog saxifrage  
Nodding saxifrage  
Polar willow  
Lawn saxifrage = cushion saxifrage  
Scheuchzer's cotton grass  
Stemless Glueweed  
Sumpf-Porst  
Fir Lycopodium  
Square Scaled Heath  
Silverroot = Eight-flowered silverroot  
Wintergreen  
Cotton grass



### **A FEW USEFUL / INTERESTING INTERNET ADDRESSES**

Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Dessau-Roßlau and Berlin: [www.umweltbundesamt.de](http://www.umweltbundesamt.de)

Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar  
and Marine Research (AWI), Bremerhaven: [www.awi.de](http://www.awi.de)

Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI), Vienna: [www.polarresearch.at](http://www.polarresearch.at)

French Polar Institute Paul-Émile Victor (IPEV), Plouzané / Brest: [www.institut-polaire.fr](http://www.institut-polaire.fr)

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) - Natural Environment  
Research Council (UKRI): [www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/](http://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/)

British Antarctic Survey (BAS), Cambridge: [www.bas.ac.uk](http://www.bas.ac.uk)

Danish Arctic research institutions: [polarportal.dk](http://polarportal.dk)

Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS): <https://eng.geus.dk>

Norsk Polarinstitutt, Tromsø: [www.npolar.no](http://www.npolar.no)

Arctic Council, Tromsø: <https://arctic-council.org>

Nordic Council, Copenhagen: <https://www.norden.org>

Visit Greenland, Nuuk: <https://visitgreenland.com>

Greenland Travel: <https://www.greenland-travel.de>

AECO = Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators: [www.aeco.no](http://www.aeco.no)

IAATO = International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators: [www.iaato.org](http://www.iaato.org)





We hope that this logbook will help to make your Arctic voyage along the coasts of Greenland and northern Canada in - hopefully good! - memory.

Dr Eckart Pott (our book author) wrote it. He is therefore also responsible for any inadequacies, for which we ask your indulgence.

Colleagues have gratefully provided texts and photos accompanying the activities, and they have helped to put the opus on the sticks. to copy, "bag" and "deliver".

On behalf of HAPAG-LLOYD KREUZFAHRTEN, the tour guide / expedition team, We would like to thank the ship's command and the entire crew, that they have signed up for our expedition trip

***"Northwards to the pack ice"***

which will take us to high latitudes between Ellesmere Island and North Greenland, far beyond the Arctic Circle.

**Come home safely, stay healthy,  
"Baaj! Goodbye!" until next time on the HANSEATIC inspiration  
(or one of the sister ships) - and:**

**See you around!**