

Project Title: Adventure Canada - Expeditions 2022

Applicant name and contact information

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Please see sail plans and maps for proposed travel route. * Please note that dates may change as we potentially adjust our sail plan once regulations for visiting communities is worked out. We will update CWS closer to the season if there are any changes.

The vessel, Ocean Endeavour with Adventure Canada will sail in Inuit Nunangat to provide educational travel for Adventure Canada clients. We sail with 200 passengers, 105 crew and 35 expedition staff. Adventure Canada is a family-owned Canadian expedition cruise company that has been sailing in Inuit Nunangat for over 30 years. Our intention is to provide clients with the opportunity to view wildlife in a manner that is respectful, educational, and supervised by appropriate guides. Guides on-site will assist in the interpretation of the wildlife we encounter.

At each of the site's clients will be transferred from our ship - Ocean Endeavour - into Zodiacs with 10 people in each Zodiac with an average of 20 Zodiacs in the water at one time. Each cruise will last for approx. 1 to 1.5 hours. Activities will primarily be onboard or on zodiac cruises with the goal being to provide a well-rounded educational experience. Activities will follow standard operating procedures and be managed by the Expedition Leader with the assistance of a highly experienced team of expedition staff. If we are to take zodiacs out, we will follow in a single-track line going at a slow speed. Trained staff will be with firearms and passengers and staff will be fully educated on safe wildlife viewing. We will comply with the Guidelines for Seabird Colony Viewing for Cruise Ships set out by Environment Canada as well as the Canadian Wildlife Service Guidelines for Visiting Colonies and AECO wildlife viewing. We will comply with Federal regulations for whale watching as well as any recommendations given by the HTO and communities we have contacted regarding our planned stops.

If weather permits, we will offer kayaking to our passengers during our voyages. We have in total of four single kayaks and eight double kayaks with the possibility of using traditional Inuit kayaks. We will follow kayak guidelines set out by the Association of Canadian Sea Kayaking Guides. We will follow an approved kayak guide to kayaker ratio.

Adventure Canada is a member of AECO (Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators Association) and participates in the Nalunaiqsijit: Inuit Cruise Training Program offered through the Government of Nunavut, by taking on interns and guides from the program. We intend to do so for the 2022 season if the program is running. Adventure Canada was directly involved in designing and Expedition Leader Jason Edmunds is the lead trainer of the program.

All of our itineraries include the local Inuit perspective of the places we are visiting. We make every effort to have as many Inuit guides onboard as possible. This year we already

have confirmed guides to join us onboard and they are Martha Flarerty, Myna Ishulutak, Berda Larsen, Alex Anavipik, Karen Nutarak, Jason Edmunds, Randy Edmunds, Robert Comeau and Derek Pottle. Gary Donaldson and Mark Mallory are our two key ornithologists onboard for seabird watch and interpretation. The Captain and crew are experienced in polar waters and understand the importance of protecting areas under CWS regulation.

For a full list of current staff please see this link for more details on our itineraries for 2022

<https://www.adventurecanada.com/trips/arctic-expedition-cruises>

For this cruise it is requested that Adventure Canada be given permission to visit Migratory Bird Sanctuary -

1. Prince Leopold Island (74°04'30N 89°58W) between August 9-18 and September 1-6, 2022. On the sail plan it is listed on, Aug 11,15 and September 3rd, 2022.
2. Bylot Island 73°16N 78°30W between Aug 5-10 and Aug 27- Sept 2, 202. On our sail plan we have visits listed for Aug 8 and 18th.

We may land at Tay Bay on Bylot Island and go on a hike. All passengers will be briefed by staff to leave sites as they were when we land and not to take anything or disturb habitat/wildlife. No structures will be erected at any of the sites. We are obtaining permits with Parks Canada on our visit here

We understand that weather and ice and possibly covid protocol may require us to modify our itinerary. We would visit both sites for an approximate duration of one hour up to four hours. This will be a ships cruise with a team of Expedition Staff and crew who will educate and interpret the site for the guests onboard. If weather permits, we will also have 15-20 zodiacs in water for a passenger cruise.

We also request to visit the following in-case weather or other variables such as covid19 protocols do now allows us to visit communities and we must adjust our itinerary.

3. Ninginganiq (Isabella Bay) 69°37N, 67°33W and
4. Polar Bear Pass (Nanuit Itillinga) 75°23N, 97°17W and
5. Nirjutiqavvik (Coburg Island) 74°1'59N 90°4'59W

If appropriate (Covid-19 dependant), the project intends to stop in the Nunavut communities of Pond Inlet, Gjøa Haven and Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Resolute Bay, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kingait in Nunavut. Inuit Beneficiary guides are hired to serve as Cultural Interpreter/Guest Lecturer as part of the Expedition staff team on board. Local services and guides will be fully employed when visiting communities.

The proposed ship's cruise, zodiac cruise and kayak time may have unintended impacts on the environment, the primary one being disturbance to nesting sites and causing stress to migratory chicks and parents. Another impact could be the potential risk of an oil spill. However, mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure this does happen.

The mitigation measures put in place to ensure no environmental impact occurs is as follows; the vessel will stay at a minimum of 500 meters away from bird and whale sanctuaries and maintain a sailing speed no faster than required for safe navigation. A reduction in ships equipment to reduce noise. Zodiac cruise will be no closer than 100 meters in distance to the cliffs, and engine will remain in idle whenever possible to reduce noise. A trained guide will be onboard and in zodiacs observing for any disturbance indicators. Kayak groups will be small and follow the Canadian Kayak guide ratio. Captain and crew will be aware of all regulatory and community requirements while in the area. Passengers will be educated on proper wildlife viewing behaviours.

Dangerous wildlife encounters are also mitigated by active polar bear monitoring by crew and staff. The area will be scouted before zodiac cruise for wildlife in area. Firearms will only be used for emergency situations. If the site is on land, polar bear monitors will go out first to scout and set a safe perimeter. Once clear, staff will come ashore and then passengers. Bear monitors will stay in set locations for duration of visit and will be the last to leave a site. If a bear is spotted, landing site evacuation will commence. For the kayak excursions, we will have a Zodiac driver follow the group and carry a firearm.

There will be no discharge, refueling, transfers, disposal or transportation of fuel, hazardous materials, or waste within the boundaries of Seabird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife areas. Grey and black water will only be discharged well outside 12NM from shore, none while near communities, and are treated prior to discharge. Per ship plan in accordance with Marpol Annex I.

Operations have been planned to be fully self-sufficient, with activities managed by experienced personnel and to be within the search and rescue capability of the vessel, including for medical evacuation. It is anticipated that the environmental impact resulting from the planned activity will be not more than minor or transitory in nature.

Community contacts (Hamlet and/or HTO) have been contacted (phone and email if it was provided) and informed of CWS application and our request to visit Prince Leopold Island, Bylot Island and Nirjutiqavvik (Coburg Island) Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Polar Bear Pass, and Ninginganiq (Isabella Bay). Communities contacted are Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord and Mittimatalik and Clyde River. A copy of this non-technical summary has been emailed to each Hamlet. Community contacts that we spoke to were aware of CWS process and indicated board would review. At this time, no communities indicated they were to be actively involved in this project, until further review. The post report can be provided to communities if requested.

