



NORTH POLE

SOLD OUT

JULY 19 — AUGUST 4, 2008

VOYAGE TO TOTALITY

TRAVELQUEST International

SKY & TELESCOPE

QUARK EXPEDITIONS

AS FEATURED IN

50
TOURS
OF A LIFETIME



[Visit our 2009 Eclipse Programs!](#)

Including...

Franz Josef Land & Eclipse viewing off Novaya Zemlya

On Board the Icebreaker: "50 YEARS OF VICTORY"



For centuries, explorers set out for the North Pole by sled, ship, aircraft and even balloon, but it wasn't until 1948 that a human finally reached 90° North. **TravelQuest** and **Sky & Telescope** magazine, in cooperation with Quark Expeditions, have put together the ultimate 60th anniversary celebration of that first visit with a North Pole expedition to include the August 1, 2008 total solar eclipse aboard the Russian icebreaker **50 YEARS OF VICTORY**, one of the few ships powerful enough to push through the formidable Arctic ice pack.

We will bring together a group of specialists for shipboard lectures on everything from astronomy, polar exploration, Arctic birds and marine life, providing incredible insight to our exploration of the Far North. Whether you join us for the exploration on the ice where no one may have walked before, sight a whale from one of the ship's nimble Zodiacs, or just watch the powerful **50 YEARS OF VICTORY** plowing through pack ice under the midnight sun, you'll discover the High Arctic not as a passing vista, but as an immediate, vital, constantly changing environment – a place where the indescribable mystery of raw nature can still be experienced firsthand.

With just 50 staterooms on board the **50 YEARS OF VICTORY**, our Voyage to Totality 2008 & the North Pole expedition will surely sell out. Join us on this once-in-a-lifetime journey and add your name to the list of a select few adventurers who have stood at the top of the world.

[PRESS HERE to go to the Itinerary](#)



Program Itinerary

Day 1 Saturday, July 19, 2008

Arrive Helsinki, Finland

Arrive in Helsinki, Finland and take time to explore the charming Finnish capital on your own. In the afternoon, check in to the hotel and then rendezvous this evening with fellow travelers and the Expedition Team.

Overnight:

Radisson SAS Royal hotel

No Meals

Day 2 Sun, July 20 B/L/D

Murmansk, Russia to embark on the 50 Years of Victory

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Murmansk, Russia, home base for Russia's nuclear icebreaker fleet – including our expedition vessel, the *50 Years of Victory*. We embark on our expedition this afternoon, setting sail in the evening.

Overnight: Aboard the 50 Years of Victory (14 nights)

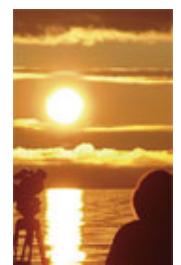


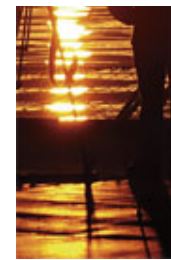
Day 3 Mon, July 21

Barents Sea

On your first full day at sea, relax and explore the sophisticated vessel that will be home for the next two weeks. Our specialists begin presentations on astronomy, Arctic wildlife, geology, history and other areas of interest. We provide briefings on your upcoming zodiac excursions and helicopter flights, as well as environmental guidelines for visiting this remote part of the planet. And of course you have many opportunities to view seabirds and whales as we sail north.

B/L/D





Day 4-7 Tue-Fri, July 22-25

B/L/D

Into the Ice Pack

Surrounded by endless polar vistas, the *50 Years of Victory* begins breaking through the multi-year pack ice, surging northward at speeds of up to 12 knots in conditions that few vessels have the power to negotiate. You're welcome to watch the ship's awe-inspiring progress around the clock, as helicopters come and go on reconnaissance flights and our experienced Captain and his officers review the latest ice charts transmitted via satellite. You also have a chance to take your own group helicopter flight, enjoying incredible aerial views of the *50 Years of Victory* as it crashes its way toward the Pole, leaving massive blocks of ice in its wake. At one point we plan to stop, lower the gangway and invite everyone down onto the ice for an invigorating walkabout. And as usual we'll keep watch for a diverse array of Arctic wildlife.



Day 8 Sat, July 26

B/L/D

90° North - The North Pole!

This is the day we hope to reach our ultimate destination. The ship buzzes with anticipation until the moment we've all been waiting for – when we actually stand at the top of the world. You have plenty of time to wander out onto the ice and survey the expanse of white and blue stretching hundreds of kilometers in all directions. There are inevitable reflective moments as you take in the reality of where you are and recall the past adventurers who struggled in vain or lost their lives trying to reach the point where you now walk so easily. As on all expeditions, we make time for a celebration on the ice – and even, for those who dare, a brief plunge into the Arctic Ocean!



Day 9-11 Sun-Tue, July 27-29

B/L/D

Southward Bound

This goal achieved, there's nowhere to head but south. Our exact route will vary with local ice and weather conditions. As ever, the helicopter pilots are always at the ready for reconnaissance flights and excursions over the spectacular, constantly changing ice and sea. As you watch the fascinating progress of the *50 Years of Victory* from one of the decks, keep an eye out for more wildlife; your chances of spotting polar bears in particular are excellent as we near Franz Josef Land. Meanwhile, the naturalists and other specialists on the Expedition Team continue to illuminate various aspects of the vast polar wilderness.

Day 12-13 Wed-Thu, July 30-31

B/L/D

Franz Josef Land

A remote world of jagged mountains and massive icebergs, Franz Josef Land was not discovered until 1873 and remains relatively unexplored. The most northerly point in Russia, this archipelago of 191 islands is a naturalist's paradise. Polar bears and Arctic fox often come very close to our ship; seals are plentiful, and you can spot beluga whales and narwhals offshore; and the high, rocky cliffs are home to huge colonies of seabirds. We explore the dramatic coast via Zodiac (as local conditions permit) and enjoy spectacular aerial views flying over glaciers and volcanic plateaus in the helicopters. We also plan to go ashore at early exploration sites such as Cape

Norway, where Norwegian explorers Nansen and Johansen survived the winter of 1896–97 after a bold attempt to reach the North Pole. (Please note that all of our landings in Franz Josef Land are subject to government permission, variable timing restrictions and weather conditions.)

Day 14 Fri, August 1

B/L/D

Eclipse Day!

Today is devoted to viewing the approximate 2 minute, 23 second total solar eclipse. Our captain and specialists will use weather data and satellite images to determine whether the eclipse will be best viewed from the ship on the Kara Sea or from land.

[Experiencing a Total Eclipse](#)

[Total Solar Eclipse Video](#)

[View Eclipse Center Line Map](#)

Jay Anderson's Eclipse Weather Prospects



From the high Canadian Arctic to the Russian islands of Novaya Zemlya, the eclipse track crosses one of the cloudiest areas of the globe. Only in the Kara Sea between Novaya Zemlya and the Russian mainland does the relentless cloudiness loosen its hold and it is here that we have chosen to try for a view of the eclipse. The numbers are dramatic — an average monthly cloud cover of 93% near Spitsbergen Island drops to a more promising 67% over the waters east of Novaya Zemlya. Mobility will be our trump card — satellite imagery and computer weather models will help us hunt for the magical hole in the clouds that will permit a view of the eclipse. The effect of that mobility will probably give our ship an additional 10% advantage over a land-based site. There are no better odds anywhere else above the 70th parallel.

The glacier-draped mountains of Novaya Zemlya impede the course of large low-pressure weather systems, breaking holes in their cloud cover as winds flow around the island peaks. If fog should threaten, our vessel can take advantage of the clearing downhill flow from the mountains. In addition, the waters of the Kara Sea, protected on three of four sides by mainland and island, will tend to have a quieter sea than more northerly waters, especially if clouds on eclipse day favor a site tucked in close to the southeast shore of the island.

Should the weather gods smile particularly broadly on eclipse day, we have the option of viewing the conjunction of Sun and Moon from the Novaya Zemlya shore, surely one of the most spectacular eclipse-viewing sites in the history of solar observation.



Day 15 Sat, August 2
Barents Sea

B/L/D

On the final leg of our journey south across the Barents Sea, there are seabirds and whales to look out for, and of course the Expedition Team's presentations provide helpful context for your unique adventure.

Day 16 Sun, August 3
Murmansk & Helsinki

B only

Today it's time to say farewell to the *50 Years of Victory* and its crew as we disembark in Murmansk, and transfer to the airport for your flight back to Helsinki, where we transfer to our hotel and spend the remainder of the day on our own.

Overnight: Radisson SAS Royal Hotel

Day 17 Mon, August 4

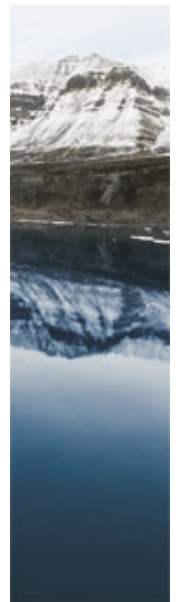
B only

After breakfast, continue your travels independently.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

Given the remote polar regions we are traveling to, travelers must expect adjustments to our routes in progress to take best advantage of weather and ice conditions – which can vary unpredictably from day to day. In some cases our exact landings depend on official permission that can only be obtained locally. And we are always ready to alter plans according to wildlife sightings and other one-of-a-kind opportunities. All this is to say that this itinerary has been painstakingly planned, but it is not a definitive summary of the journey you'll actually experience. We cannot guarantee that all landings will take place or that they will include all the events we've outlined in advance. Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy – and excitement – of expedition-style travel, and a measure of flexibility is something all of us must bring on the voyage.



[PRESS HERE to go to the Pricing Page](#)

Welcome Page

Itinerary

Pricing

About the Ship

Reservation Form