ARCTIC EXPEDITION

THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION AT 74° NORTH

July 16 to 26, 2017
We all feel the urge to flee the busy world of commuting, dull meetings and work deadlines. So imagine this: fleeing your busy schedule and flying to a remote and isolated place to explore the natural wonders of an achingly spectacular, “off-the-grid” wilderness area. Our new Arctic Expedition offers an exciting week spent in a cozy, comfortable lodge on a remote island 500 miles north of the Arctic Circle, during which we look for polar bears, watch enormous numbers of beluga whales enjoying their summer getaway spot, sea-kayak and drive an ATV over vast stretches of tundra. If this is the true getaway you’ve been searching for, join us on this extraordinary excursion beyond the Arctic Circle!

BRET S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**OBSERVE** the elusive musk ox, polar bears and a profusion of seabirds in their natural habitat.

**VISIT** the Cunningham River estuary, seasonal home to thousands of beluga whales.

**INDULGE** that inner kid by kayaking, driving ATVs, and doing some catch-and-release fishing of arctic char.
Rob brings an astonishing range and depth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to everything he does.

Gay Hoagland, ’59, Stanford Traveler

ROB DUNBAR is a professor of earth science and senior fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment whose research interests span climate change, marine ecology, oceanography, glaciology and biogeochemistry. He heads a Stanford research group that studies past, present and future climate change as well as its impact on oceanic and coastal environments. Rob collaborates regularly with the U.S. government as well as the United Nations to help develop and implement solutions to environmental and natural resource problems.

Rob has traveled to the Arctic and Antarctic more than 40 times since 1982, in some instances leading expeditions lasting three to five months. His work includes deep sea dives in research submersibles in the Arctic as well as analyses of recent climate change in the Gulf of Alaska. Every two years Dunbar offers a Stanford Sophomore College course on coupled human-natural systems in Alaska—a course wherein students explore the economics and challenges of the human enterprise on a small high-latitude island. In addition to his research expeditions, he has led more than 20 previous Travel/Study programs.

During our expedition, Rob will speak about the forces of nature that created the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, as well the Arctic’s long history of dramatic climate change. He will also discuss the highly fluid geopolitics of the region, focusing on U.S. interests as well as potential conflicts with China, Russia and Canada. Rob is an expert on polar food webs and, together with our expedition naturalist guides, will pass along insights and new ideas about what makes the Arctic ecosystem so productive as well as so sensitive to today’s rapidly changing ocean waters.

Sign up online: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?arctic2017

Or by phone: (650) 725-1093
Sun DAY, J ulY 16
U.S. / YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA
Depart the U.S. for Yellowknife. Arrive in the late evening and check in to our hotel.

EXPLORER HOTEL

Mon DAY, J ulY 17
YELLOWKNIFE
Today is at leisure in Yellowknife. This evening meet fellow travelers for an expedition briefing and distribution of boots and parkas, followed by a welcome reception at our hotel.

EXPLORER HOTEL (B)

Tue SDAY, J ulY 18
YELLOWKNIFE / SOMERSET ISLAND, NUNAVUT, CANADA
Depart from Yellowknife aboard our chartered plane for a 1,000-mile-long flight across the Arctic Circle to 74° North and our expedition-style lodge at Somerset Island. Enjoy aerial views of the lodge before landing at Cunningham Inlet’s private air strip and taking a short walk and raft ride to our lodge. Settle in for our week-long stay, then meet our hosts for a briefing and overview of the activities to come.

ArCTIC WATCh WIlDErNESS lODGE (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, J ulY 19
SOMERSET ISLAND
Following breakfast, attend a hands-on tutorial on driving all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Later take a short hike to Cunningham River estuary to search for beluga whales frolicking just offshore or opt to take a walk to Triple Waterfalls to view nesting peregrine falcons, admire wild arctic flowers and maybe even spot a musk ox. After our gourmet dinner, perhaps check out the lodge’s library and interpretative center.

WILDERNESS LODGE (B,L,D)

THU RSDAY, J ulY 20
SOMERSET ISLAND
After breakfast, travel by ATV, crossing the Cunningham River delta to drive along the Muskox Ridge for a scenic overview of the area. Watch for musk ox or an arctic fox den, where cubs may be at play. Enjoy an outdoor lunch at Inukshuk Lake, and later take the opportunity to try catch-and-release fishing for arctic char. Return to our lodge by way of the River Trail to see “hoodoos” (sculptured sand pillars) and coal deposits. After dinner, attend an informal lecture.

WILDERNESS LODGE (B,L,D)

FR IDAY, J ulY 21
SOMERSET ISLAND
After breakfast, enjoy a bit of kayaking in Cunningham Inlet, paddling among the icebergs and looking for ring and bearded seals, as well as beluga whales and several species of sea birds. After a shoreline picnic, hike to Kayak Falls for views of the Northwest Passage. Return to the inlet, a major beluga whale migration site, unique for its density of belugas. Our guides will have hydrophones so we can listen to the whales’ underwater songs. After dinner, we’ll learn about beluga research being conducted in this area.

WILDERNESS LODGE (B,L,D)

SAT uRDAY, J ulY 22
SOMERSET ISLAND
This morning head for Flatrock Falls where we have the option to hike or travel by a Mercedes-Benz Unimog (four-wheel truck) to the island’s steep-walled canyons to view plant and animal fossils and observe nesting sites of local birds—terns, plovers and snow geese. Lunch is served on the surrounding flat rocks. Later visit Gull Canyon, a unique ecosystem with a

PLEASE NOTE that the actual itinerary may vary depending on weather conditions. The itinerary outlined below is a sample of a typical week at the Lodge. Day-to-day activities are weather-dependent and may vary. Please note that the likelihood of seeing wildlife is dependent on weather and ice conditions.
gull rookery and colonies of peregrine falcons. This evening, listen to a resident scientist discuss his local research.

WILDERNESS LODGE (B.L.D)

SUNDAY, JULY 23
SOMERSET ISLAND
Set out this morning in ATVs for Cape Anne to visit several coastal Thule sites and look for polar bears. The Thule people, forebears of today’s Inuits, were bowhead whale hunters. Here we see ancient campsites with stone and bone houses, prehistoric whale bones and icebergs. Polar bears often wander this area waiting for the ice to return. Return to the lodge by way of Red Valley with its incredible views of the surrounding tundra.

WILDERNESS LODGE (B.L.D)

MONDAY, JULY 24
SOMERSET ISLAND
After breakfast, set out in the Unimog for a full-day rafting adventure on the Cunningham River. Those who wish can hike the final four miles through the Badlands that are strewn with the skeletons of two bowhead whales that lived 8,000 years ago. Watch for musk ox, snow geese, arctic foxes, hawks and sandpipers along the way. Enjoy a picnic lunch along the river, then board rafts for the return to our lodge, experiencing both swift-flowing water and gentle rapids surrounded by steep canyon walls.

WILDERNESS LODGE (B.L.D)

TUESDAY, JULY 25
SOMERSET ISLAND / YELLOWKNIFE
Bid a fond goodbye to the lodge guide team and the High Arctic. There may be time for one last activity before departing. Fly to Yellowknife and transfer to our hotel to celebrate this unique journey with a reception.

EXPLORER HOTEL (B.L)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26
YELLOWKNIFE / U.S.
After breakfast, transfer to the Yellowknife airport for flights to the U.S. and home. (B)
Trip Information

**DATES**
July 16 to 26, 2017 (11 days)

**SIZE**
23 participants; single accommodations limited—please call for availability

**COST**
$13,995 per person, double occupancy
$19,395 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

**INCLUDED**
3 nights of best-available hotel accommodations in Yellowknife; 7 nights of expedition-style lodge accommodations on Somerset Island; 10 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners; Welcome and farewell receptions; Gratuities to guides, drivers and expedition team for all group activities; All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary; Round-trip chartered flight between Yellowknife and Somerset Island; Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days; Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance; Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book and travel information; Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**NOT INCLUDED**
International and U.S. domestic airfare; Passport and visa fees; Immunization costs; Meals and beverages other than those specified as included; Independent and private transfers; Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance; Excess-baggage charges; Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for non-group services

**PLEASE NOTE**
Dates of charter flights to/from our expedition lodge may be altered due to weather conditions. Please keep this in mind when making international flight arrangements. We advise that you purchase flexible, changeable airline tickets, or book a one-way flight home after completing the expedition, to help reduce ticket change fees. These delays may not be covered by travel insurance.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
We consider this to be a physically demanding program, suitable only for travelers in excellent health. Daily programs involve one to three miles of walking, often on uneven and rocky terrain and/or exposed roots that can be muddy or wet at times. All excursions are led by experienced guides. Activities include hiking, river rafting, ATV riding, kayaking, fishing, photography, and viewing land mammals, beluga whales, sea birds and other wildlife. ATVs or a Unimog (a four-wheel-drive truck) that can cover all types of terrain are often used to reach the starting point of a hike or excursion. The terrain is unpaved and extremely bumpy and driving times on ATVs range from 45 minutes to six hours in length.

Temperatures in the High Arctic in the summer average in the mid-30s (°F) at night and 50 to 60 degrees during the day. In the summer months, the Arctic has daylight 24 hours a day. In the High Arctic it can and does snow in the summer. Participants should expect an adventurous, rather than luxurious, travel experience. The hotel in Yellowknife is simple and the best available. Our lodging at Cunningham Inlet (on Somerset Island) is an expedition-style lodge. The Lodge is completely off-the-grid and electricity is provided by generators. The main lodge is a separate building that is heated from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day. There are adjacent flush toilets and showers for communal use; private facilities are not available. Guests stay in semi-permanent tents that sleep two people comfortably and have electricity and a small heater that operate intermittently during set hours. Each tent has either two single beds or a queen bed with box spring and frame, a sink, marine toilet and a small shelf for clothing. Meals are well-prepared, wholesome and delicious. Al fresco lunches are served on excursions. Due to the remote location of the Lodge, alcohol is limited to Canadian wine at dinner.

We accept travelers 15 years of age and older on this program. Note that the minimum age to drive an ATV in Nunavut is 16 years old.
Deposit & Final Payment
An initial $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the Arctic Expedition. A second deposit of $1,500 is due on Monday, October 3, 2016. Final payment is due on Monday, April 3, 2017. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?arctic2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until October 3, 2016. Between October 4, 2016, and April 3, 2017, the cancellation fee is $2,000-per-person. After April 3, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $2,500-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you upon confirmation.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
“Rob is the best! He was so easy to engage, so enthusiastic and so joyful in all of his talks, both formal and informal. He brought a wonderful sense of humor and playfulness to the trip!”

JENNIFER PINTO MARTIN, ’78, EVEREST BASE CAMP TREK, 2015

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