



Heritage Expeditions

EXPEDITION DOSSIER

# WRANGEL ISLAND

OVERLAND TRAVERSES



*In co-operation with the Wrangel Island Nature Reserve we are excited to offer a limited number of seats on a very special Overland Traverse through the heart of this incredible landscape.*

For curious explorers who join us to circumnavigate Wrangel Island, there is no reason to just wonder what lies beyond the coast, over the crest of the hills and mountains. The High Arctic environment that very few people will ever experience is now accessible and exclusively available to passengers travelling with Heritage Expeditions on both 'Across the Top of the World' expeditions.

We are offering a limited number of seats on four very special 3-day (2-night) Overland Traverses. Transport is by a six wheel Russian built Tundra vehicle brought to the island in 2010. Each traverse is led by Rangers from Wrangel Island.

We have been operating these traverses since 2011 and those who have been lucky enough to participate literally 'raved' over their experiences. Numbers are strictly limited; we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.



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## NORTHBOUND ITINERARY

### Day 1: Doubtful Harbour

On arrival at Doubtful Harbour, Wrangel Island, the Overlanders will go ashore where we will spend the afternoon and evening exploring the area including the nearby spit known for large haul outs of walrus. We will also visit Devil's Creek, the only archaeological site on the island where remains of a Palaeo-Eskimos summer camp were discovered recently. The overnight accommodation will be Wrangel Ranger huts at Somnitelnya.

### Day 2: Somnitelnya

Departing Somnitelnya, the traverse travels north firstly over the southern tundra slopes climbing gradually to a mountain pass through the Somnitelnie Mountains. A steep descent takes us to a tributary of the Mammoth River, the longest river on the island. In the evening we will enjoy a walk on the tundra slopes with possible sightings of Snowy Owls, Lemmings, Arctic Foxes and a huge variety of High Arctic plants. We will be staying overnight at the Peak Tundra hut, a field hut for studies of the Snow Geese nesting nearby.

### Day 3: Academic Tundra

After breakfast we continue down the Tundra River to the Academic Tundra, an extensive area that makes up over half the island. There are opportunities to see amazing fields of wild flowers, Musk Ox, and potentially reindeer, although numbers have been greatly reduced by recent harsh winters. We will return to the ship at midday near the Dream Head Mountains on the north coast of the island.

Northbound and Southbound options available. Southbound itinerary will operate in reverse to the above itinerary.



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## Price:

Cost per person (USD) **1,350 pp**

## Price Includes:

Transport, accommodation (basic field huts) and meals. Please note this is in addition to the cost of the cruise.

## Price Excludes:

Travel insurance, gratuities and other items of a personal nature.

These Overland Traverses are optional activities and conducted in conjunction with our voyage but independently operated by the Park Rangers. It is subject to minimum numbers, reserve regulations and weather and ice conditions. Participants should be aware that there is no discount or compensation for missed landings that the main expedition makes possibly including Herald Island while they are participating in the extension.