



TO LEARN ABOUT INUIT CULTURE



TO CHANNEL THE FAB FOUR

YOU CAN'T BE CLAUSTROPHOBIC

if you want to squeeze into a tiny submarine and dive to the bottom of Lake Superior. Nor can you chicken out at the eleventh hour, lest you scuttle the trip for the other five carefully weighed and balanced out passengers. When I rode in a yellow submersible named "John", while sailing the Great Lakes on the Viking Octantis in June 2023 – an expedition cruise line that makes science and research part of its mission – pilot

Jessica Burnell took us down about 58 metres (190 feet). The cramped space didn't faze me as I gawked through a spherical window into the murky water. So what if we only saw a fish, rock wall and sandy lake bottom? It was all about the thrill of living beneath the waves for 30 memorable minutes while humming the 1966 Beatles hit *Yellow Submarine*. —JB



We are always welcomed aboard the Ocean Endeavour in the high Arctic by Inuit cultural educators who are lighting soapstone oil lamps called *qulliqs*. In remote communities, we sit spellbound by throat singers. There's usually a country-food tasting of whale, fish and meat that is either raw, frozen or dried. Every time we take Zodiacs to shore to explore the wilderness, the Inuit expedition team members double as guards to protect us from polar bears and tundra-dwelling black bears.

I've taken five expedition cruises with Adventure Canada, travelling through the Inuit homeland between Greenland and either Nunavut or Newfoundland and Labrador, and I still marvel at the effortless and authentic way they share Inuit culture. The family-owned, Mississauga, Ont.-based company has been exploring this region on small ships since the early '90s and only visits communities it's in clear partnership with. The CEO, Cedar Swan, also happens to be married to Jason Edmunds. Edmunds, an Inuk who leads the expedition from Labrador, was recognized in 2024 as one of the "Fifty People Changing the World"

by the Explorers Club 50. Many liken Adventure Canada to a "floating university." Besides learning from the Inuit (who might share their personal stories), you'll hear from the botanists, geologists, historians, archeologists, ornithologists, marine mammal experts, musicians and artists that round out the expedition team. Expect on-board lectures and workshops, plus informal talks at "shore stations" during remote landings in parts of Canada that too few people get to see.

You must be open-minded to embrace expedition cruising, because things don't always go as planned, itineraries are never guaranteed, and wind, wildlife and weather will send you in unexpected directions. What is guaranteed, though, is that you'll learn Inuktitut words like *nanumik takuvunga* (I see a polar bear) and *qujannamiik* (thank you). —Jennifer Bain

From top: Adventure Canada tour guide, Georgina Pewatooolook (standing), at a welcome tea in Pond Inlet, Nunavut; Inset: the Arctic Ocean Endeavour; Viking sub pilot Jessica Burnell on Lake Superior

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