

Upernavik, Northwest Greenland, Greenland

Perched on a rocky island 800 km above the Arctic Circle, Upernavik rewards expedition cruisers with cathedral icebergs drifting past brightly painted houses, working dog teams, and a raw glimpse of Greenlandic life far beyond the tourist trail.

Tender port (no cruise pier)

Typical call: 5–7 hrs

Danish Krone (DKK) — limited card acceptance

Greenlandic & Danish

Arctic expedition destination

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — Zodiacs to the local boat harbour

Walk to centre: 5 min from tender landing

Best For: Icebergs, Inuit heritage, wilderness scenery

Don't Miss: Upernavik Museum & cemetery viewpoint

Getting around: **Taxi** Varies · **Rideshare** not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Upernavik Icefjord Zodiac Cruise** — Glide among some of the world's largest icebergs calved from the glaciers feeding the Upernavik Icefjord just north of town.
- Upernavik Museum (Old Town)** — The world's northernmost open-air museum occupies the original 1772 colonial quarter.
- Old Church & Cemetery Walk** — The black-and-white wooden church dating to 1859 stands in the historic quarter.
- Whale & Wildlife Boat Tour** — Local boat operators run trips through the Upernavik Archipelago, where narwhals, beluga whales, seals, and seabirds are regularly spotted.
- Sea Kayaking Among Icebergs** — Paddle Greenland's waters as the Inuit have for centuries.

BEST WALKS

- Town & Viewpoint Loop** 2–3 km · 1–1.5 hrs · Moderate (steep sections) — From the boat harbour walk uphill through the colourful town past the Old Church to the Upernavik Museum, then continue up to the cemetery ridge for panoramic icebergs...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	19°	9°	0d	
Jun	42°	32°	0d	
Aug	48°	39°	1d	
Sep	37°	31°	1d	
Oct	30°	24°	1d	

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:14AM–11:19PM · Sep 7:51AM–9:24PM · Oct 10:16AM–6:42PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring Danish Krone cash. The museum and craft sellers often prefer DKK. There is one ATM (at the Pilersuisoq supermarket) but it can run out of cash when cruise ships are in port — draw money on the ship if possible.
- Layer up, even in summer. July–August temperatures hover around 5–10 °C (41–50 °F) with fierce wind chill. Bring a windproof and waterproof outer layer, warm hat, and gloves.
- Arctic mosquitoes are real. In July and August, when the wind drops, they can be fierce. Pack high-DEET repellent and consider a head net.
- Do not approach the sled dogs. Working dog teams are staked around the town outskirts. They are not pets and can be aggressive — admire from a distance.
- Hotel Upernavik is your only café. The hotel restaurant serves coffee, pastries, and simple hot meals. The Pilersuisoq supermarket is great for Danish pastries, rye bread, and local snacks like dried fish.
- Expect a digital detox. Mobile roaming in Greenland is expensive and coverage is patchy. Wi-Fi is scarce. Embrace being offline for the day.

Upernavik, Northwest Greenland, Greenland — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1

Upernavik Museum

World's northernmost open-air museum, set in preserved colonial buildings including an old church and traditional kayak collection.
- 2

Upernavik Iceberg Archipelago

Maze of small islands surrounded by towering icebergs, some large enough to be mistaken for islands themselves.
- P

Cruise port / terminal