

SKEPTIC

With **DR. MICHAEL SHERMER**,
Founder of Skeptic Magazine

GREENLAND DISCOVERY

Aboard the Expedition Cruise Ship **VEGA**

August 25 - September 4, 2026

Disko Bay, Greenland

SKEPTIC

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to offer you an opportunity to join me on a voyage that explores several of Greenland's most magnificent places in the summer of 2026, aboard one of the newest and best-equipped expedition ships afloat.

Beginning in Kangerlussuaq, our expedition starts in the fjords of Greenland's western coast, home to countless colonies of seabirds, reindeer grazing on the shore, and walrus. Sailing north, we will get to observe the Evigheds Glacier and eventually cross the Arctic Circle to explore the volcanic island of Disko Island and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Disko Bay, with its magnificent calving glaciers and seasonal populations of whales, including belugas. Returning south toward Sisimiut, the second largest town in Greenland, we will have the opportunity to see Greenlandic artisans at work. Aboard the ship's fleet of Zodiacs, we will have the chance to explore a wilderness that has remained largely unchanged since the time of Erik the Red. Throughout this world of ice floes and glaciers, we will encounter various species of whales and seals, and if we are fortunate, a polar bear or two.

I look forward to hosting you amongst a team of resident expedition leaders and naturalists who will lead excursions ashore and operate Zodiac cruises that will bring us into intimate contact with the incredible places we visit.

Our vessel for this cruise is the Swan Hellenic *Vega*, a state-of-the-art, new-generation expedition cruise ship built in Finland and launched in 2022. Accommodating only 152 guests in superb staterooms and balcony suites, *Vega* features elegant common areas and the most modern mechanical and environmentally conscious technology, far exceeding the standards set by international regulatory agencies.

Please take a moment to review the brochure and look ahead to joining me and fellow travelers next summer on *Greenland Discovery*.

Warm regards,



Dr. Michael Shermer
Executive Director
The Skeptics Society

P.S. 9% of your cruise fee will be a tax-deductible donation to The Skeptics Society – a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

YOUR HOST

DR. MICHAEL SHERMER



Dr. Michael Shermer is the Founding Publisher of Skeptic magazine and the host of the podcast The Michael Shermer Show. For 30 years he taught college and university courses in critical thinking, and for 18 years he was a monthly columnist for *Scientific American*. He is the author

of *New York Times* bestsellers *Why People Believe Weird Things* and *The Believing Brain*, *Why Darwin Matters*, *The Science of Good and Evil*, *The Moral Arc*, *Heavens on Earth*, *Giving the Devil His Due*, and *Conspiracy: Why the Rational Believe the Irrational*. His new book is *Truth: What it is, How to Find it, Why it Still Matters*.

Michael regularly contributes opinion editorials, essays, and reviews to: the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Science*, *Nature*, and other publications. He wrote 214 consecutive monthly columns for *Scientific American*. He appeared on such shows as *The Colbert Report*, *20/20*, *Dateline*, *Charlie Rose*, *Oprah*, and *Larry King Live* (but, proudly, never *Jerry Springer*!). He has been interviewed in countless documentaries aired on PBS, A&E, Discovery, The History Channel, The Science Channel, and The Learning Channel. Dr. Shermer was the co-host and co-producer of the 13-hour Family Channel television series, *Exploring the Unknown*. His two TED talks, seen by millions, were voted in the top 100.

Dr. Shermer received his B.A. in psychology from Pepperdine University, M.A. in experimental psychology from California State University, Fullerton, and his Ph.D. in the history of science from Claremont Graduate University. He has been a college professor since 1979, also teaching at Occidental College, Glendale College, and Claremont Graduate University, where he taught a transdisciplinary course for Ph.D. students on Evolution, Economics, and the Brain.

CRUISE WITH A TEAM OF NATURALISTS AND EXPERT GUIDES

Our activities in Greenland are planned and conducted by a team of expedition leaders and naturalists who are among the most experienced in the field, with several years of leading small-ship cruise expeditions to this incredible region of the world. Members of the team comprise a truly astonishing assortment of expertise and intellect. Onboard and ashore, through talks and presentations they will create a comprehensive understanding of the natural life, history and culture of this region. The experience we will provide is not just one of awe-inspiring sightseeing, but a complete learning adventure.

THE **NEW** 152-GUEST EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP **VEGA**



Oceanview Stateroom



Balcony Suite



Swan Restaurant



Swimming Pool



Observation Lounge

Built in Finland and launched in July 2022, Swan Hellenic's *Vega* is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 10,250 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 250 passengers, *Vega* will accommodate a maximum of 152 guests in 76 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, *Vega* is among the world's first environmentally responsible ships. Equipped with hybrid engines and a unique water filtration system, *Vega* leaves a minimal footprint. For cruising in Polar regions, the ship meets the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code with its high PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull and other advanced features. A computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 120 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Vega* will

carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

Vega's interior spaces exude sophisticated elegance, with most rooms opening to panoramic views of the sea. All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections, and other amenities. Of the ship's 76 staterooms, 60 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna with an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis. The outstanding cuisine is complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner.

ITINERARY



Tuesday, August 25, 2026

DEPART THE US

Wednesday, August 26

REYKJAVÍK, Iceland

Arrive at Keflavík International Airport, Reykjavík's airport. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Courtyard by Marriott Hotel* (or similar) in the town of Keflavík, which is located just 30 miles from Reykjavík. In the evening, meet fellow travelers, your host Dr. Michael Shermer, and the Trip Director at a welcome dinner. (D)

Thursday, August 27

REYKJAVÍK/KANGERLUSSUAQ/EMBARK

Fly to Kangerlussuaq, set at the head of a long Arctic fjord and Greenland's main gateway. Transfer to the port to embark on the *Vega* and sail. (B,L,D)

Friday, August 28

EVIGHEDS GLACIER

Today we will observe the Evigheds Glacier by Zodiac, weather permitting. The Glacier carves its way through the dramatic Kangerlussuaq—Eternity Fjord. This 75-kilometer stretch of deep blue water and towering cliffs is alive with adventure. Watch white-tailed eagles and black-legged kittiwakes wheel overhead, and feel the crack of calving icebergs echo through the fjord. Here, in one of the Arctic's most awe-inspiring landscapes, experience the raw power of nature and witness firsthand how Greenland's ice is constantly reshaping its rugged frontier. (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 29

QEQERTARSUAQ, Disko Island

Disko Island is the only volcanic island in Greenland, with its rich soil, basalt columns, and hot springs contrasting sharply with the rest of the country. Qeqertarsuaq, a small town at the southern end of the island, affords opportunities for hiking on the black sand beaches and perhaps a visit to Arctic Station, a satellite campus of the University of Copenhagen. (B,L,D)

Sunday, August 30

UUMMANNAQ

Uummannaq, meaning "heart-shaped" in Greenlandic, takes its name from the striking twin-peaked granite mountain that dominates the island's northern half. According to local legend, a piece of your heart stays behind when you visit—forever calling you back. Nestled among glaciated peaks and shimmering fjords, this enchanting region is known as the sunniest place in Greenland and has offered shelter and inspiration to Inuit communities for over 4,500 years. (B,L,D)

Monday, August 31 and Tuesday, September 1

ILULISSAT/DISKO BAY

Heading further north, we come to Ilulissat and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Disko Bay. Here we will spend two days exploring



Sisimiut, Greenland

this fascinating region. Egi Glacier is one of the world's most active glaciers and offers our best chance to witness calving. This is also the point in our expedition where we are most likely to see beluga whales as they feed on the rich krill in front of the glaciers. Weather and ice permitting, we will call in the town of Ilulissat (the word means "iceberg"), where Knud Rasmussen grew up, and where we will gain a first-hand sense of why he was drawn to devote his life to the exploration of the Arctic. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, September 2

SISIMIUT

Today we sail some 50 miles north of the Arctic Circle to call in Sisimiut, the second largest town in Greenland, boasting a population of just about 6,000. Primarily a fishing village, Sisimiut offers a small

museum and an arts and crafts center. We may have the opportunity to see artisans at work and perhaps to purchase some Greenlandic arts and crafts. (B,L,D)

Thursday, September 3

KANGERLUSSUAQ/REYKJAVÍK, Iceland

Disembark *Vega* for a flight from Kangerlussuaq to Keflavík. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Courtyard by Marriott Hotel* (or similar) for a farewell dinner and an overnight stay. (B,D)

Friday, September 4

REYKJAVÍK/US

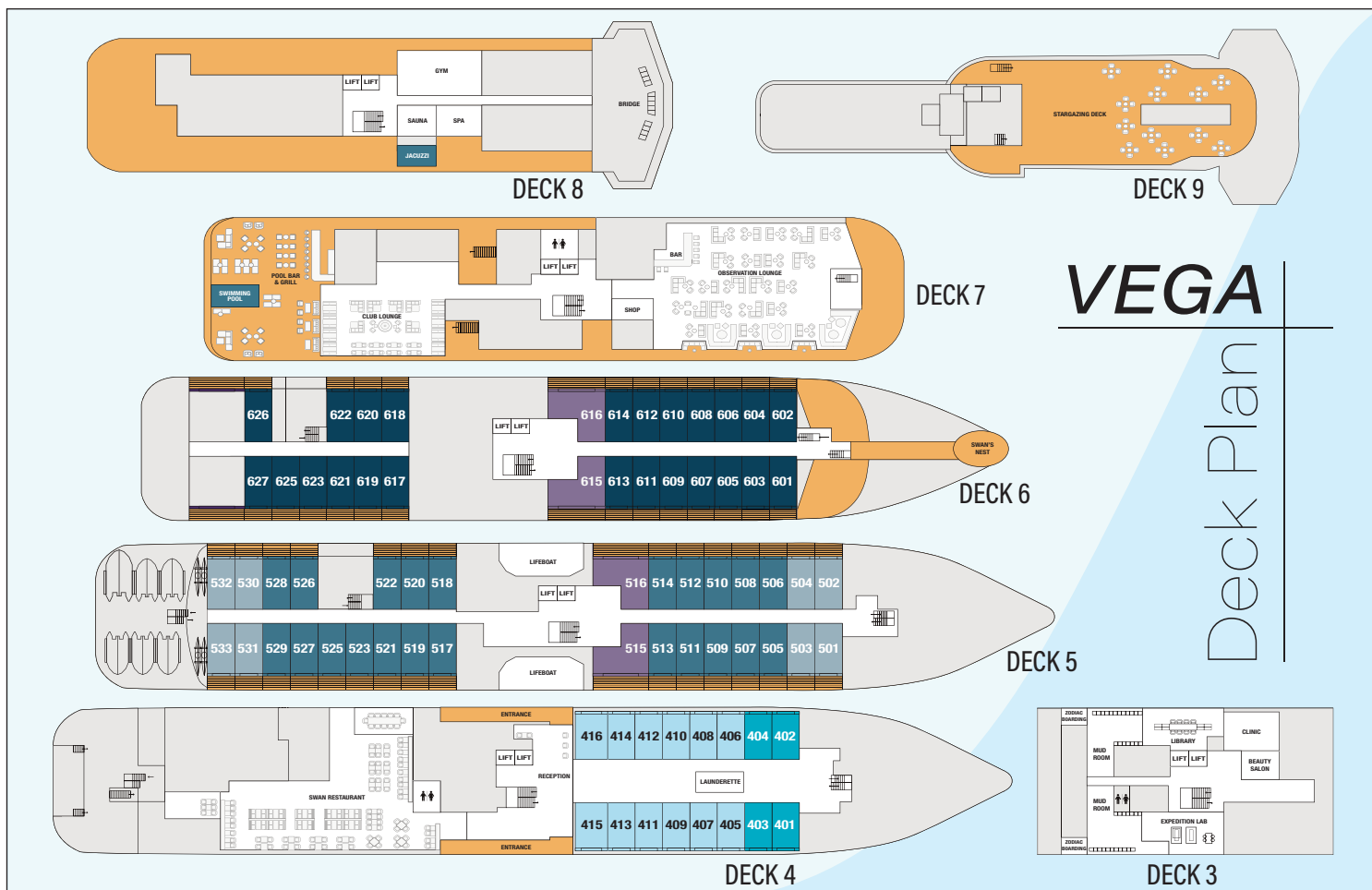
After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ilulissat Icefjord, Greenland



Black Legged Kittiwakes, Greenland



All accommodations aboard *Vega* are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATES PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
E	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 401–404.	\$ 10,590
D	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 405–416.	\$ 10,990
C	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501–504, 530–533.	\$ 11,590
B	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 505–514, 517–529.	\$ 11,990
A	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601–614, 617–627.	\$ 12,390
AA	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 440 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 515, 516, 615 & 616.	\$ 16,990
FOR SOLO TRAVELER A limited number of cabins are available for single occupants in Category D at 120% of the per-person, double occupancy rate, and in Categories C, B, and A at 150% of the per-person, double occupancy rate.		

LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM

Travel on this cruise program and enjoy savings of **\$400 to \$900** per person on your next voyage with **THE SKEPTICS SOCIETY and THALASSA JOURNEYS** aboard a Swan Hellenic ship. Savings are determined by the stateroom category booked and is applicable when you reserve your trip within 30 days of the completion date of **GREENLAND DISCOVERY**

This saving cannot be combined with other offers and is subject to change.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as shore excursions or embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include:

- Accommodations for two nights at the *Courtyard by Marriott Hotel* (or similar) in the town of Keflavik.
- Cruise aboard the *Vega*, as described in the itinerary.
- Group airport/hotel/pier transfers at designated times, and handling of luggage on arrival and departure dates.
- Discussions with Dr. Michael Shermer.
- Complete program of tours and excursions as mentioned in the itinerary with professional English-speaking guides.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, guides, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Travelers can expect an estimated total of 2-3 hours of walking per day. Nature and town excursions may involve walking on inclined or uneven surfaces such as rocky or slippery trails, unpaved paths, cobblestones, or stairs without handrails. During some site visits guests may need to stand if seating is not available. Expedition excursions use motorized Zodiac boats, which can require taking a few big steps on a moving craft with crewmember assistance. Embarking and disembarking from motor coaches will also be necessary.



ABOUT THALASSA JOURNEYS

Thalassa Journeys is a tour company founded by the men and women who, working as Travel Dynamics International, pioneered educational and cultural travel in the 1970s in partnership with the leading educational, research, cultural and performing arts institutions in the United States. For more than 45 years our mission was to provide robust, intellectually stimulating experiences to lifelong learners who see travel as an opportunity to expand their understanding of the world and their place in it. This same mission guides us today. We believe that the most rewarding travel experiences happen when small groups of like-minded individuals share an enthusiasm for engaging with the richly varied environments of the world, and with the history, culture, ideas and ideals of the people who inhabit them.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 71-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 70 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be effected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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SKEPTIC

GREENLAND DISCOVERY

With **Dr. Michael Shermer**

August 25 - September 4, 2026



Vega in Kangerlussuatsiaq—Eternity Fjord

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL

THALASSA JOURNEYS AT

866-633-3611

or email

reservations@thalassajourneys.com