

TRAVEL + LEISURE



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ISSUE

GO WITH THE FLOE

A new expedition offers a sustainable way to experience East Greenland.

By **Chloe Berge**

“IT’S RUGGED, intense, and exhilarating,” says Bethany Betzler, the founder of Hinoki Travels, referring to the new Greenland expedition her boutique travel company is launching this month. Greenland has become a magnet for “last-chance” tourists wanting to see glaciers and icebergs before they disappear, but Betzler hopes to steer visitors toward more climate-friendly ways to explore the fragile region. That’s why the expedition is human-powered, meaning no planes

or other fossil-fuel-powered vehicles are used for transportation. Instead, guests will travel on foot or by kayak.

The weeklong journey will begin in Kulusuk, a small settlement on an island in the country’s east with a population of about 250. Guests will spend two days in the village learning about traditional Inuit life, visiting winter houses and summer camps, and spotting whales. Also central to the journey is learning how Inuit communities are adapting to the shifting climate.

After exploring Kulusuk, the group will set out by sea kayak, led by an Inuit hunter and guide, Jokum Heimer Mikaelson, along with Matt Spenceley, of the Greenland mountaineering company Pirhuk. Over the next five days, they will hike across glaciers, into ice caves, and up small mountains. Guests will also participate in traditional Inuit foraging by collecting edible plants in the tundra and mussels along the shoreline, as well as fishing for arctic char (served hot and

GEAR WE LOVE



“Living in New York City with a toddler can sometimes feel limiting—heavy strollers, broken elevators. The minute our son was old enough, we strapped a **Thule Yepp** seat (\$207) on the back of my husband’s bike, and our options for weekend adventures became endless.”
—Erin Agostinelli, Managing Editor

sizzling on the beach). Accommodations include camping and one night in a remote cabin.

While the active trek promises big moments and dramatic landscapes, it was also designed to reveal smaller, more intimate experiences: the groan of a calving glacier; a tent snapping in the lashing wind; a voice echoing across a vast blue fjord.

“What makes the trip special is that you’re getting to spend a significant amount of time with people who have stories to tell and insights to share,” Betzler says. “They have things to teach us.”

*Seven-night Interdependence: East Greenland itinerary with **Hinoki Travels** from \$5,450 per person.*



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1. *Camping on the fjords of East Greenland.*

2. *Capelin drying for long-term storage.*

3. *In the village of Kulusuk, residents haul in the day’s catch.*

4. *The village under the midnight sun.*