



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Torngat Mountains Clean-Up Mission

Nain, September 9, 2010. Parks Canada and Cruise North Expeditions are collaborating on an exciting two-year project to clean up old waste sites in and around Canada's newest national park, Torngat Mountains National Park in Northern Labrador.

From September 16-21, 2010 we will travel from Kuujuaq along the Northern Labrador coast to Nain on board the ice-class 122 passenger ship *Lyubov Orlova*.

On this stewardship mission, we'll be working with Parks Staff, Inuit from the region, management boards, researchers, scientists, government officials, students, industry representatives, and visitors.

While the focus will be environmental preservation, the project will include informative presentations and discussion of stewardship issues such as park management, research and exploration, student learning, and tourism. There will also be plenty of opportunities to go ashore in the company of Inuit and experience the Torngat Mountains through a cultural lens.

Background

For the past 5 years Cruise North has led an annual clean-up project with the help of volunteers from businesses operating in Canada's Arctic. The first major success was removing all waste from a heavily polluted abandoned mining exploration site near Aupaluk, on the shores of Ungava Bay in Nunavik. In September 2009, after four visits spanning five years, the final pieces of debris were hauled away.

The mission made a positive step in cleaning up the Arctic landscape, contributed to the health of one Northern community, and raised and continues to raise awareness of the need to respect and protect our fragile environment.



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Environmental Preservation

For the next clean-up we have joined forces with Parks Canada to tackle a similar project in the Torngat Mountains. The difference here is that there is no single large site, but many smaller ones spread throughout the park and surrounding lands consisting of various kinds of historical debris. Environmental experts have created a detailed map indicating desired waste pick-up locations, including the quantity and type of materials to collect, and have begun working to bring waste from the local area to these central collection points.

Using the ship's zodiac boats and cranes, and the people power of the group, we will remove waste including used fuel drums and contaminated soil from the areas, and store it aboard the ship. At the end of the tour we will transport the material by ship to proper disposal facilities.

Culture, Research and Exploration

A research team comprised of ornithologists, archeologists, botanists, and physical geographers who have conducted research in the park will join the tour to provide support for shore based activities and evening programs.

This will allow researchers to explore areas outside their research sites for possible future projects.

Inuit elders and youth will also be part of the team. Experienced and knowledgeable Inuit will accompany people on shore based excursions providing a privileged and powerful insight into Inuit connections to the land and their stories.

Student Learning

This trip will offer a learning opportunity for Inuit students modeled after the kAGIDLUASUk student program, which currently provides Inuit youth opportunities to work alongside scientists.

Students from Nunatsiavut and Nunavik will contribute to the environmental efforts, while also experiencing the landscape and nature of this Inuit homeland. They will have opportunities to meet and

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network with professionals for potential employment, internship or mentorship opportunities.

In 2009 students from Jaanimmarik School in Kuujuaq participated in the Clean-Up Mission. Along with linking the science they learn in the classroom to the science in the field, the students developed an appreciation for volunteering, and learned the importance of environmental preservation.

Tourism/Visitor Experience

We are welcoming visitors wanting to volunteer, and also experience the beauty and wilderness of this incredible region. Throughout the tour we will go on Inuit-guided shore excursions to wildlife colonies, archeological sites and sites of great physical beauty and significance.

Cost

We accept any and all financial contributions. Due to limited space available on the ship, any donors who wish to come along and assist in the volunteer work must contribute a minimum of \$2,500 pp.

For more information, contact:

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