



**Translucent fur** – Although classified as a marine mammal, polar bears are not, as you might think, a completely unique species. In fact, they are really a sister species of the brown bear that has evolved to live north of the Arctic Circle. These warm-blooded creatures retain heat using a combination of dense body fat and translucent fur composed of hollow hairs which trap air and diffuse light. Surprisingly, their skin under all that fur is black, meaning they can absorb the sun's rays more efficiently.



**Island dwellers** – The Snow Bunting is unique in that it's the most northerly breeding land-based bird. These small white songbirds arrive in the high Arctic in spring to claim their nesting sites. Often, these sites will be situated on nunataks, which are rocky protrusions in ice fields. Snow Buntings build their nests in cracks in the rocks, insulating them with feathers and bits of fur, and are one of the few species to inhabit these 'islands' dotting the landscape.



**Warmer than wool** – At first glance one might assume the musk ox is a type of bison, but the truth is they're more closely related to goats. This may explain why the fur of their underbellies is so highly prized and said to be the warmest and softest form of wool on earth. Quiviut, as it's called by Greenlanders, is traditionally collected from the moulted fur of wild musk oxen each spring and spun into yarn for hats and scarves.

## Thriving web of life

The coastal ice-free fringe of Greenland supports a range of mammals and birds living in the seas, fjords and protected areas, offering nature lovers a unique wildlife experience.

### Thriving web of life

Greenland really is like nowhere else on Earth. Not only does the world's largest island harbour a variety of wildlife, most of it is also packed into the ice-free coastal fringe where we sail. From mighty humpback whales and shy musk oxen to Arctic foxes and perhaps even the elusive polar bear, depending on the location you'll be in there's a great chance of seeing

some of these wild and wonderful creatures.

Birdlife is diverse, with around 230 observed species, both non-migratory and seasonal visitors, including various birds of prey. Around the shores you might see skuas, Northern Fulmars and Glaucous Gulls, while on land, Lapland Buntings and Snow Buntings are common breeders.

### A world apart

Your Expedition Team will take you to the locations which past experience has taught them are the best places to see wildlife, while the Science Center has a wealth of information about local nature for you to draw upon and help you get the best from your Greenland Expedition Cruise.