

NUNAVUT—Sea Kayaking
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—Rafting
BRITISH COLUMBIA—Paddling and Hiking

CANADA

wild waters

NUNAVUT Ellesmere's Tragic Shores

“The place will make the hair stand up on the back of your neck,” guide Steve Smith says of Cape Sabine on Ellesmere Island, where United States Army officer Adolphus Greely and a 24-man meteorological team spent the winter of 1883-84. Only Greely and six others

survived, and the rocky shore still shows evidence of their struggle: a stone shelter, shreds of green woolen uniforms, and a fire pit. Next summer, Smith will lead the first commercial kayaking trip to retrace part of Greely's route, with a stop at the haunting site on Cape Sabine.

Up to eight paddlers will fly seven hours from Ottawa to Resolute Bay on Cornwallis Island, then board a Twin Otter for a three-hour flight to Buchanan Bay on Ellesmere. From there, they'll head south along fjord-riven Kane Basin for encounters with calving glaciers, walrus, narwhals, and huge

seabird colonies. Although novice kayakers are welcome, they must be able to handle powerful currents. Midday hikes will explore Ellesmere's tundra, which is home to musk oxen, caribou, and foxes. Nights are spent at campsites where thousand-year-old amenities—stacked-rock kayak stands and tent rings—remind paddlers that the polar wilderness, which defeated Greely's party, has sustained indigenous peoples for thousands of years. —Susan Enfield

OUTFITTER: Whitney & Smith Legendary Expeditions; 403-678-3052; www.legendaryex.com.
LENGTH: 14 to 21 days. **DATES:** July and August 2001. **RATE:** \$4,000, departing from Resolute Bay.

Hayes Fjord, on the east coast of Ellesmere Island.

