You will depart from Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska, by all-terrain-vehicle on the tundra and beach or by open boat in the Chukchi Sea for the Walakpa Site, where you will work and camp during the 6-week field season. You will learn and employ fundamental techniques of archaeology as they apply to the Arctic, including site identification and recording, testing and excavation. You will learn to identify common artifact types while undertaking sampling and artifact processing procedures. The never setting sun will facilitate evening lectures and discussions on many topics, including archaeological research design, community archaeology, global change effects on our cultural heritage, legal and ethical aspects of site excavation, and specialized analytical techniques.

You will spend a brief period in Utqiagvik at the beginning and end of the season, where you will visit other world-class archaeological sites and may have the opportunity to take part in community events.

The Walakpa site (Ualiqpaa in Inupiaq) is an iconic deeply stratified archaeological site on the Chukchi Sea coast 20 km south of Utqiagvik. It is the only site on Alaska’s coastline between Canada and Cape Krusenstern with confirmed intact vertically stratified Neoeskimo and Paleoeskimo components.