

# AROUND SVALBARD



## A voyage around Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago in Norway

Near the mouth of Liefdefjorden, we will go ashore for a walk on the tundra island of Andøya. Many common eider and Pink-footed Goose nest here, and the more rare King Eider may also be seen. Sailing into Liefdefjorden, we will cruise near the face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favourite feeding spot for thousands of Kittiwakes and occasionally Polar Bear are seen on the glacier.

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## TRAVEL PROGRAM

### Day 1

- Flight from your country of residence - Oslo.
- Accommodation in a hotel or hostel.
- Lunch and dinner not included.

### Day 2

Arrive in Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Spitsbergen archipelago of which West Spitsbergen is the largest island. Before embarking there is an opportunity to stroll around this former mining town, whose parish church and Polar Museum are well worth visiting. In the early evening the ship will sail out of Isfjorden.

### Day 3

Heading north along the west coast, we arrive by morning in Krossfjorden, where we board the Zodiacs for a cruise along the sculpted front of the 14th of July Glacier. On the green slopes near the glacier, a colourful variety of flowers bloom, while large numbers of Kittiwake and Brünnich's Guillemot nest on the nearby cliffs. There is also a good chance of spotting Arctic Fox, who patrol the base of the cliffs in case a chick falls from its nest, and Bearded Seal, who cruise this fjord. In the afternoon we sail to Ny Ålesund, the world's most northerly settlement.

Once a mining village - served by the world's most northerly railway, which can still be seen - Ny Ålesund is now a research centre. Close to the village is a breeding ground for Barnacle Goose, Pink-footed Goose and Arctic Tern. Visitors interested in the history of Arctic exploration will want to walk to the anchoring mast used by Amundsen and Nobile, in the airship Norge in 1926 and Nobile in the airship Italia in 1928, before their flights to the North Pole.

### Day 4

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### Days 5 and 6

We have our northernmost landing at Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet. Here we will be at 81 degrees north, just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole. Polar Bear inhabit this region, along with Walrus and Ivory Gull. We may sit for several hours in the pack ice, taking in our spectacular surroundings with their own wildlife. When the edge of the sea-ice is tens of miles north of the Seven Islands (mostly in August) we will spend a second day to get to and in the sea ice. Alternatively (mostly in July) we turn to Sorg Fjord where we may find a herd of Walrus not far from the graves of 17th century whalers. On a nature walk, we may encounter families of Ptarmigans. The opposite side of the fjord is also a beautiful area for an excursion.

### Day 7

Today we will sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to Bearded Seal, Ringed Seal, Polar Bear, and Ivory Gull. We'll navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in our zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with thousands of Brünnich's Guillemot. On the east side of Hinlopenstrait, we'll attempt a landing at Augustabukta on Nordaustlandet, home to reindeer, Pink-footed Goose, breeding Ivory Gull, and Walrus. Near Torrelneset, we will explore the polar desert of Nordaustlandet, next to the world's third largest ice cap, which meets the sea nearby. We will walk along beautiful coastline covered in smooth rocks, sculpted by the surf over thousands of years. We may encounter Walrus along the way.

### Day 8

In Freemansundet we plan to land at Sundneset on the island of Barentsøya to visit an old trapper's hut and then take a brisk walk across

the tundra in search of Spitsbergen Reindeer and Barnacle Goose. Later we cruise south to Diskobukta on the west side of Edgeøya. After a Zodiac cruise through the shallow bay, we land on a beach littered with whale bones and tree trunks, which have drifted here from Siberia. We can also climb to the rim of a narrow gully which is inhabited by thousands of Kittiwake, together with Black Guillemot and piratical Glaucous Gull. During the breeding season, the base of the cliffs is patrolled by Arctic Fox and Polar Bear, especially females with young cubs, searching for young birds that have fallen from the nesting ledges.

#### **Day 9**

We start the day quietly cruising the side fjords of the spectacular Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen, enjoying the scenery of towering mountain peaks. Hornsundtind rises to 1,431m, while Bautaen shows why early Dutch explorers gave the name 'Spitsbergen' - pointed mountains - to the island. There are also 14 magnificent glaciers in the area and very good chances of encounters with seals and Polar Bear.

#### **Day 10**

Today we land on Ahlstrandhalvøya at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden. Here piles of Beluga skeletons (the Beluga is a small white whale), the remains of 19th century slaughter, are yet another reminder of the consequences of thoughtless exploitation. Fortunately, Beluga were not hunted to the edge of extinction and may still be seen locally. Indeed, there is a good chance that we will come across a pod. Cruising into Recherchefjorden during the afternoon we can explore an area of tundra at the head of the fjord where many reindeer feed.

#### **Día 11**

Return to Longyearbyen and disembark for the transfer to the airport and the flight to Oslo and home.

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### **WARNING**

This program is indicative and may be modified by weather factors, ice and snow conditions or logistical factors inherent in the Arctic.

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### **DATES**

July and August 2017

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### **PRICE**

[Ask price](#)

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### **REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

30 days before

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### **RESERVATION**

30% of the trip without tickets neither air taxes.

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### **MINIMUM GROUP**

1 person

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### **INCLUDED**

- Transfer from Longyearbyen airport to the vessel (and return).
  - Boating according expedition plan.
  - Accommodation in a cabin according to chosen option.
  - Full board on the ship.
  - Trips zodiac according to expedition plan.
  - Excursions according to travel plan.
  - Multi-adventure insurance
  - 1 Piece of 20 kg of personal baggage.
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## NOT INCLUDED

- Flight from home to Longyearbyen.
  - Regular flights air taxes.
  - Accommodations in towns and cities.
  - Transfers inside towns and other places, except the included from Longyearbyen airport to the vessel.
  - Meals on transfers, airports and cities.
  - Personal mountain equipment.
  - Costs and applications for visa to Norway, European Union or other countries if required.
  - Government arrival and departure taxes.
  - Laundry on the boat.
  - Alcoholic drinks and other drinks.
  - Costs of telephone calls and any other telecommunications expends incurred by the travellers.
  - Tips for the crew.
  - Extra accommodation nights in Norway or other countries due to delays because of weather conditions, ice and snow state, inherent logistic in the Arctic, strikes at airports and any other cause beyond the control of Arctic World.
  - Everything not listed in the INCLUDE section.
  - Extra activities and excursions optional out of the expedition plan.
  - Air excess costs of personal baggage.
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## SUPPLEMENTS

In case of a significant increasing of the vessel fuel prices, the expedition price could be reviewed and it could be applied a surcharge to compensate such increasing.

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## NOTES

Arctic World as specialists in the polar regions, organize tailor made trips according the interests, budget, available time and wishes of the traveller. So, to this trip are possible adding activities, days, meals, excursions, etc, in order this will be an unforgettable experience. Just tell us the days, activities and meals you want to do and we will prepare your customize trip.

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