

The Arctic - North Spitsbergen Basecamp | Ortelius

Trip Code
ACOWBNS
Departure



Introduction

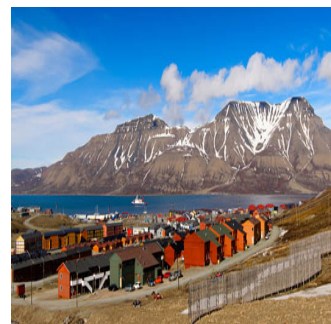
The North Spitsbergen Basecamp cruise allows you to explore and enjoy this Arctic region in a variety of ways. On this expedition, you can kayak, hike, snowshoe, and learn how to take stunning photos of polar flora and fauna.

Background information on Basecamp cruises: We strive to minimise wildlife disturbance on our Basecamp voyages by concentrating on land and near-shore activities. The expedition team will try to find wildlife opportunities whenever possible, if time and circumstances allow.

Itinerary

DAY 1: Largest town, biggest island

You touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. Though the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded in it. In the early evening the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where you might spot the first minke whale of your voyage.



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DAY 2: Røngsfjorden & Blomstrandhalvøya

Duration

8 Days

On the first day of our activity program, we

will slowly ease into things.

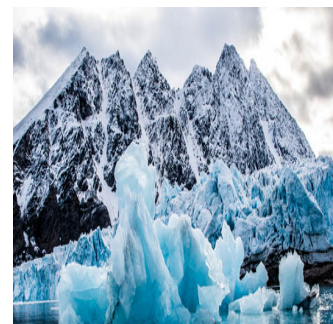
Spitsbergen

Blomstrandhalvøya is located on the northern side of the fjord, which will offer shelter and room to change plan in case the weather changes. In the afternoon, you visit Ny Ålesund, one of the northernmost settlements on Earth. Once a mining village served by the world's most northerly railway - you can still see its tracks - Ny Ålesund is now a research center. Close to the community is a breeding ground for barnacle geese, pink-footed geese, and Arctic terns. And if you're interested in the history of Arctic exploration, visit the anchoring mast used by polar explorers Amundsen and Nobile in their airships, Norge (1926) and Italia (1928). In the evening, we head north along the west coast and spend the night in the sheltered surroundings of Krossfjorden.



DAY 3: Exploring the North West

Next to our activities, we will next head toward Amsterdamoya, where you have the chance to hike past the remains of a 17th-century whaling station. You can also enjoy the beautiful panorama of Smeerenburgsleta. In the afternoon, we make for the islands around Fair Haven.



DAY 4: Rugged Raudfjorden

At Raudfjorden, on the north coast of Spitsbergen, you can take in an expansive fjord spilling with glaciers - and maybe even visited by ringed and bearded seals. The cliffs and shoreline of this fjord also support thriving seabird colonies, rich vegetation, and the possibility of polar bears. Here we will find the right balance between safe activities and wildlife watching.



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Depending on the weather, you could sail

into Liefdefjorden and cruise within sight of

Spitsbergen's 3.1 kilometer-long (3.1 miles) face of

Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of this

glacier are a favorite feeding spot for

thousands of kittiwakes, and the base of the

ice is a popular polar bear hunting ground.

If ice conditions prevent sailing here early

in the season, we may use an alternate

route along the west coast of Spitsbergen.

Near the area of Texas Bar and

Hornbaekpollen, there are also some great

hikes.



DAY 6: North Spitsbergen splendors

This is our reserve day for activities around

North Spitsbergen. Weather and wildlife

permitting, we will choose the right location

for another day of splendid outdoor

adventures.



DAY 7: Forlandsundet or St. Johns Fjord

Forlandsundet, between the main island of

Spitsbergen and the narrow Prins Karls

Forland, is a place of great beauty and

fascinating wildlife. Walrus sometimes

haul out here, and seabirds can be found

around Fuglehuken. You may also see

walrus populations around Sarstangen and

Poolepynten. Alternatively, we might sail

into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of

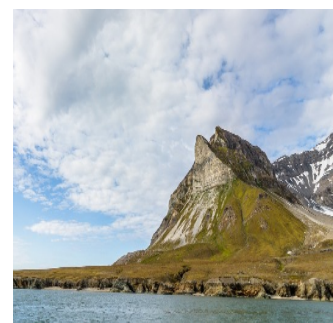
Isfjorden, landing at Alkhorneret. Seabirds

nest on these cliffs, Arctic foxes search

below for fallen eggs and chicks, and

reindeer graze the sparse vegetation. We

will arrive in Longyearbyen later that night.



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DAY 8 - There and back again

Duration

8 Days

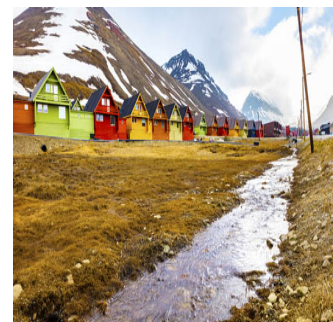
Every adventure, no matter how grand,

must eventually come to an end. You

will be in Longyearbyen, taking home

memories that will accompany you

wherever your next adventure lies.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

INCLUSIONS

Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary.

All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.

All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.

Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.

Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes.

Transfers and baggage handling between the airport and ship only for those passengers on the group flights to and from Longyearbyen.

All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.

AECO fees and governmental taxes.

Comprehensive pre-departure material.

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights

Pre- and post- land arrangements.

Passport and visa expenses.

Government arrival and departure taxes.

Meals ashore unless otherwise specified

Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended).

Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges.

The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).

Additional overnight accommodation

Adventure Options not listed in Included Activities

Any items not mentioned as included

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Subject to availability upon request. No single supplement will apply if willing to share in selected cabins. Please contact us for more details.

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Locations

Notes
Spitsbergen



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Prices are based on per person, and vary from quad, triple, and twin cabins.

Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.

All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions

Price Dependent upon Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

Sustainability