

The Arctic - Svalbard In Spring | Ocean Explorer

Trip Code
ACQEOSIS
Departure



Introduction

This Arctic expedition offers the chance to explore Svalbard during spring, when sea ice is at its peak and daylight lasts 24 hours. The expedition team adjusts routes daily using ice charts, ensuring the best opportunities for exploration and wildlife viewing. You may encounter polar bears hunting along the ice edge, seals resting on floes, and huge seabird colonies nesting on cliffs. The itinerary includes time on deck scanning the ice edge, landings on snow-covered terrain, and possible walks on the sea ice itself.

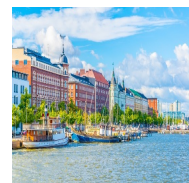
Activities include ship-based observation, guided shore landings, and photography opportunities in fjords and glacier fronts where you will witness the seasonal transition as meltwater flows, vegetation begins to emerge, and migratory whales return to coastal waters. Seven full days are dedicated to exploring ice-filled bays of this amazing frozen polar landscape that will leave you with incredible memories.

Please note: The first departure, 30 April 2027, is 12 days

Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrive Helsinki, Finland

Arrive in the Finnish capital and make your way to the group hotel located right at Helsinki airport, included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. You will have the rest of the day to explore explore the many museums, galleries and restaurants, relax at a Finnish sauna or wander the vibrant Design District. If you do plan to visit Helsinki city center, take advantage of the convenient 40-minute rail service from the airport.



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20/04/2027, 09/05/2027, 17/05/2027, 25/05/2027

embarkation

Duration

11 Days

Locations

Svalbard & The Arctic

After breakfast, the group will transfer to the Hålogaland Airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen, included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. Our journey to the High Arctic now truly begins. You will see the coastal and birch forests of southern Scandinavia give way to taiga and tundra environments, the mountains of Norway and northern Sweden, and the convergence of the Norwegian and Barents seas. Approaching Svalbard, you may get your first views of a pure, snowcapped wilderness, complete with ridgelines, glaciers, and perhaps even sea ice in the distance. We land in Longyearbyen, Svalbard's largest settlement, and transfer to the harbor where we will embark on our ship.



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Duration

10 Days

Locations

Svalbard & The Arctic

Wilderness

Arctic sea ice is on your bucket list, you

have chosen the perfect time to visit. Your

Expedition Team and Bridge Officers will

consult the latest ice charts daily—sea ice is

incredibly dynamic and can drift dozens of

kilometers in a day. Our route will depend

on where sea ice offers the best

opportunities for exploration and wildlife

encounters. Sea ice is the primary hunting,

resting, and travelling platform for iconic

Arctic species—and spring offers the best

chance to see it all. As we navigate the ice

edge—or even through it—spend time on

deck with your binoculars at the ready.

Somewhere in the maze of marooned

icebergs and pressure ridges, wildlife may

be present—perhaps even polar bears who

are lured to the ice edge by the presence of

seals—a primary food source. Watch for

clues, shapes, and shadows that could

signal something special. And while polar

bears may be the main goal, you may also

spot walruses, Arctic foxes, and ivory

gulls—in addition to ringed and bearded

seals. On shore, spring landscapes remain

blanketed in snow, with many bays still f

illed with ice—habitat crucial to Arctic

wildlife for food and survival. It's the kind of

scenery that embodies the word “pristine.”

On sunny days, snowcapped ridges against

cobalt skies are electric in their beauty. On

cloudy days, the Arctic's muted palette of

whites, greys, and blues creates moody,

powerful vistas. Photography tip: try

switching your camera to black-and-white

mode—textures become dramatic, and light

behaves differently. Alongside drifting sea

ice, you may see icebergs and bergy bits—

fragments of glacial ice whose origins lie

deep in mountain valleys. Spring in the

Arctic is also a time of awakening. As we

travel, we'll witness this seasonal

transformation firsthand. Some slopes,

beaches, and valleys begin to melt faster

than others, revealing bare ground

untouched for months. Grasses and mosses

emerge, seizing every opportunity to

photosynthesize in the returning sunlight.

Meltwater trickles grow into fast-flowing

runoff, adding sound and motion to the

awakening landscape. Yet spring remains

cold. In fact, these areas may go through

multiple freeze-thaw cycles, especially

farther north and east. In Svalbard, this

mesmerizing transition is vivid and

inspiring—a reminder to all of us of the

powerful rhythms of Arctic life. Spring also

welcomes migratory birds and whales. As

the season unfolds, cliffsides will become

busy with seabirds, such as little auks,

guillemots and kittiwakes, returning to

breed. Each day brings new arrivals. Nest-

building, courting, and bird calls fill the air

in a sensory-rich spectacle. When we

encounter these colonies, take time to

pause. Put down your camera. Simply

observe the vibrant pulse of life and imagine

the sheer abundance of food required to

feed so many birds—and the chicks that will

soon arrive. Whales, too, may appear. While

sightings can never be guaranteed, some

large migrators—such as blue

whales—begin arriving in coastal waters by

late spring. Others, like belugas, live here

year-round and may be spotted threading

through sea ice. Each encounter, however

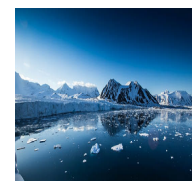
brief, reminds us of the interconnectedness

of Arctic ecosystems. With seven full

expedition days in Svalbard, we aim to

explore a wide range of locations. The order

of our journey w



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Duration

11 Days | Departure in Longyearbyen

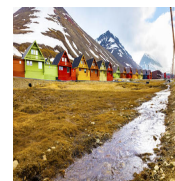
11 Days

The time of saying goodbye has come. Your adventure ends as it began, in the frontier settlement of Longyearbyen.

Locations

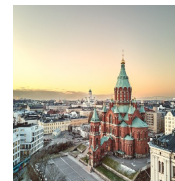
Svalbard & The Arctic

From here, we'll transfer you to the airport for your return group charter flight to Helsinki, and hotel night. Both are included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package.



DAY 11: Depart Helsinki

After breakfast at your included hotel, make your way independently to the airport for your onward flight home, or spend more time exploring the Finnish capital as prearranged. *Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship & Hotel

INCLUSIONS

Cabin accommodation on board ship

All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage.

Select beer and wine during dinner; and coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock

All scheduled landings and excursions

Guiding and leadership by expert exploration team and crew

A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions

An Expedition parka (yours to keep)

A photographic journal documenting the expedition

Transfers between Longyearbyen town center and port on embarkation and disembarkation day

MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE (INCLUDED)

One night's pre-expedition hotel night at Helsinki airport hotel, with breakfast

Charter flight from Helsinki to Longyearbyen

Arrival and departure transfers in Longyearbyen

Charter flight from Longyearbyen to Helsinki

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

International flights

Arrival transfer in Helsinki

Any other pre or post land arrangements not mentioned above

Passport and visa expenses

Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above

Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended

Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned

Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew

Meals ashore unless otherwise specified

Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights

Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified

Optional Adventure Activities

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

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Notes

Available upon request, a supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please

[Contact Us](#) for more information.

Prices are based on per person, and vary from single, 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.

Includes charter flights from Helsinki to Longyearbyen and return back to Helsinki

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