

The Arctic - Svalbard In Summer | Ocean Explorer

Trip Code
ACQESUSV
Departure



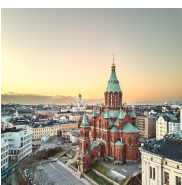
Introduction

Our 11-day Svalbard in Summer: Tundra, Whales and Wildlife is a rare chance to explore the Arctic as it comes fully alive when plant life and wildflowers are at their maximum numbers. It's also possible during the Arctic summer to observe polar bears, walruses, Arctic foxes, and potentially belugas. With warmer temperatures, endless daylight, and snow cover receding, you'll have plenty of chances to explore onshore by foot and by Zodiac to completely immerse yourself in the Arctic environment.

Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrive Helsinki

Arrive in the Finnish capital and make your way to the group hotel located right at Helsinki airport—included in your Charter Flight and 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.



DAY 2: Embarkation Day in Longyearbyen, Svalbard

This morning, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen's largest settlement, where you'll have some time to explore before embarkation. As your ship sets sail, enjoy your first view of the island's rugged, glacier-topped mountains rising majestically from icy waters.



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02/06/2027 The Svalbard Wilderness

Duration

10 days in the Arctic environment, where many iconic species spend their entire lives entwined with the winter and spring sea ice. But with the arrival of

Locations

Svalbard & The Arctic

settling in to take advantage of the season's endless daylight and abundant food. Chief among Svalbard's summer migrants are seabirds, waterfowl, and other birds, joined by marine visitors such as baleen whales—including the mighty blue whale.

Though wildlife sightings aren't guaranteed, these giants are sometimes observed foraging in the rich Arctic waters. Under the midnight sun, plant life also flourishes. While less diverse than in southern regions, Svalbard hosts hundreds of plant, lichen, and moss species, from hardy grasses to vibrant wildflowers. For a few brief months, snow and ice are replaced by pockets of green and splashes of color, framed by snowcapped peaks—a fleeting transformation of the High Arctic landscape.

Throughout the summer, sea ice fractures, melts and disperses. Many species that depend on it shift north and east where ice lingers, or remain ashore until it returns in late fall. While ice may be less frequent, the open water offers greater access to the archipelago's northern and eastern reaches. If we do encounter ice, we'll pause to explore it. At this time of year, wildlife is more often spotted in the water, along shorelines, or gathered in bustling bird colonies clinging to the cliffs. Some terrain here is nearly vertical, with seabirds colonizing every possible ledge. Little auks, guillemots, and puffins nest in rocky crevices, spending the brief summer flying back and forth to feed themselves and their chicks before their first flights and plunges. Looking upward while seated in a Zodiac, the sky may seem alive with more birds than you can count, and sometimes we'll explore near these cliffs on foot. Keep watch for other iconic species too, such as Arctic terns, common eiders, and the occasional king eider. The sounds are astonishing—an Arctic "silence" feels alive with nature's calls. Standing beneath towering seabird cliffs renders visitors speechless. Summer offers the chance to step ashore and walk on bare ground, though patches of snow can linger. We may hike into foothills, valleys, and Arctic beaches—land shared with polar bears. While sightings are farther inshore, their paw prints in sand or mud tell their story. Take time to look around and underfoot, where hardy vascular plants and wildflowers bloom. You might also spot driftwood—not from ancient Svalbard forests, but carried here by Arctic currents from Siberia, where tree trunks and branches are swept up in the Arctic currents, ultimately coming to rest here.

Additionally, we may see reindeer, as they busily forage on the bountiful summer plant life. Although the weather in midsummer is often cool—even crisp—in midsummer, it's possible to enjoy reasonably warm days in Svalbard. It's a surreal experience—feeling the warmth of the summer sun knowing you're less than 700 nautical miles from the North Pole. As summer warms and sea ice recedes, glaciers come alive—meltwater hastening erosion, tidewater glaciers calving ice with thunderous force. From a Zodiac amid icebergs and brash ice, listen for the crackle of melting ice, the lap of currents, and Arctic terns calling overhead. During summer, if conditions align, it might also be possible to visit some of Svalbard's residents, be they trappers or researchers. There are a number of trappers' cabins dotted across the archipelago, and the stories their



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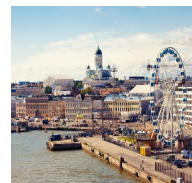
Duration
11 Days

The time to say goodbye has come. Your adventure ends as it began, in the frontier-style settlement of Longyearbyen. 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.



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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Single Surcharge

Duration

11 Days

Locations

Svalbard & The Arctic

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