

THE ARCTIC - PONANT: THE BEST OF SPITSBERGEN



INTRODUCTION

Explore the Far North on this 8-day expedition cruise to the heart of Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. The scenery is spectacular and the flora and fauna exceptional. Longyearbyen is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet and the starting point of your Arctic voyage. Witness the alpine glaciers, floating icebergs and tundra of Cross Bay; marvel at the impressive wall of ice at the 14th July Glacier and admire the snow-capped mountains of Magdalena Bay where polar bears roam. Discover former trappers huts and abandoned mining towns and see the beautiful blue-tinged jagged walls of Monaco Glacier. This cruise takes you to the top of the world, to the last islands before the North Pole to reach latitudes of 80° north. This is a true Arctic adventure!

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ACTSTBS

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic, Spitsbergen



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DAY 1: Paris to Longyearbyen

Flight from Paris to Longyearbyen is included in your cruise package and it is highly recommended to arrive in Paris the day before this flight. On arrival at Longyearbyen, you will be met and transferred to the pier. Embarkation time is between 4.00pm and 5.00pm, at which time cabins and suites will be ready to check in to. The vessel will depart at 6.00pm. Longyearbyen is the capital of the Norwegian Svalbard archipelago, located on Svalbard's main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you're in completely unexplored territory.



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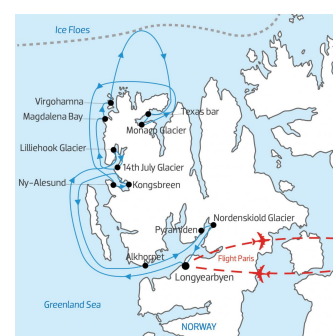
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DAY 2: Lilliehöök Glacier

Welcome to Cross Bay's décor of plutonic rocks and tundra. Admire the immense expanses of flowers that cover the mountain slopes, amidst 14 Alpine glaciers plunging majestically into the sea. In this setting of wild beauty, which endemic wildlife has chosen to call home, set off to discover the sublime Lilliehöök Glacier. Located in the fjord of the same name, it forms a kind of circle and its front is 7 km wide. As you approach it, you will fall under the spell of the icebergs floating around it, like jewels bedecking the magical waters of the Arctic. Walruses, sea birds, seals and Svalbard reindeer will perhaps accompany as you explore these unique places.



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DAY 3: Fjortende

At the entrance to Cross Bay, between tundra, plutonic rocks and mountains covered with a surprising endemic flora, set off to discover the 14th July Glacier. It was thus named by Prince Albert I of Monaco, following an expedition that he led there at the beginning of the 20th century. The glacier's surroundings are frequented by numerous birds (Tridactyl gulls, thick-billed murre, barnacle geese, common eiders, Atlantic puffins...), as well as Arctic foxes and reindeer. As you arrive in front of the glacier, admire the impressive wall of ice and the reflection of the cliffs in the water. It is quite common to see a section of ice come loose, or a bearded seal lounging on an iceberg.



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DAY 4: Magdalena Bay & Virgohamna

Nestling in north western Spitsbergen, Magdalena Bay is one of Svalbard's unmissable sites. In a spectacular landscape of snow-topped Alpine mountains, deep fjords, beaches and majestic glaciers, it offers multiple opportunities for wonderment. We will not be surprised to observe whales, walruses, seals, common eiders, terns, polar bears and Arctic foxes there. The site of Gravneset, located in Magdalenafjorden, is home to the remnants of a former whaling station used during the 17th century, as well as the graves of many sailors buried here up until the end of the 18th century. Not far from here, the Gully Glacier offers a magnificent view, a delight for photographers. Virgohamna, or Virgo Bay, to the north west of Spitsbergen, was home to a whaling station in the 17th century. Above all, though, it is known as the staging area for many attempts to reach the North Pole by balloon. In 1896, Swedish balloonist Andr  e set up camp here and lifted off a year later with two team members on a trip that would cost them their lives. During your visit, you will be able to see a pile of planks, rusty cans, pipes, debris from earthenware and all kinds of waste on the ground. Visitors are asked to respect these historic remnants, in homage to the conquerors of the poles.



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DAY 5: Sailing Towards the Ice Floes

Your captain will sail right up to the limit of the ice, to the edge of the ice floe. Weather conditions and state of the ice allowing, you will be able to go out in a Zodiac® dinghy for a unique experience in the middle of these floating slabs of ice. In addition to this grandiose journey through the middle of these floes with their cut and blue-tinged edges, sometimes over 2 metres thick, it is also often an opportunity to see a particular kind of fauna, totally dependent on the ice floe: birds, seals and polar bears.



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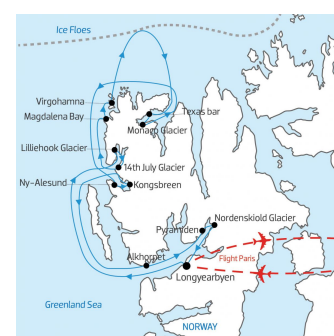
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DAY 6: Texas Bar, Liefdefjorden & Monaco Glacier

Despite the name given to the place, we are neither in Texas nor in a bar; it is actually an unusual place in the High Arctic. Texas Bar is a former trapper's hut that was used by Arctic fox and polar bear hunters in the past. The hut, still in place, has a rudimentary interior with bunkbeds and kitchen utensils. Located at the entrance to Liefdefjorden (the "fjord of love"), it stands peacefully in a landscape of hills covered with moss, lichen and flowers. The cliffs with their changing colours, very frequented by birds, complete the beauty of the panorama. Take a little hike up the slopes and admire the superb view over the Monaco Glacier, which is further south. Located to the North-West of the Svalbard archipelago, the Monaco Glacier is probably one of Spitsbergen's most beautiful and majestic. Named in honour of Prince Albert I of Monaco, a sailor, it stands as an impenetrable, blue-tinged jagged wall, the last glacier before reaching a latitude of 80° North.



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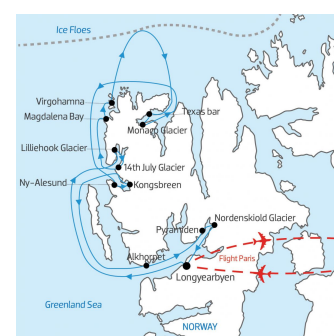
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DAY 7: Ny-Alesund & Kongsbreen, Kongsfjorden

Discover Ny-Ålesund, a former mining town that has been transformed into a scientific base. Founded in 1916, this small town was the departure point for many Arctic expeditions, including those of the famous explorer Roald Amundsen. Don't miss a visit to the museum and its famous post office, considered to be the most northerly in the world! We set off to discover Kings Bay. Your ship will sail in one of the most beautiful fjords in Svalbard: Kongsfjorden (the fjord of the King), a gateway to grandiose landscapes. Here, the snow-capped mountains are reflected in the water where superb icebergs try to outdo each other in their beauty, a delight for photographers. Bearded seals, reindeer, barnacle geese and black guillemots frequent these places that have a unique atmosphere. Once you arrive at the end of the fjord, admire the Kongsbreen (glacier of the King) and its three characteristic rocky points, which take their names from three Scandinavian countries: Svea (Sweden), Dana (Denmark) and Nora (Norway).



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DAY 8: Pyramiden, Nordenskiöld & Longyearbyen

A real ghost town, Pyramiden was founded by Sweden at the beginning of the 20th century before being sold a few years later to the Soviet Union. Constructed at the foot of a mountain in the form of a pyramid, this former mining town, abandoned in 1998, has conserved all the buildings from its glory days, when it lived off coal mining. During your visit, you will be able to walk past a swimming pool, swings, a football pitch and a cinema. Even more unusual: reindeer like to wander the deserted streets of this dead town, the only companions for the handful of men who still live there in summer. Situated deep inside Isfjorden, the Nordenskiöld Glacier is one of the very beautiful discoveries of your cruise. Its front of ice, nearly 5 km wide, is one of the most spectacular in the Svalbard Archipelago. 30 metres high, the glacier, like a gigantic frozen statue whose sections of ice sometimes come spectacularly loose, is impressive. The polar bear, the king of the Arctic, will perhaps make an appearance in these parts, which are also frequented by reindeer and seals. Disembarkation is scheduled for 7.00am. You will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight to Paris which is included in your cruise package.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
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Inclusions	Cabin accommodation on board Le Boreal All meals whilst on board including snacks All scheduled landings and excursions Expedition jacket provided (yours to keep) Pair of expedition boots for use during your voyage Group transfer to/from pier Guiding by experienced expedition leader and team All port fees All landing fees Open bar (excluding premium brands) Flight from Paris to Longyearbyen on embarkation day Flight from Longyearbyen to Paris on disembarkation day
	Exclusions Airfares from disembarkation city Visa fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Personal expenses, such as laundry, onboard communication (telephone calls, faxes and email service) Gratuities for the crew Pre or post cruise travel expenses Optional activities, refer to optional activities section for details.
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details
Notes	Return charter flights are included in cruise cost. Highly recommend to arrive in Paris on day prior to commencement of itinerary. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, season and availability.

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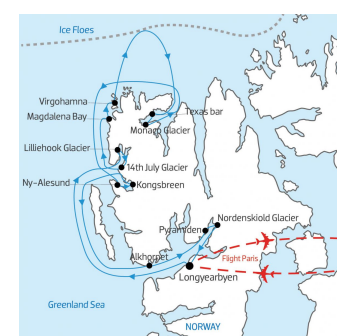
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SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly

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qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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