# **GREENLAND** - GREG MORTIMER

| TRIP CODE |
| --- |
| ACAEAC |
| **DEPARTURE** |
| 18/08/2021 |
| **DURATION** |
| 25 Days |
| **LOCATIONS** |
| Arctic, Spitsbergen, Greenland |

## INTRODUCTION

**EARLY BIRDS: Book and Save up to 20%* on select cabins. Conditions apply, contact us for more details.**

Embark on an incredible 25 day journey to witness the very best of the Arctic. On board the Greg Mortimer you will experience the Arctic in an immense entirety, as you visit Spitsbergen, Greenland & Iceland. Explore incredible scenery, from towering bird cliffs to immense glaciers. Kayak through the worlds largest fjord system. Undertake hikes through tundra-covered valleys where only the harshest, most resilient and surprisingly beautiful flora survive. Immerse yourself in the unique history of the Inuit communities. Encounter an incredible array of wildlife including whales, walrus, reindeer and even polar bears. Explore the Arctic like never before!

## ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival and Overnight in Oslo

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DAY 2: Fly Longyearbyen and Embark

Fly to Longyearbyen (flight ticket not included in voyage fare), and upon arrival, you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions to commence a tour of Longyearbyen. On the drive to Camp Barentz located in Advent Valley, your guide will give you an introduction to Longyearbyen's fascinating history. At Camp Barentz enjoy a presentation in the large 'lavvo' - a traditional building common in northern Norway. You will also have the opportunity to meet the friendly huskies and perhaps pick up some souvenirs. A visit to the Svalbard museum is included back in town before embarking the vessel in the late afternoon. You'll have time to settle into your cabin prior to the compulsory briefings. Your voyage commences, cruising out of the beautiful Isfjorden, escorted by gliding fulmars and perhaps the occasional puffin. Find a spot in one of the observation areas watching seabirds, including graceful ivory gulls, kittiwakes and guillemots. They rise and fall skilfully, using the air currents created by the ship to gain momentum. NOTE: Sometimes our ship is unable to dock in Longyearbyen port due to space and capacity. In these instances, we reach the ship by Zodiac. Please ensure that you keep your wet-weather gear in your hand luggage to use in the Zodiacs if the situation arises. Please ensure your cabin luggage tag is completed clearly showing your cabin number and name. Our crew will deliver your luggage directly to your cabin.

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DAY 3: Svalbard Archipelago - Day 3-11

Svalbard offers Arctic wilderness at its best. Our experienced expedition team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design our day-to-day itinerary, choosing the best options based on the prevailing weather, sea-ice conditions, and wildlife encounters. Phenomenal fjords, magnificent mountains ranges and a polar desert rich in fossils set the stage for heroic tales of early exploration. See walrus hauled-out on sea ice or on beaches. On land, stretch our legs on walks across tundra coming out in brightly-coloured wildflowers. We visit towering cliffs noisy with nesting guillemots and puffins, and scree slopes that hold Svalbard's largest little auk colonies. Most memorable are encounters with the majestic polar bear on pack ice. Your expedition team is just as keen as you to find them— they will be on constant watch to spot these inspiring creatures. If you have chosen an optional activity such as kayaking, you'll have the option to enjoy the activity when conditions allow. For those who are enthusiastic to participate in a polar plunge, as soon as conditions are suitable, you'll hear the announcement to prepare for an exhilarating plunge, a memory you'll savour for years to come.

NO IMAGE AVAILABLE

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DAY 12: Longyearbyen

Stretch your legs and explore Longyearbyen, gateway to Svalbard. Often, a Svalbard voyage will start or end here, but on this unique voyage it is a midway point. This Norwegian settlement is a unique little town. While the arctic environment is dominant, it is also a surprisingly cosmopolitan place, with art galleries, pubs, long wine lists at restaurants, stores and a mini-mall. Longyearbyen is often called an antidote to the stress of modern day life and is a prime destination for adventure travellers.

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DAY 13: Svalbard - Day 13 to 15

Continue exploring Svalbard's wonders, searching for the majestic polar bear hunting on pack ice, sail along deep fjords past glacier fronts and spot seals and walrus on bergy bits, and cruise beneath towering cliffs crowded with raucous nesting seabirds.

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DAY 16: Greenland Sea - Day 16 to 17

As we sail across the Greenland Sea – the main outlet of the Arctic Ocean – we may encounter whales feeding in the rich waters of the north. Sightings of fin whales are common and blue whales have been seen in more recent years. As we approach east Greenland we may encounter more pack ice, and perhaps see seals and a variety of seabirds including northern fulmar and Brunnich's guillemot. This stretch of coast is ripe for exploration, with its many secrets locked in place by drift ice for up to eight months each year. The strong icy currents have isolated east Greenland from the Polar Basin, attracting large numbers of fish, seals and whales. Climatic conditions and the concentration of ice in the vicinity often create thick morning fog that vanishes with the onset of the midday sun. Our experts will inform and entertain us with fascinating discussions on plants, animals, ice, and heroic tales of exploration. Conditions permitting, there may be a chance for kayakers to launch their sea kayaks while others explore push through the sea ice in Zodiacs. If time and weather permits, we may even make our first landing on the Greenland coast.

NO IMAGE AVAILABLE

DAY 18: Greenland - Day 18 to 23

We may visit Kaiser Franz Joseph, Kong Oscar Fjord and aim to reach Scoresbysund, the world's largest fjord and birthplace of the famous big Greenland icebergs. We hope to visit the remote Inuit community of Ittoqqortoormiit. We will keep a sharp eye out for musk ox, arctic hare and seals and if we are extremely lucky, we may see polar bears or narwhals.

NO IMAGE AVAILABLE

DAY 24: Denmark Strait

We continue on with our Arctic adventure and cruise across Denmark Strait on our way to Iceland. We take time to reflect on our various experiences, gaze at northern fulmars and black-backed gulls, and spot dolphins and whales from the ship's bow.

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DAY 25: Disembarkation in Reykjavik

Disembark the Greg Mortimer in the northern town of Akureyri, then enjoy a scenic transfer to downtown Reykjavik. Reykjavík is home to a wealth of cultural institutions such as museums, galleries, and the Hallgrímskirkja church. Leisure possibilities inside the city include parks, gardens, and thermal baths. You can also take advantage of Reykjavík's wide range of shopping possibilities, excellent dining options, and famous nightlife. And of course the entire country of Iceland is accessible through day tours or longer journeys by rental car. The options for additional adventures are endless!

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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Accommodation** | Cabin on ship |
| **Inclusions** | Cabin accommodation on board Greg Mortimer<br>All meals whilst on board<br>All scheduled landings/excursions<br>Guiding and lectures by English-speaking expedition leader and team<br>All port fees<br>All landing fees<br>Complimentary polar expedition jacket<br>Complimentary boot rental during cruise<br>Comprehensive pre-departure info<br>**Exclusions**<br>Airfares to and from embarkation/disembarkation city<br>Visa fees (if applicable)<br>Travel insurance<br>Personal expenses such as laundry, on board communication<br>Gratuities for the crew<br>Pre or post cruise travel expenses<br>Optional activities |
| **Difficulty Rating** | 2 (light adventure) |
| **Single Surcharge** | Available upon request, contact us for more details. |
| **Notes** | Itinerary subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions. |
| **Price Dependent upon** | Departure date, season and availability. |

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# SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.

2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.

3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.

4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.

5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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