

ARCTIC - JEWELS OF THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC: FRANZ JOSEF LAND AND NOVAYA ZEMLYA



INTRODUCTION

This 16-day expedition voyage takes you to two of the most isolated ice-covered archipelagos in the Russian High Arctic - Novaya Zemlya (New Land) and Franz Josef Land. Explore the vast wilderness area of Novaya Zemlya, visiting Inostrantseva Bay with its breathtaking panoramic views of pristine Arctic wilderness, and the Oransky Islands where wildlife including walrus, polar bears and whales abound. Follow in the footsteps of early Arctic explorers as you voyage to Franz Josef Land, the most northerly archipelago of Eurasia, lying deep within the Arctic Circle. Here you will visit the remains of the hut used by Nansen and Johansen in the winter of 1895, and an abandoned weather station, as you delve into Russian polar history. This is an adventure to remote, uninhabited landscapes that only a few have experienced.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Helsinki, Finland

Your arctic adventure begins in Helsinki, renowned for its extraordinary architecture and design scene and intriguing mix of eastern and western influences. If you arrive early, explore the many museums, galleries and restaurants, relax at a Finnish sauna or wander the vibrant Design District before retiring at your included hotel.



TRIP CODE

ACQEJRA

DEPARTURE

09/07/2020

DURATION

16 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic



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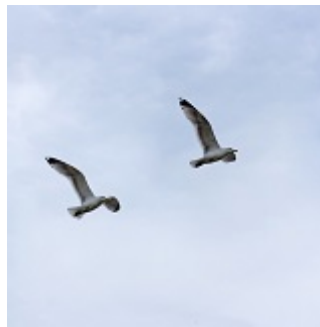
DAY 2: Embarkation in Murmansk, Russia

After breakfast, we will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Murmansk, Russia. Once aboard, get acquainted with the ship and crew and settle in for your voyage north.



DAY 3: At Sea - Day 3 & 4

As we sail through the Barents Sea, your Expedition Team will prepare you for the adventures that await. Learn about the storied history and politics of the region, it's fascinating wildlife, geology, ecology and climate, and the incredible sights you will soon explore. Staff will keep a lookout for seabirds, such as kittiwakes, skuas and fulmars soaring above your ship. Whale and seal sightings may also be possible in this biologically diverse sea.



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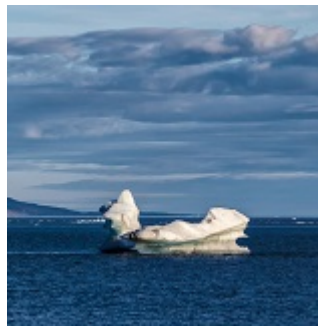
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DAY 5: Exploring Novaya Zemlya - Day 5 to 7

The largest of the Eurasian arctic archipelagos, the rarely visited Novaya Zemlya ("New Land") is the third-largest wilderness area in Europe. This seemingly long, narrow island actually consists of two main islands, Severny (northern) and Yuzhny (southern), separated by the imposing Matochkin Strait. As we explore Novaya Zemlya, expect a new adventure every day. Each expedition will be unique, depending on the weather and ice, but a few landing sites we strive to visit include Inostrantseva Bay, the Oransky Islands, Cape Zhelaniya, Cape Spory Navalok and Russkaya Gavan. Boasting one of the most picturesque glaciers in the entire archipelago, Inostrantseva Bay provides breathtaking panoramic views of pristine arctic wilderness. If conditions allow, we may explore ashore, or Zodiac cruise along the face of the glacier, at a safe distance, possibly witnessing the wonders of calving ice. Encounters with Brünnich's guillemots (thick-billed murre) are likely, owing to a small colony in the coastal cliffs. To the northwest side of Severny Island are the Oransky Islands. Wildlife abounds here, with a variety of animal and plant life to be discovered, Walrus have been sighted here on many previous expeditions. Coming across a walrus haul-out is unforgettable. These giant pinnipeds of the Arctic create a raucous as each walrus vies for a choice spot of coastline. Encounters with whales and seabirds are possible, as well as polar bears, a genetically distinct subpopulation here. A significant site in polar exploration, Novaya Zemlya also offers a number of opportunities for you to trace the footsteps of famous explorers and reflect on the region's history.



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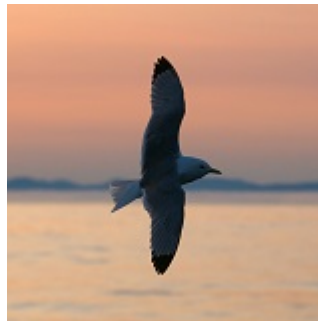
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DAY 8: At sea

Bid farewell to Novaya Zemlya as we cruise farther north to Franz Josef Land. There are several activities to keep you engaged while at sea. Attend presentations by your Expedition Team, relax in our polar library or simply spend some time on deck, admiring the sea.



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DAY 9: Exploring Franz Josef Land - Day 9 to 12

This remote group of 191 islands, many covered in ice, forms the most northerly archipelago in Eurasia and lies entirely within the Arctic Circle. A nature reserve, it is part of the Russian Arctic National Park. Weather and ice conditions will shape our exploration, but we do hope to explore historical sites, remote seabird colonies and walrus haul-out at some notable destinations, such as Cape Flora, Cape Norway, Bell Island and Tikhaya Bukta. Polar bear encounters are also possible. On Jackson Island, Cape Norway is where Norwegian explorers Fridtjof Nansen and Hjalmar Johansen wintered from 1895 to 1896. The conditions were astonishingly difficult, but they survived until the summer and continued their journey south. The remains of their small hut are still here today, along with a memorial marking the event. Exploring Tikhaya Bukta (Calm Bay), the site of an abandoned weather station on Hooker Island, will feel like stepping back in time. There is plenty to discover as you wander the ruins, immersed in Russian polar history, and you may even be able to send a postcard from the post office! The Stolichky and Appolonov Islands offer plentiful walrus encounters, as the lumbering giants can be found hauled out here. If ice and weather are in our favor, we'll explore the area by Zodiac, at a safe distance, to view these pinnipeds of the Arctic in their natural habitat.



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DAY 13: At Sea - Day 13 & 14

As your arctic expedition winds down, you have a couple of days to sail through this wildlife-rich sea, where whales of various species are often seen. Take in a presentation, reminisce about your journey with your shipmates, relax in the lounge while swapping stories and photos or enjoy the solitude of the sea. Expedition staff will be on hand to answer any questions and spot wildlife.



DAY 15: Disembarkation Murmansk & Fly to Helsinki

Returning to Russia's most northerly city, you'll have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and crew before catching our group charter flight back to Helsinki, where you will have one more night in this exquisite city.



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DAY 16: Helsinki

After breakfast, spend time exploring more of the Finnish capital or catch your homeward-bound flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

Inclusions

- Shipboard accommodation
- All meals whilst on-board including snacks
- Beer and wine during dinner
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- All shore excursions and zodiac cruising (*excluding forward facing zodiac)
- Guiding and lectures by expedition team and team
- English-speaking expedition team
- Free use of rubber boots on land
- Wind and water resistant expedition jacket
- All Port taxes
- Russian invitation letter for visa application provided after final payment
- Exclusions:**
- Airfares to/from embarkation and disembarkation city
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Travel Insurance
- Personal expenses such as laundry, on-board communication (telephone calls, faxes, email service)
- Gratuities for the crew (recommended US\$15.00 per person per day)
- Optional Activities whilst on-board
- **Mandatory Transfer Package includes;
- One night's pre- and post-expedition hotel accommodation in Helsinki
- Round-trip flights from Helsinki to Murmansk
- Transfers to and from the ship in Murmansk
- Transfers between the airport and hotel in Helsinki in conjunction with charter flight
- *Package Price: USD1,995 per person

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request

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Notes Contact us for more details

Price Dependent upon Season and availability

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 structured 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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