

THE ARCTIC - PONANT: FROM THE NORWEGIAN SEA TO SPITSBERGEN



TRIP CODE

ACPONTS

DEPARTURE

16/06/2020

DURATION

12 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic, Spitsbergen



INTRODUCTION

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Embark on an incredible 12 day expedition to the remote islands of the Arctic. Discover the awe-inspiring beauty of the Orkney islands as colonies of hardy sea birds dance of jagged cliffs. Bear witness to the dramatic landscapes of the Icelandic coast from deep fjords to towering volcanoes. Explore the solitary island of Jan Mayen, once a major whaling base an now ruled by vast colonies of sea birds. This is a true expedition experience to raw wildernesses complete with ice floes, jagged mountains, icebergs, caps and huge glaciers.

This voyage is in partnership with National Geographic. A national geographic photographer and expert will provide their knowledge and experience.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Embarkation in Glasgow

Please note embarkation is between 4 & 5pm with departure set for 6pm. In the heart of the Clyde Valley, the bustling city of Glasgow contrasts starkly with the wild beauty of the surrounding countryside. Scotland's biggest city overflows with landmarks from its extensive artistic heritage and outstanding architectural tradition. The city's chequerboard layout makes walking through the major pedestrian thoroughfares easy: go with the flow and let the lively street atmosphere take you past the many Victorian monuments. Don't miss the collections on display in the numerous museums and art galleries. The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is an outstanding example.



DAY 2: Stornoway, Hebrides

Discover Lewis, the largest island of the Hebrides, considered to be the cradle of Gaelic culture. Here, the peat- and heather- covered valleys and lochs stretch on to infinity, and numerous bird colonies have taken up residence in the long, jagged coastlines where. Not far from Stornoway, the island's main town, built by the Vikings in the 9th century stands one of Scotland's most prominent prehistoric sites: The Standing Stones of Callanish. Dating back to more than 3,000 years B.C., these imposing stones placed in a cruciform pattern were laid out according to the moon and stars and their main purpose was to keep track of seasonal cycles, as this was essential for farmers at the time.



DAY 3: Kirkwall, Scotland

Capital of the Orkney archipelago, Kirkwall, which means "church bay", is an ideal stopover before continuing on to the Northern Isles. Sheltered in a wide bay, the lively town welcomes the visitor with its charming paved alleyways edged by old houses and craft shops. Tankerness House, the oldest homestead in the town, is a must-see landmark. But the true architectural treasure of the aptly named Kirkwall is none other than its remarkable red and gold stone cathedral. And because whisky is inseparable from Scotland's identity, stop at the Highland Park Distillery for a highly instructive visit.



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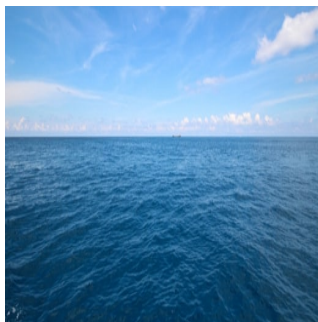
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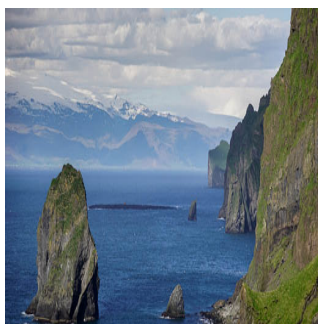
DAY 4: At Sea

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.



DAY 5: Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar

This land seated off the southern coast of Iceland is the largest of the Vestmann islands, and is the only inhabited island in the archipelago. The steep Edfell volcanoes and the green prairies of Herjolfsdalur offer rich contrast of nature. On the Stórhofdoi road, look out over grey sand beaches and cliffs carved out by the Arctic ocean. From here, you can also see the bronze landscapes of the mountaintops. You could visit Eldheimar, an ultra-modern and interactive museum which traces the volcanic eruption has experienced Heimaey in 1973.



DAY 6: Djupivogur

Djupivogur is a small town and municipality located on a peninsula in the Austurland in eastern Iceland. The coastline consists of three magnificent fjords, Berufjordur, Hamarsfjordur, and Alftafjordur which create a striking landscape to explore. On land, the town is shadowed by Bulandstindur, a pyramid-shaped basalt mountain peaking at 1069 m, making for an incredible sight. Numerous local legends surround this mountain, which is said to grant wishes during the summer solstice.



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DAY 7: Seydisfjordur

At the end of your journey through the heart of a very beautiful 17-km-long fjord, discover Seydisfjordur, on the north-east coast of Iceland. Its typically Scandinavian, colourful houses and small blue church stand in the middle of an enchanting setting, between rivers and waterfalls. The village, surrounded on all sides by mountains with snow-topped peaks, has around 700 inhabitants. This small fishing port with a very picturesque charm is not far from Skalanes, a nature reserve of more than 1,000 hectares that is home to about fifty bird species. This port of call combines nature and culture, with wonderment guaranteed.



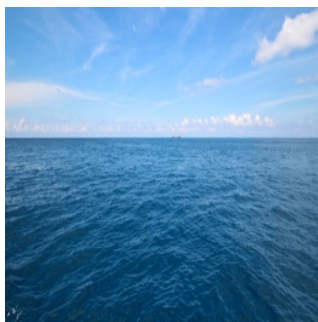
DAY 8: Jan Mayen Island, Svalbard

The island of Jan Mayen, belonging to Norway, lies hidden off Greenland's coastlines, lost between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic Ocean. This small piece of land is inhabited by only a handful of Norwegian meteorologists. Tongues of ice descend from its volcanic summit, which culminates at 2,227 metres and is covered with a thick glacial coat. These tongues join the sea, between ranges of black volcanic rocks at times tinged with red. If the sky is clement, you will have the chance to glimpse the summit, decked out in magnificent light. The visit of a small fin whale will perhaps enable you to complete this memorable picture.



DAY 9: At Sea

The following day at sea will be spent at your own leisure. Use this time to reflect on the amazing journey you have had so far and reflect with your fellow passengers and newfound friends.



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DAY 10: Horn Glacier, Spitsbergen

Nestling between millennial glaciers and carved mountains, and considered to be “the crown of Arctic Norway”, Spitsbergen is a place that never sees the night. Your ship will take you closer to this fascinating archipelago and, more particularly, the Hornsund fjord. Considered to be Svalbard’s southernmost fjord, it is especially reputed to be its most stunning: at the end of its vast bay, 8 great glaciers slowly make their way down to the sea before giving way to the many icebergs elegantly drifting along its cold and mysterious waters.



DAY 11: Bellsund, Spitsbergen


You will head to the Bellsund fjord to follow in the footsteps of the first explorers who came from the Norwegian coast, or those of the many fur traders seeking game and trophies. Boasting an astonishingly rich wildlife, the arms of the fjord separate to form two lush valleys. Give free rein to your imagination in the heart of this majestic natural environment where time seems to stand still.



DAY 12: Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

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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| INCLUSIONS & DETAILS | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Accommodation | Standard |

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Inclusions | Cabin accommodation on board Le Boreal All meals whilst on board All scheduled landings & excursions All beverages (excluding premium brands) Arrival & disembarkation transfers Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition leader & crew Expedition parka (yours to keep) Use of waterproof boots during course of voyage All port taxes Exclusions International airfares Visa fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages other than tea & coffee Personal expenses such as laundry & on board communication Gratuities for crew Pre or post cruise travel expenses |
| Difficulty Rating | 2 (light adventure) |
| Single Surcharge | Available upon request, contact us for more details. |
| Notes | Please note this itinerary is subject to change due to weather and ice conditions. |
| Price Dependent upon | Departure date, season & availability. |

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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 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.

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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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