

ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN



INTRODUCTION

Set sail from the fascinating town of Longyearbyen, on the edge of the Arctic wilderness aboard the MS Nordstjernen, to explore Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago with its spectacular scenery on an epic scale. Sail into Magdalenefjord before attempting to cross 80°N to reach Møffen, a haunt for walrus. Dramatic glaciers tumbling from alpine peaks, deep fjords, extinct volcanoes, hot springs and endless tundra plains are waiting to be discovered. Polar bears outnumber humans on Spitsbergen, so keep your eyes peeled for sightings of this mighty predator.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ACTSPBA4

DEPARTURE

Thursdays

DURATION

6 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic



ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN

DAY 1: Longyearbyen

Your adventure starts with an overnight stay in Longyearbyen. 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. Reminders of the history and heritage of the island can be seen everywhere. When Coal Mine Number 1 was opened in the 1930's, the miners survived in flimsy two-story barracks. When World War II ravaged Europe, the area of Svalbard known as Nybyen was set on fire. After the war, the miners moved back and rebuilt the barracks. For your overnight, you may choose to stay in these barracks, which have now been completely renovated to offer our guests a high standard of comfort. The Coal Miners Cabins are situated about 2 kilometres from the town centre, a nice walk in beautiful surroundings. Or, you may choose to stay in the Radisson Blu Polar Hotel, the world's northernmost full-service hotel, located in the heart of Longyearbyen. From your table at Restaurant Nansen you can gaze out on the panoramic view towards the majestic peak of Hiorthfjellet and enjoy an excellent Arctic menu with a good selection of wines. The hotel was completed in March 1995.



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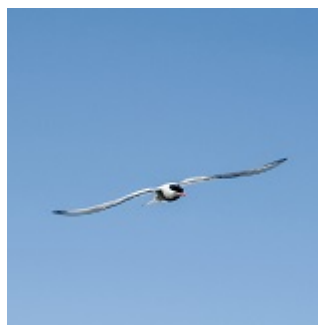
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DAY 2: Longyearbyen & Barentsburg – Embarkation

After breakfast, you are invited to a guided sightseeing tour in Longyearbyen that includes visits to the Svalbard Museum and Gallery Svalbard. This fantastic museum is really worth a visit, as it will provide you with a great deal of background information on all that you will come experience on your expedition. Then it's time to embark on the adventure and MS Nordstjernen. We sail south in Isfjorden until we reach the Russian settlement Barentsburg. This "company coal mining town" has been Russian since 1932, and is still home to about 500 people. Here you can explore the exotic collection of old Russian artefacts and architecture, join a folklore show or soak up the real Russian atmosphere in the local pub.



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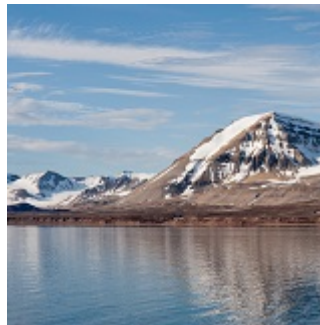
DAY 3: Magdalenefjord, North West corner, Mofen & 80° N

Locally known as the North West Corner, this area, rich with islands, fjords and beaches, has a long history of exploration. In Magdalenefjord, you'll discover cultural heritage: a whaling station from the 16th century, including a graveyard of whalers who died during the first "oil gold rush". We arrive in the morning, and will make our first landing to come ashore and explore this wonderful Arctic wilderness. In this beautiful fjord, we might see polar bears, minke whales and bearded seals.



DAY 4: Krossfjord, Kongsfjord and Ny-Ålesund

Kongsfjord is the largest fjord in the Northwest coast of Spitsbergen. It is also known as King's Bay. We will spend most of the day cruising into a large side fjord called Krossfjord. The landscape varies from large tundra plains to alpine peaks with dramatic glaciers tumbling into the ocean. The inner part of Krossfjord, Lilliehöökfjorden, is strikingly beautiful. Be sure to sight for the peak of Mitra - named for a 'Mitre' or a catholic bishop's hat - located on the northern shore of the entrance to Kongsfjorden. At the end of the fjord you will see the majestic Kongsbreen (King's Glacier) with the three characteristic nunataks: Nora, Dana and Svea - named after the three Scandinavian countries. Later we dock at Ny-Ålesund. Situated at 78° 55' N, this is one of the world's northernmost year-round communities. Previously a coal mining centre, it is now an advanced High Arctic research station. A number of countries run their own national research stations here, and the activity is particularly high in the summer.



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DAY 5: Isfjorden and Longyearbyen

Located in central Spitsbergen, Isfjorden is the most prominent fjord system on Svalbard. We will spend the morning sailing towards Longyearbyen. One of the most noticeable mountains in this area is Alkhorneret, where thousands of brünnich's guillemots nest during the summer season. As we sail into the outer parts of the fjord, the landscape changes. Marvel at the large U-shaped valleys, carved out of the mountains by the giant glaciers that covered the area some ten thousand years ago. After disembarkation in Longyearbyen you have the rest of the day at your disposal. Then there will be a farewell dinner in the hotel in the evening.



DAY 6: Longyearbyen - Disembark

Your Spitsbergen adventure is over. After transfer to the airport, it's time for the flight back home.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

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Inclusions

Cabin grade of your choice on a full board basis
 Transfer airport to hotel in Longyearbyen
 One hotel night in Longyearbyen before the voyage including breakfast:
 Radisson Blu Polar Hotel when booking A, I, J or N grade cabins
 Coal Miner's Cabin when booking D or E grade cabins
 3 hours Sightseeing in Longyearbyen incl. Museum and Camp Barentz, ending at the pier
 Transfer ship to hotel in Longyearbyen
 One hotel night in Longyearbyen after the voyage incl. light lunch, dinner and early morning snack
 Transfer hotel to airport in Longyearbyen
 Landings with small boats and activities on board and ashore. All included
 Professional English-speaking Expedition team that gives lectures on shore as well as accompanies landings and activities
 Free coffee and tea

Exclusions

International flights
 Travel insurance
 Luggage handling
 Optional excursions and gratuities

Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	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.

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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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