


THE ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN & POLAR BEARS | NORDSTJERNEN



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
14/05/2023, 21/05/2023, 28/05/2023, 04/06/2023, 11/06/2023, 18/06/2023, 25/06/2023, 02/07/2023, 09/07/2023, 16/07/2023, 23/07/2023, 30/07/2023, 06/08/2023, 13/08/2023, 20/08/2023, 27/08/2023
DURATION
6 Days
LOCATIONS
Arctic, Spitsbergen


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DAY 1: Arrive in Longyearbyen

Your journey begins in the frontier town of Longyearbyen, where people are outnumbered by snowmobiles. You'll enjoy an overnight stay at a modern hotel in historical surroundings. The town is perfect for exploring on foot. As you take in the galleries, pubs and restaurants you might see Svalbard reindeer saunter by. Although wild, they're curious and tame. Reminders of mining heritage are everywhere in this frontier town. Taste a selection of beers brewed in the Arctic at Svalbard Brewery and immerse yourself in Svalbard's fascinating polar exploration history in the aptly named North Pole Expedition Museum. For a culinary experience, you can try king crab in the Funktionærmessen Restaurant - it's delicious! 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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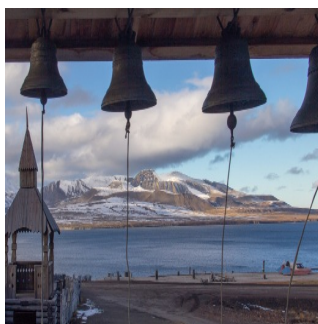
LOCATIONS

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DAY 2: Stunning Isfjorden

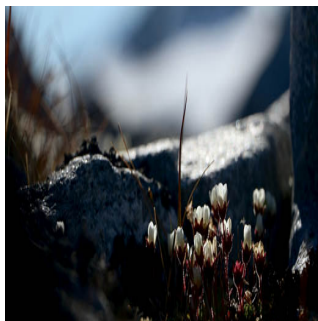
Explore at your leisure before a guided tour after lunch that includes a visit to Svalbard Museum and Camp Barentz. MS Nordstjernen awaits at the harbour. A lovingly modernised ship that retains its 1950s charm, you'll be immersed in nautical nostalgia while on board. Look out for Arctic wildlife as we cruise into Isfjorden's lush fjord system, surrounded by immense, glacier-carved valleys and rugged rock formations. The cultural remains of Svalbard's whaling and hunting heritage can be found along Isfjorden's beaches and bays. Further south, we'll pass the former Isfjord Radio Station, now a stylish hotel.



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DAY 3: The wilds of Spitsbergen

Today we enter the wilderness of Spitsbergen's North West Corner, a summer breeding ground for thousands of birds. Look out for Little Auks, Arctic terns, Skuas and Eider Ducks. You might even spot a polar bear searching for eggs. Magdalenefjorden offers spectacular jagged mountain peaks and glaciers combined with history, as you'll see from what's left of a 17th century whaling station. Sailing north under the Midnight Sun, we reach the famed walrus colony of Moffen Island. You'll see large numbers of these vulnerable animals at the southern tip, but we'll maintain a safe distance to protect them.



DAY 4: Birdlife in Kongsfjorden

You might hear the creaks and groans of glaciers calving into the sea at Kongsfjorden. It's one of Svalbard's most scenic spots, and a paradise for birders. Keep your eyes open for Northern Fulmars, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Atlantic Puffins and guillemots. A bird sanctuary of about ten islands is home to protected species like the Pink-footed Goose and Common Eider. Later we dock at Ny-Ålesund. This former mining settlement is now an international science and research hub. Discover explorer history at the museum, and maybe send a postcard from the world's northernmost post box!



DAY 5: Cruising into Isfjorden

On the penultimate day of your Svalbard cruise, we sail back into Isfjorden. As we pass Alkehornet, with its horn-shaped mount, look out for guillemots and kittiwakes, Svalbard reindeer and maybe even Arctic foxes. Your expedition comes to a close back where it started in Longyearbyen. Pick up some souvenirs from local shops, or admire artworks inspired by the High Arctic at Galleri Svalbard. Enjoy a farewell dinner at your hotel, where you'll swap memories and say goodbye to your new friends.



DAY 5: Generic Accommodation

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DAY 6: Disembark in Longyearbyen

Your Arctic expedition cruise around Svalbard ends in Longyearbyen. From here, a transfer will take you to the airport for your flight back home. You'll return home knowing more about Arctic animals, history, polar ice and climate change than you arrived with. The incredible contrasts of this unique environment are sure to remain with you for a long time.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

Inclusions

INCLUSIONS:

Cabin grade of your choice
 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
 All meals & non-alcoholic beverages whilst on ship
 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
 Loan of trekking poles and thermal suits for optional and included activities
 Gratuities for the crew
 Coffee and tea included throughout the day in select cabins

EXCLUSIONS:

Airfares
 Visa fees (if applicable)
 Travel insurance (compulsory)
 Personal expenses such as laundry, onboard communication (telephone calls, faxes, email service)
 Boots & Jacket
 Luggage handling
 Optional excursions and gratuities

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Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
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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