

## SVALBARD DISCOVERY



### INTRODUCTION

Departing Longyearbyen you will undertake an incredible experience into the mysterious sites of Svalbard. This 8 day adventure will take you into the highlights of West Spitsbergen and the polar ice edge. This voyage will focus on spectacular fjords, isolated coasts and some of the Arctic's best wildlife viewing opportunities.

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: Arrival in Longyearbyen

Welcome to Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Svalbard and starting point of our Arctic expedition! At the Longyearbyen airport, you will be greeted by our staff and transferred to a quality hotel, which has been arranged by us and is included in the price of the itinerary. You will then be free to explore the charming, walkable town center. We recommend starting your discovery of this fascinating Norwegian High Arctic territory at the excellent Svalbard Museum, where you can also purchase hard-to-find polar books and maps. Afterward, you can enjoy an excellent dinner at one of Longyearbyen's many delightful restaurants. If you are still awake at midnight, you will notice the sun has not set. In fact, the sun will not set for the entire duration of our time in Svalbard.



#### TRIP CODE

ACPOSVD

#### DEPARTURE

01/06/2021, 07/06/2021

#### DURATION

8 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Not Available



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## DAY 2: Embarkation in Longyearbyen

After breakfast at your hotel, the morning is yours to enjoy Longyearbyen. Take in the views of icy fjords and glaciated mountains surrounding this historic former coal-mining town. Take advantage of shopping for souvenirs or some last-minute necessities such as cold-weather gear. Just remember, you will soon receive your very own parka to keep and waterproof boots to borrow on board the ship. For lunch, Longyearbyen offers quick and easy meal options including the most northerly pizzas and kebabs in the world. In the afternoon, you will be transferred to the pier where we will warmly welcome you aboard the deluxe expedition vessel M/V Sea Spirit. Get settled in your spacious suite and explore the ship that will be your comfortable home during the extraordinary adventure to come. After getting underway, a full schedule of events kicks off with informative briefings and introductions from your expedition staff. After the first of many delicious dinners on board, step out onto the open decks to admire the gorgeous scenery in 24-hour daylight as we pass through the wildlife-rich waters of Isfjorden.



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### DAY 3: West Spitsbergen and Polar Ice Edge - Day 3 to 7

The itinerary for this voyage focuses on the spectacular fjords, coasts and islands of western Spitsbergen, the main island of the Svalbard archipelago. This area contains Svalbard's most impressive scenery and some of the Arctic's best wildlife viewing opportunities. Our exact schedule and route will be shaped by the weather and ice conditions we encounter. Polar bears and other iconic Arctic animals can be spotted at anytime, anywhere in our area of exploration. One of the pristine natural areas on this itinerary is South Spitsbergen National Park, a vast region of varied landscapes including polar deserts and impassible mountain ranges. The centerpiece of this park is Hornsund, a picture-perfect fjord where countless mighty glaciers cascade from soaring mountaintops into icy inlets. At this time of year, we are sure to encounter fast ice—that is, sea ice that is fastened to the shore. This situation offers an excellent chance of observing polar bears on the hunt for ringed seals. The park also includes the southern shores of Bellsund, a picturesque bay where we find the remains of historical whaling operations, including wooden boats, cabins and thousands of whale bones—a scene from the distant past, literally frozen in time. This area also offers great hiking opportunities through landscapes rich with Arctic flora and birdlife, as well as fascinating geology. Human habitation along our route can be found at Ny Ålesund, a former mining town and airship base that is now home to an international community of Arctic researchers. This is one of the world's most northerly settlements where we find a museum, gift shop and post office. In addition to exploring the terrestrial environment and inshore waterways of western Spitsbergen, we make a special effort to reach the edge of the polar pack ice. At this dynamic boundary between solid sea ice and open ocean, we have an unparalleled opportunity to witness the dramatic interplay between polar bears and seals. We will take the ship as close as safely possible to the jumbled and constantly shifting ice floes in the hope of observing polar bears hunting in their preferred habitat. At this time of year, the ice edge is not far from mainland Spitsbergen and our sailing time in open seas will be relatively short.



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## DAY 8: Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

After filling up with one last buffet breakfast on board, we bid you farewell in Longyearbyen. We provide transfers to the airport or to the town center in case you plan to stay longer in Svalbard. By this time, you may already be making plans for your next amazing trip with us into the polar worlds!



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<p>Cabin accommodation on board your vessel  All meals whilst on board  Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition team  All scheduled landings and excursions by zodiac  Expedition jacket (yours to keep)  Complimentary use of rubber boots for duration of voyage  1 Pre voyage night in Spitsbergen  Group transfer airport - hotel Day 1  Group transfer to pier for embarkation Day 2  All port fees</p> <p><b>EXCLUSIONS</b>  International flights  Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)  Travel and medical insurance  Optional activities not mentioned as included  Staff gratuities  Personal expenses such as laundry and on board communication</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. Contact for more detail.
Notes	Please note this itinerary may be subject to weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability

## SUSTAINABILITY