

## THE ARCTIC - NORTH SPITSBERGEN | HONDIUS



### TRIP CODE

ACOWSPBS

### DEPARTURE

14/06/2023

### DURATION

8 Days

### LOCATIONS

Arctic, Spitsbergen



## INTRODUCTION

Explore North Spitsbergen on board the MV Honidus. A truly remarkable journey that allows you to uncover the land of polar bears in comfort. See beautiful landscapes of ice and majestic lands, inhabited by unique wildlife and flora.

## ITINERARY

**DAY 1:** Embarkation and departure from Longyearbyen

We arrive in Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Spitsbergen archipelago of which West Spitsbergen is the largest island. Before embarking there is an opportunity to stroll around this former mining town, whose parish church and Polar Museum are well worth visiting. In the surrounding area of Longyearbyen, more than 100 species of plants have been recorded. In the early evening the ship will sail out of Isfjorden, where in the mouth of the fjord we may see our first Minke Whale.



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### DAY 2: We sail to Raudfjord

We sail to Raudfjord on the north coast of West Spitsbergen, a beautiful fjord dominated by spectacular glaciers and favoured by Ringed and Bearded Seal. The cliffs and shoreline of the fjord also support thriving seabird colonies and a surprisingly rich vegetation, which flourishes in sheltered spots. Polar bear are often seen here.



### DAY 3: Cruising near of the impressive Monaco Glacier

Depending on the weather we may now sail into Liefdefjorden, cruising near the 5km long face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of Kittiwake. As well, Polar Bear have been seen on the glacier, providing wonderful opportunities for photography.



### DAY 4: Sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to Bearded Seal

Today we will sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to Bearded Seal, Ringed Seal, Polar Bear, and Ivory Gull. At the entrance there is the possibility to see Blue Whale. We'll navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in our zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with thousands of Brünnich's Guillemot. On the east side of Hinlopen Strait, we'll attempt a landing at Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet, home to reindeer, Pink-footed Goose, breeding Ivory Gull, and Walrus.



### DAY 5: At Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet

We will try reach our northernmost point at Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet. Here we will be at 81 degrees north, just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole. Polar Bear inhabit this region, along with Ivory Gull. The ship may sit for several hours in the pack ice, before turning west again.



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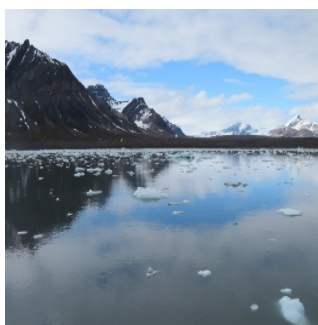
**DAY 6:** We will keep watch for the Polar Bear

Retracing our route westwards, our route takes us through and along the pack ice, keeping watch for Polar Bear and the elusive Greenland Whale (Bowhead). About 40 nautical miles west of Spitsbergen we sail along the edge of the continental shelf, where Fin Whale forage in summer in the upwelling's along the Spitsbergen banks. At the mouth of the Kongsfjorden we have also good chances to see Minke Whale.



**DAY 7:** Sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to Isfjorden

In Forlandsundet at Sarstangen is a haul out place for Walrus. Alternatively we sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden and land at Alkhornet. Seabirds nest on its cliffs and Arctic Fox search the cliff base for fallen eggs and chicks, while Spitsbergen Reindeer graze the relatively luxuriant vegetation. At nighttime we arrive in Longyearbyen.



**DAY 8:** The last day of our voyage

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. You disembark in Longyearbyen, taking home memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

### Accommodation

Not Available

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Inclusions	<p>All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.</p> <p>All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.</p> <p>Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.</p> <p>Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes.</p> <p>Transfers and baggage handling between the airport, hotels and ship only for those passengers on the group flights to and from Longyearbyen.</p> <p>All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.</p> <p>AECO fees and governmental taxes.</p> <p>Comprehensive pre-departure material.</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request.
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

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