

# THE ARCTIC - FOUR ARCTIC ISLANDS | OCEAN EXPLORER




## INTRODUCTION

Visiting the Arctic for the first time? This Arctic expedition cruise is perfectly designed to highlight the best of the region, visiting four spectacular destinations. On your 18-day cruise, you'll enjoy an unforgettable taste of the region, featuring giant icebergs, towering mountains, granite cliffs, iconic wildlife, traditional Inuit culture and more. The adventure begins in the remote, stunning landscape of Spitsbergen, renowned for its abundant, varied wildlife, including polar bears and walrus. Next you will, sail south to the mysterious volcanic Jan Mayen, a nature reserve so remote that few have ever been fortunate enough to explore. The next stop is Greenland's enchanting east coast, where you will cruise deep into Scoresbysund to marvel at the overwhelming beauty of the world's largest fjord system, filled with unimaginably vast icebergs. Admire the diversity of the flora and fauna in this unique landscape or jump in a kayak to get a closer look at the beauty of life in the Arctic. You'll also have the opportunity to explore the remains of ancient Thule settlements. Next, your epic adventure comes to a close with a journey under the midnight sun to Reykjavik, where you can soak up Icelandic culture in a city that never sleeps.

*\*Current Discounts, promotions and pricing are available until 04 Feb 2024, however discounts may be withdrawn or changed at any time and are subject to availability on selected cabins and departure dates. Some current in market offers may be combinable and Shackleton Club Past Passenger and multi trip discounts may be applied subject to confirmation at the time of booking. Prices are subject to change based on currency fluctuations, fuel surcharges, and other external factors. No discount applies to any transfer packages, additional activities or pre/post services. The advertised prices may also include a 'Pay in full at time of booking' which is a 5-10% early payment discount, which requires the full balance to be paid at the time of booking to apply. Further conditions may apply, [contact us](#) for more information.*

## ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ACQEFAI
DEPARTURE
09/08/2024
DURATION
18 Days
LOCATIONS
Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Greenland and Iceland


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## DAY 1: Arrive in Helsinki, Finland

Your Arctic adventure begins in Helsinki, renowned for its extraordinary architecture and intriguing mix of eastern and western influences. If you arrive early, explore the many museums, galleries and restaurants, relax at a Finnish sauna or wander the vibrant Design District before retiring at your included hotel.



## DAY 2: Embarkation Day in Longyearbyen, Svalbard

This morning, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen’s largest settlement. As you embark this afternoon, you’ll enjoy great views of the mountainous landscape that serves as a backdrop for this seaside town.



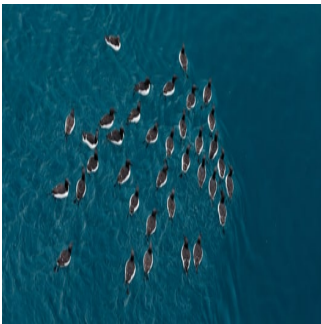
## DAY 3: Exploring Spitsbergen - Day 3 to 6

Exploring Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Norwegian Svalbard archipelago, rewards you with abundant wildlife and austere beauty. Here, you’ll visit spectacular glacier fronts and steep-walled fjords, with walrus, polar bears and Svalbard reindeer amongst your possible wildlife sightings. Birders will be thrilled to see arctic terns, skuas, long-tailed ducks, kittiwakes and ivory gulls. If conditions permit, you could sail within 10 degrees of the North Pole!



## DAY 7: At Sea - Day 7 & 8

While sailing south through the historic Greenland Sea toward Jan Mayen, your Expedition Team will keep you informed with presentations about the storied history and politics of the Arctic, it’s fascinating wildlife, geology, ecology and climate, and the incredible sights you will soon explore. On deck, you’ll learn to identify seabirds “on the wing.” The team will also keep a lookout for the whales that frequent the waters here.



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### DAY 9: Exploring Jan Mayen - Day 9 & 10

North of the Arctic Circle, about 280 miles (450 km) east of Greenland and 340 miles (550 km) north of Iceland, is the mysterious Jan Mayen, deep in the North Atlantic Ocean. Often shrouded in thick fog, the small mountainous island was declared a nature reserve in 2010 and is rarely visited, save for the 18 rotating personnel of the Norwegian military and Norwegian Meteorological Institute, who are the only inhabitants. Landing here will be dictated by the weather and sea. If conditions allow, as we approach, keep watch on deck as the spoon-shaped island's highest summit emerges. At 7,470 feet (2,277 meters) high, the breathtaking Beerenberg volcano features a symmetrical cone shape and impressive glaciers that spill into the sea. If we're fortunate, we may get a close-up view of the volcano and the stratified cliffs of the spectacular north coast as we Zodiac cruise around the island, searching for wildlife. Designated an Important Bird Area by Bird Life International for the large numbers of breeding seabirds, Jan Mayen supports colonies of northern fulmars, little auks, glaucous gulls, kittiwakes, and black and Brünnich's guillemots (thick-billed murre).



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## DAY 11: Exploring Scoresbysund, Greenland - Day 11 to 15

Your tour of Scoresbysund—the largest, deepest and, some say, most beautiful multi-armed fjord system in the world—will offer plenty of opportunities to explore ashore or by Zodiac cruise. At one moment you’ll be stepping back in time, exploring the remains of ancient Thule settlements with views of icebergs and towering mountains rising straight out of the sea, and the next you’ll be immersed in contemporary culture, meeting the locals and gaining an appreciation for their way of life in Ittoqqortoormiit, Greenland’s most remote community. At the mouth of the sound, this remote settlement boasts a blend of traditional and modern lifestyles and is actually closer to Iceland than it is to its nearest Greenlandic neighbours to the southwest. Here, you’ll have the chance to support local Inuit artisans by purchasing unique handicrafts. In terms of wildlife, grazing muskoxen are a possible sight, as 40 percent of the world’s muskoxen population lives in this region. Polar bear sightings are also a remote possibility, as are encounters with more elusive arctic wildlife, such as the arctic hare. Seabirds to watch out for nesting atop the steep cliffs of the sound include little auks, fulmars and guillemots.



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## DAY 16: At Sea - Day 16 & 17

As we cruise south, the Denmark Strait is your pathway toward Iceland. Take in a lecture, share your photos, sip an icy cocktail in the bar or watch a movie—there are many things to do during your time at sea. Your Expedition Team will also be on hand to answer any questions and point out wildlife.



## DAY 18: Depart Reykjavik, Iceland

You’ll disembark in Reykjavik, Iceland’s capital, at the end of your journey. If you have booked post-expedition accommodation, we provide a transfer to a central downtown location.





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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<div> <b>INCLUSIONS</b> <p> Shipboard accommodation  All meals on board throughout your voyage  Beer &amp; Wine during dinner. Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock  All shore landings per the daily program, weather permitting  Presentations by expedition team &amp; special guests.  Downloadable photographic journal documenting the expedition  Expedition boots on loan for shore landings  An expedition parka to keep  Complimentary reusable water bottle  Hairdryer and bathrobe available in every cabin  All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program  Luggage handling aboard the ship </p> </div> <div> <b>Mandatory Transfer Package</b> <p> One night's pre-expedition hotel night at Helsinki airport hotel, with breakfast.  Charter flight from Helsinki to Longyearbyen  Arrival transfer in Longyearbyen </p> </div> <div> <b>EXCLUSIONS</b> <p> Any airfare unless otherwise specified in the itinerary  Arrival and departure transfers, except where listed in the Mandatory Transfer Package  Passport and visa expenses  Government arrival and departure taxes  Any meals ashore unless otherwise specified  Travel insurance  Excess baggage charges  Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified  Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned  Telecommunications charges  Voluntary staff and crew gratuities </p> </div>

Difficulty Rating2 (light adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	Please note this itinerary may be subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

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