

## SPITSBERGEN - ARCTIC COMPLETE | GREG MORTIMER



### INTRODUCTION

On this extraordinary 24 day cruise, immerse yourself in the world of the Arctic on a journey unlike any other. Embark on a voyage to Svalbard, known for its glaciers, frozen tundra, and epic wildlife. Scan the majestic horizon for whales, polar bears, and the enigmatic walrus, often found on pack ice. As we explore the Arctic, we'll traverse through Spitsbergen, Greenland, and Iceland from the comfort of the Greg Mortimer polar expedition ship.

East Greenland dazzles with its iridescent icebergs and we'll dive deep into exploration of Scoresbysund, the world's largest fjord system. You'll also witness spectacularly colourful patterns in the sandstone rocks, visit remarkable Palaeolithic sites, and have the chance to encounter musk oxen and arctic hare. Departing from Reykjavik and returning to Longyearbyen, this comprehensive Arctic adventure cruise, in the height of summer, allows for plenty of time to truly discover and understand this otherworldly landscape.]

*Save up to 15% on the Arctic 2024 season valid for new bookings until 30 Sep 2023.*

*Discount is valid only on selected cabin categories on selected departures.*

*\*Not combinable with any other promotion. Offers apply to new bookings only. Cabins are subject to availability and currency fluctuations. Further conditions apply, please [contact us](#) for more information.*

**PLEASE NOTE: Pricing is subject to change and availability at the time of booking. Contact us for more information.**

### ITINERARY

#### TRIP CODE

ACAECAI

#### DEPARTURE

20/07/2024

#### DURATION

24 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland



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## DAY 1: Arrive in Reykjavik

Having made your way to Reykjavik, you will be met by a representative and transferred to our group hotel. Upon arrival, kindly remind hotel check-in staff to provide you with Aurora Expeditions cabin tags for your luggage. Please clearly label the tags with your name and ship cabin number. This evening, enjoy a light refreshment as you meet your fellow expeditioners at a Welcome Reception and Pre-Embarkation Briefing.



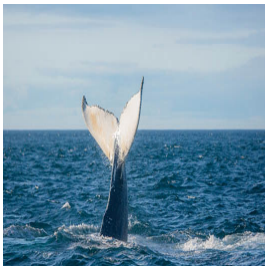
## DAY 2: Embarkation

This morning, your luggage will be collected from the hotel and transferred directly to the port for sanitisation, clearance and delivered to your cabin ahead of your arrival on board. Please ensure that your luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Any valuables or personal items should be kept on you throughout the day. Final, mandatory pre-embarkation health screening and COVID (rapid antigen) testing will be completed before commencing a sightseeing tour of Reykjavik to experience the city's unique architecture and culture, followed by a transfer to the pier for embarkation in the late afternoon. Settle into your cabin before attending important safety briefings and enjoy the thrill of departure as we 'throw the lines' and set sail. This evening, get to know your fellow expeditioners and our friendly Expedition Team and crew at the Captain's Welcome Dinner to celebrate the start of a thrilling adventure.



## DAY 3: Denmark Strait

In the Denmark Strait, we cruise towards Greenland. We will be on the lookout for whale blows and the many seabirds that trail our ship, riding in the constant winds. In our lecture theatre, enjoy informative and entertaining presentations from our experts on topics such as seabirds, wildlife and ice, or catch up on some rest after busy days of travel.



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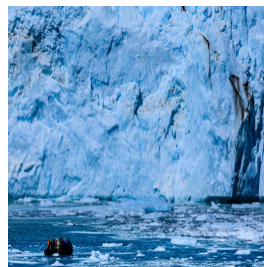
Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland



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### DAY 4: East Greenland Days 4-10

In the coming days, a host of choices are available to us and, depending on ice and weather conditions, the east coast of Greenland is ours to explore. The members of our experienced Expedition Team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to tailor our voyage to suit the day-to-day conditions. This allows us to make best use of the prevailing weather, ice conditions and the opportunities for wildlife encounters. We generally attempt up to two landings or Zodiac excursions per day, including cruising along spectacular ice cliffs, following whales feeding near the surface. Be prepared to experience ice - and lots of it! East Greenland contains some of the Arctic's most impressive scenery. Deep fjords and narrow channels, flanked by sharp ice-clad peaks soaring up to 2,000 metres (6,562 feet), and glaciers birthing gigantic icebergs that drift throughout the fjord system, combine to create breathtaking scenes. The tundra landscape is home to musk oxen, arctic hare and reindeer. Throughout the area are ancient Thule archaeological sites, historical trappers' huts and the cabins of present-day Inuit hunters. A highlight is a visit to the Inuit village of Ittoqqortoormiit, the most isolated and northernmost permanent settlement in the region and home to approximately 450 inhabitants. The community has an excellent museum, gift shop, an abundance of Greenlandic sled dogs and provides the opportunity to meet the friendly locals. Explore Scoresbysund, the world's biggest fjord system and a favourite hunting ground of the local Inuit. Massive glaciers flow into this fjord, the birthplace of hundreds of majestic Greenland icebergs. It is a spectacular place that simply needs to be seen to be believed. North of Scoresbysund lie Kong Oskar and Kaiser Franz Josef fjords, two of the most significant fjord systems in Greenland, each one encompassing several smaller fjords and sounds. Thanks to the fertile volcanic soil and the surrounding mountains offering protection from strong winds, the area is rich in wildlife. You may spot anything from musk ox and arctic foxes to mountain hares, and even reindeer, near the fjord. Look skyward and you could catch a glimpse of birds, including the glaucous gull, black-legged kittiwake, northern fulmar, common raven and common eider. We will attempt to enter Kaiser Franz Josef Fjord, a remote and rarely visited fjord system with countless opportunities for exploration, located within the Northeast Greenland National Park. Cruising through Kong Oskar Fjord, we marvel at the geological beauty of the mountains. We will then head south along the coast of Liverpool Land, with our passage dependent on ice conditions. We stretch our legs on hikes across tundra in search of ancient graveyards, and summer villages occupied 3,000 years ago by Inuit. We may see musk ox, arctic hare and reindeer grazing. The maze of calm, interconnecting waterways in this area provides excellent opportunities for sea kayaking. We will see ring seals, perhaps catch a glimpse of the elusive narwhal, and maybe even a polar bear hunting on pack ice.



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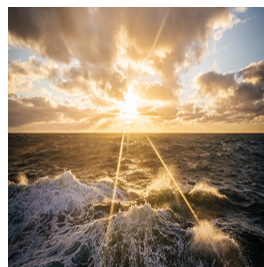
Spitsbergen, Greenland,  
Iceland



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### DAY 11: Greenland Sea Days 11-12

Over the next two days at sea, enjoy informative and entertaining lectures from our expert Expedition Team, including naturalists and historians, before reaching Svalbard's southeast coast.



### DAY 13: Svalbard Days 13-23

Svalbard offers arctic wilderness at its best. For the next 10 days, our experienced Expedition Team will design our itinerary on a day-to-day basis, choosing the best options given the prevailing weather, sea-ice conditions and the possibility of wildlife encounters. Phenomenal fjords, magnificent mountains ranges, and a polar desert rich in fossils, set the stage for heroic tales of early exploration. See walrus hauled out on sea ice or on beaches. On land, we stretch our legs on walks across tundra carpeted in brightly coloured wildflowers. We visit towering cliffs noisy with nesting guillemots and puffins, and scree slopes that hold Svalbard's largest little auk colonies. Most memorable are encounters with the majestic polar bear on pack ice. Your Expedition Team is just as keen as you are to find them and will be on constant watch to spot these inspiring creatures. If you have chosen an optional activity such as kayaking, you will have an opportunity to enjoy that activity when conditions allow. For those who are enthusiastic to participate in a polar plunge, as soon as conditions are suitable, you will hear the announcement to prepare for an exhilarating dip – a memory you will savour for years to come.



### DAY 24: Disembark in Longyearbyen

During the early morning we cruise back into Longyearbyen. Farewell your Expedition Team upon disembarkation and enjoy some free time before transferring to the airport to continue your journey. Note: We do not recommend booking flights departing prior to 12.00 pm on the day of disembarkation, as we may experience delays at the conclusion of the voyage. Important note: Aurora Expeditions operates in remote and challenging environments, and in the spirit of expedition travel, we encourage you to be flexible and to adopt an adventurous attitude when joining our voyages. This itinerary is a guide only and is subject to change due to weather, sea state and other conditions beyond our control.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

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<b>Accommodation</b>	Cabin on board ship
<b>Inclusions</b>	<p><b>Inclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer from airport to hotel on arrival Day 1.</li> <li>• Welcome reception/pre-embarkation briefing on Day 1.</li> <li>• One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Reykjavik on Day 1.</li> <li>• Mandatory pre-embarkation health screening and COVID test on Day 2.</li> <li>• Half-day city tour in Reykjavik prior to embarkation, on Day 2.</li> <li>• Transfer from pier to airport or hotel on Day 24.</li> <li>• Onboard accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service.</li> <li>• All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage.</li> <li>• Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner.</li> <li>• Captain's Welcome and Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages.</li> <li>• All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises.</li> <li>• Educational lectures and guiding services provided Expedition Team.</li> <li>• Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consultation).</li> <li>• One 3-in-1 waterproof, polar expedition jacket.</li> <li>• Complimentary use of Muck Boots during the voyage.</li> <li>• Comprehensive pre-departure information.</li> <li>• Port surcharges, permits and landing fees.</li> <li>• Gratuities for ship's crew.</li> </ul> <p><b>Exclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International or domestic flights - unless specified in the itinerary.</li> <li>• Transfers - unless specified in the itinerary.</li> <li>• Airport arrival or departure taxes.</li> <li>• Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination fees and charges.</li> <li>• Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges.</li> <li>• Hotel accommodation and meals - unless specified in the itinerary.</li> <li>• Optional excursions and optional activity surcharges.</li> <li>• All items of a personal nature, including but not limited to alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, wi-fi, email or phone charges.</li> </ul>
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Available upon request, contact us for more details.

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Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions</p>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY

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