

THE ARCTIC - NORTH SPITSBERGEN



TRIP CODE

ACOWBNS

DEPARTURE

25/06/2024

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic, Spitsbergen



INTRODUCTION

The North Spitsbergen Basecamp cruise allows you to explore and enjoy this Arctic region in a variety of ways. On this expedition, you can kayak, hike, snowshoe, and learn how to take stunning photos of polar flora and fauna.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Largest town, biggest island

You touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. Though the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded in it. In the early evening the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where you might spot the first minke whale of your voyage.



DAY 2: Kongsfjorden & Blomstrandhalvøya

Sailing to Raudfjorden, on the north coast of Spitsbergen, you take in an expansive fjord spilling with glaciers - and maybe even visited by ringed and bearded seals. The cliffs and shoreline of this fjord also support thriving seabird colonies, rich vegetation, and the possibility of polar bears.



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DAY 3: Exploring the North West

Depending on the weather, you could sail into Liefdefjorden and cruise within sight of the 5-kilometer-long (3.1 miles) face of the precipitous Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of this glacier are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes, and the base of the ice is a popular polar bear hunting ground. If ice conditions prevent sailing here early in the season, an alternate route along the west coast of Spitsbergen can be implemented.



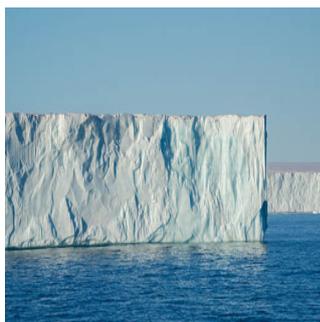
DAY 4: Rugged Raudfjorden

Today you sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to bearded seals, ringed seals, and polar bears. At the entrance there is even the possibility to spot blue whales. After cruising among the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in the Zodiacs, you can view the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with their thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. On the east side of Hinlopen Strait, you may attempt a landing on Nordaustlandet. Here reindeer, pink-footed geese, and walrus are likely sights. You can take an alternate route if ice prevents entry into Hinlopen.



DAY 5: The stunning sights of Liefdefjorden

The northernmost point of your voyage may be north of Nordaustlandet, in the Seven Islands. Here you reach 80° north, just 870 km (540 miles) from the geographic North Pole. Polar bears inhabit this region, so the ship may park for several hours among the pack ice before wheeling around west again.



DAY 6: North Spitsbergen splendors

While retracing your route west, keep watch for polar bears and elusive Greenland (bowhead) whales. About 40 nautical miles west of Spitsbergen, you sail the edge of the continental shelf. Here fin whales forage during the summer in the upwelling zones (where cold, nutrient-rich water wells up from below the sea's surface) that run along the Spitsbergen banks. At the mouth of Kongsfjorden, you have a good chance of sighting minke whales.



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DAY 7: Forlandsundet or St. Johns Fjord

Walrus sometimes haul out in Forlandsundet, your next stop. Alternatively, you might sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden, landing at Alkhornet. Seabirds nest on these cliffs, Arctic foxes search below for fallen eggs and chicks, and reindeer graze the sparse vegetation. You arrive in Longyearbyen later at night.



DAY 8: There and back again

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

Cabin on board ship

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Inclusions

Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary.
 All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.
 All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.
 Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.
 Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes.
 Transfers and baggage handling between the airport, hotels and ship only for those passengers on the group flights to and from Longyearbyen.
 All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.
 AECO fees and governmental taxes.
 Comprehensive pre-departure material.

Exclusions

Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights
 Pre- and post- land arrangements.
 Passport and visa expenses.
 Government arrival and departure taxes.
 Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
 Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended).
 Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges.
 The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).
 Additional overnight accommodation
 Adventure Options not listed in Included Activities
 Any items not mentioned as included

Difficulty Rating 2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.

Notes

Background information on Basecamp cruises: We strive to minimise wildlife disturbance on our Basecamp voyages by concentrating on land and near-shore activities. The expedition team will try to find wildlife opportunities whenever possible, if time and circumstances allow.
 Prices are based on per person, and vary from quad, triple, and twin cabins.
 Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.
 All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
 Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions

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Price Dependent upon Seasonality and availability at time of booking.

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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