

SPITSBERGEN - LOFOTEN, BEAR ISLAND & SVALBARD | MS QUEST



INTRODUCTION

Come along on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure voyage from the breathtaking Lofoten Islands to the frozen world of Svalbard! Before heading for the fabled Bear Island, we visit Lofoten, which is renowned for its charming little fishing boats and stunningly magnificent fjords, aboard the cosy 50-passenger ship MS Quest and our robust Zodiacs. One of the greatest seabird populations in the North Atlantic is found on this little-visited island in the centre of the Barents Sea. Our next stop is the remote wildness of Svalbard, where we are greeted by snow-capped mountain tops, a mystical midnight sun, and glistening ice formations. We look for polar bears, walruses, seals, Arctic foxes, and other famous wildlife as we explore and take in the Arctic winter landscape. For everyone who wants to see various regions of stunning Norway, this is the ideal trip!

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Embarkation in Tromsø

We arrive in Tromsø located 350 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, beautifully framed by fjords and mountains peaks. The city has been the starting point for many polar expeditions and was referred to as “the Gateway to the Arctic” in the 1800s. The high mountain peaks, offer marvellous sceneries together with the small picturesque houses. In Tromsø we board our expedition ship, M/S Quest, where we are welcomed by the guides and crew. Once we have set sail, our journey takes us towards the dramatic Lofoten Islands.



TRIP CODE

ACPQLBS

DEPARTURE

08/05/2027

DURATION

11 Days

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DAY 2: Senja & Vesterålen

We make a stop on the island of Senja, Norway’s second-largest island, often referred to as “Norway in miniature” thanks to its dramatic variety of jagged peaks, deep fjords and small fishing communities clinging to the narrow strip between sea and mountains. Here, mountains rise steeply from the ocean and scenic routes wind through a landscape shaped by wind, water and ice. Further south lies the Vesterålen archipelago — a tranquil Arctic island group defined by wide horizons and abundant wildlife. The region is particularly renowned for its whale-rich waters, where whales can be observed for much of the year, as well as for hiking opportunities and coastal scenery offering the same dramatic beauty as Lofoten, but at a gentler pace.



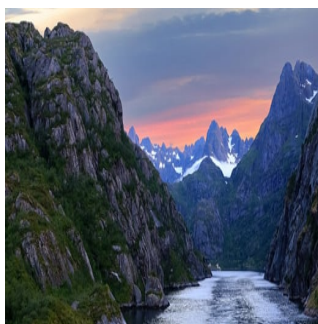
DAY 3: Lofoten Wall & Reine

Our journey continues along the southern side of what is colloquially known as the Lofoten Wall, a vast collection of rugged islands that majestically rise from the sea. We go ashore and explore the small fishing village of Reine, which quietly gazes out over Kirkefjorden. With its characteristic wooden houses framed by dramatic mountain peaks, Reine has been voted the most beautiful place in Norway. Here, we also venture out in our Zodiacs to explore the surroundings.



DAY 4: Trollfjorden

We continue our voyage along the Lofoten Wall and onwards through Trollfjorden, which is as magical as its name suggests. A little later, we head out to sea and set course for Bear Island. After just a few hours at sea, we reach well-known whale-watching areas that extend along the continental shelf. During our journey, we have the chance to see whales, and we are constantly on the lookout from the deck.



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DAY 5: Barents Sea

We continue at sea towards higher northern latitudes. During interesting lectures on board, we receive an introduction to Bear Island's intriguing history. Naturally, we keep watching for whales!



DAY 6: Bear Island

With solid Zodiacs, we explore this fascinating rocky island in the middle of the Barents Sea. Its remoteness means that only a few ships each year have the opportunity to stop for a visit. On the 400-metre vertical cliffs, we find one of the North Atlantic's largest seabird colonies. Here, tens of thousands of Brünnich's guillemots nest, along with puffins, razorbills, black guillemots, kittiwakes, and glaucous gulls. If the weather and winds are favourable, we will attempt a landing on this rarely visited island. We then continue our journey into the Arctic waters. We sail overnight and, by the following afternoon, we sight the Svalbard archipelago - one of the world's most magnificent wilderness areas.



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DAY 7: Svalbard - Days 7 to 10


In May, Svalbard offers visitors a wondrous purity, beautiful pastel colours, and breathtaking views. The midnight sun's rays fall on glistening ice formations, the fjord ice is thick, and the mountain peaks are snow-covered. It is spring in the Arctic, and being there as Svalbard awakens to life is a powerful experience. In this Arctic archipelago, we naturally keep an eye out for polar bears, walruses, and other iconic wildlife, but above all, we enjoy the magical nature that surrounds us. It is early in the season, and our exact itinerary over the coming days will be influenced by weather and ice conditions. With our Zodiacs, we explore the enchanting winter landscape in some of Svalbard's most beautiful fjords, making landings whenever possible.

Storfjorden: In the vast Storfjorden, between Edgeøya and Spitsbergen, drift ice is often present at this time of year, and only then will we know how far north we can go. On the southern part of Spitsbergen lies Isbukta. In this spectacular bay, we enjoy magnificent views of snow-covered mountain peaks and the mighty glacier front of Vasil'evbreen. The bay is also a popular spot for ivory gulls, skuas, and bearded seals.

Hornsund & Bellsund: Majestic Hornsund consists of several magnificent fjords on the southwest coast of Spitsbergen, where glaciers calve magically blue-tinged icebergs. On the mountain slopes at beautiful Vårsolbukta in Bellsund, tens of thousands of little auks nest. We go ashore and hike across the tundra towards the bird cliff, where we can enjoy the charming birds circling around us up close.

Isfjorden: At the entrance to Isfjorden lies the distinctive bird cliff Alkhornet, a pointed rock several hundred metres high. Here, we go ashore to enjoy the snow-covered tundra and birdlife, including barnacle geese, Brünnich's guillemots, glaucous gulls, snow buntings, and tens of thousands of kittiwakes. In the crevices around the bird cliff, several Arctic foxes have their dens, and if we are lucky, we will see these cute, small animals frenetically searching for food.



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DAY 11: Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

In the morning, we disembark in Longyearbyen, the main settlement of Svalbard, and begin our journey home. *Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation Cabin On Board a Ship

INCLUSIONS

Cabin accommodation on board ship.
 All meals, tea, and coffee on board throughout your voyage.
 All scheduled landings and excursions.
 Guiding and leadership by expert exploration team and crew.

EXCLUSIONS


Flight to Tromsø and from Longyearbyen
 Group transfers to/from ship.
 Any other pre or post land arrangements not mentioned above.
 Passport and visa expenses.
 Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above.
 Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended.
 Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned.
 Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew.
 Meals ashore unless otherwise specified.
 Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights.
 Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified.
 Optional Adventure Activities.

Inclusions

Difficulty Rating 2 (Light Adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Available upon request. A supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, and vary from single, 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.</p> <p>Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions*</p> <p>In rare and unforeseen situations, an operator may apply a fuel surcharge after your booking has been confirmed and paid. This is outside our control and uncommon, but transparency with our travelers is important to us.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY