THE ARCTIC - SVALBARD IN SPRING | OCEAN EXPLORER



TRIP CODE

ACQEOSIS

DEPARTURE

30/04/2027, 09/05/2027, 17/05/2027, 25/05/2027

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Svalbard & The Arctic

INTRODUCTION

This Arctic expedition offers the chance to explore Svalbard during spring, when sea ice is at its peak and daylight lasts 24 hours. The expedition team adjusts routes daily using ice charts, ensuring the best opportunities for exploration and wildlife viewing. You may encounter polar bears hunting along the ice edge, seals resting on floes, and huge seabird colonies nesting on cliffs. The itinerary includes time on deck scanning the ice edge, landings on snow-covered terrain, and possible walks on the sea ice itself.
Activities include ship-based observation, guided shore landings, and photography opportunities in fjords and glacier fronts where you will witness the seasonal transition as meltwater flows, vegetation begins to emerge, and migratory whales return to coastal waters. Seven full days are dedicated to exploring ice-filled bays of this amazing frozen polar landscape that will leave you with incredible memories.

Please note: The first departure, 30 April 2027, is 12 days

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Helsinki, Finland

Arrive in the Finnish capital and make your way to the group hotel located right at Helsinki airport, included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. You will have the rest of the day to explore explore the many museums, galleries and restaurants, relax at a Finnish sauna or wander the vibrant Design District. If you do plan to visit Helsinki city center, take advantage of the convenient 40-minute rail service from the airport.



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DAY 2: Fly to Longyearbyen for embarkation

After breakfast, the group will transfer to the Helsinki airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen, included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. Our journey to the High Arctic now truly begins. You will see the coastal and birch forests of southern Scandinavia give way to taiga and tundra environments, the mountains of Norway and northern Sweden, and the convergence of the Norwegian and Barents seas. Approaching Svalbard, you may get your first views of a pure, snowcapped wilderness, complete with ridgelines, glaciers, and perhaps even sea ice in the distance. We land in Longyearbyen, Svalbard's largest settlement, and transfer to the harbor where we will embark on our ship.



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DAY 3: Springtime in the Svalbard wilderness

Spring in Svalbard is characterized by a beautiful combination of snow, ice and Midnight Sun. A fascinating contrast unfolds with the arrival of spring: majestic polar landscapes illuminated by continuous daylight. Sea ice is at or near its annual maximum, drawing us north. If experiencing Arctic sea ice is on your bucket list, you have chosen the perfect time to visit. Your Expedition Team and Bridge Officers will consult the latest ice charts daily—sea ice is incredibly dynamic and can drift dozens of kilometers in a day. Our route will depend on where sea ice offers the best opportunities for exploration and wildlife encounters. Sea ice is the primary hunting, resting, and travelling platform for iconic Arctic species—and spring offers the best chance to see it all. As we navigate the ice edge—or even through it—spend time on deck with your binoculars at the ready. Somewhere in the maze of marooned icebergs and pressure ridges, wildlife may be present—perhaps even polar bears who are lured to the ice edge by the presence of seals—a primary food source. Watch for clues, shapes, and shadows that could signal something special. And while polar bears may be the main goal, you may also spot walruses, Arctic foxes, and ivory gulls—in addition to ringed and bearded seals. On shore, spring landscapes remain blanketed in snow, with many bays still f illed with ice—habitat crucial to Arctic wildlife for food and survival. It's the kind of scenery that embodies the word "pristine." On sunny days, snowcapped ridges against cobalt skies are electric in their beauty. On cloudy days, the Arctic's muted palette of whites, greys, and blues creates moody, powerful vistas. Photography tip: try switching your camera to black-and-white mode—textures become dramatic, and light behaves differently. Alongside drifting sea ice, you may see icebergs and bergy bits— fragments of glacial ice whose origins lie deep in mountain valleys. Spring in the Arctic is also a time of awakening. As we travel, we'll witness this seasonal transformation firsthand. Some slopes, beaches, and valleys begin to melt faster than others, revealing bare ground untouched for months. Grasses and mosses emerge, seizing every opportunity to photosynthesize in the returning sunlight. Meltwater trickles grow into fast-flowing runoff, adding sound and motion to the awakening landscape. Yet spring remains cold. In fact, these areas may go through multiple freeze-thaw cycles, especially farther north and east. In Svalbard, this mesmerizing transition is vivid and inspiring—a reminder to all of us of the powerful rhythms of Arctic life. Spring also welcomes migratory birds and whales. As the season unfolds, cliffsides will become busy with seabirds, such as little auks, guillemots and kittiwakes, returning to breed. Each day brings new arrivals. Nest-building, courting, and bird calls fill the air in a sensory-rich spectacle. When we encounter these colonies, take time to pause. Put down your camera. Simply observe the vibrant pulse of life and imagine the sheer abundance of food required to feed so many birds—and the chicks that will soon arrive. Whales, too, may appear. While sightings can never be guaranteed, some large migrators—such as blue whales—begin arriving in coastal waters by late spring. Others, like belugas, live here year-round and may be spotted threading through sea ice. Each encounter, however brief, reminds us of the interconnectedness of Arctic ecosystems. With seven full expedition days in Svalbard, we aim to explore a wide range of locations. The order of our journey w

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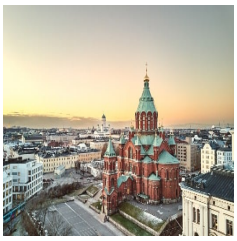
DAY 10: Disembark in Longyearbyen

The time to say goodbye has come. Your adventure ends as it began, in the frontierstyle settlement of Longyearbyen. From here, we'll transfer you to the airport for your return group charter flight to Helsinki, and hotel night. Both are included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package.



DAY 11: Depart Helsinki

After breakfast at your included hotel, make your way independently to the airport for your onward flight home, or spend more time exploring the Finnish capital as prearranged. *Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship & Hotel

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Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Cabin accommodation on board ship All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage. Select beer and wine during dinner; and coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock All scheduled landings and excursions Guiding and leadership by expert exploration team and crew A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions An Expedition parka (yours to keep) A photographic journal documenting the expedition Transfers between Longyearbyen town center and port on embarkation and disembarkation day **MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE (INCLUDED)** One night's pre-expedition hotel night at Helsinki airport hotel, with breakfast Charter flight from Helsinki to Longyearbyen Arrival and departure transfers in Longyearbyen Charter flight from Longyearbyen to Helsinki **EXCLUSIONS** International flights Arrival transfer in Helsinki 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
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, a supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please Contact Us for more information.

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Notes	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. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. **Includes charter flights from Helsinki to Longyearbyen and return back to Helsinki** Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions. 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.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages.

SUSTAINABILITY

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