THE ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN: REALM OF THE ICE BEAR | DOUGLAS MAWSON



TRIP CODE
ACAEDRB
DEPARTURE
17/08/2027, 21/07/2028
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
Spitsbergen

INTRODUCTION

Explore the remote landscapes of Spitsbergen, with regular opportunities to observe wildlife such as walrus, seals, reindeer, Arctic foxes and a range of seabirds. You will spend time navigating fjords and pack ice, with the chance of spotting polar bears in their natural habitat. Daily excursions by Zodiac and on foot allow access to glaciers, bird cliffs, tundra and sheltered bays that are not reachable by ship.

The landings will provide the opportunity to walk across tundra, view fossils and visit locations connected to early Arctic exploration. The itinerary remains flexible so guides can respond to weather and wildlife conditions, helping to maximise time outdoors. Activities may include wildlife viewing, photography and optional kayaking, while a polar plunge may be offered when conditions allow. Onboard presentations from expedition staff provide clear insights into the region's environment, history and conservation, offering a well rounded and practical introduction to the High Arctic.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Oslo



Having made your way to Oslo, you will be met by a local representative and transferred to our group hotel. Upon arrival at your included hotel, please visit the hospitality desk to collect your luggage cabin tags and to speak with our ground operations team, who may have information to share with you about pre-embarkation or to provide you with information about where to dine, withdraw cash or purchase last minute items from a local pharmacy or supermarket. The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense. Accommodation: Radisson Blu Plaza Oslo (or similar)

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DAY 2: Longyearbyen & Embarkation

This morning, please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before transferring to the airport for our charter flight to Longyearbyen for embarkation. Any valuables or personal items should be kept on you throughout the day. In Longyearbyen, explore the town on a guided excursion tour. On the drive to Camp Barentz, located in Advent Valley, your guide will give you an introduction to Longyearbyen's fascinating history. Once at Camp Barentz we enjoy a presentation in the large 'lavvo' - a traditional building common in northern Norway. You will also have the opportunity to meet the friendly huskies and perhaps pick up some souvenirs. A visit to the Svalbard Museum is included back in town before embarking the vessel in the late afternoon. After the tour, you will be transferred directly to the pier to embark 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. Note: the excursion is contingent on the arrival time of our charter flight to Longyearbyen.



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DAY 3: Spitsbergen - Days 3 to 7

The island of Spitsbergen is the largest in the Svalbard Archipelago and offers Arctic wilderness at its best. The members of our experienced Expedition Team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to tailor our day-to-day itinerary, choosing the best options, based on the prevailing weather, sea-ice conditions and the possibility of encounters with wildlife. 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 will be encounters with the majestic polar bear on pack ice. Your Expedition Team is just as keen as you are to find them – they 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 8: 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 for your return charter flight to Oslo to continue your journey. Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Cabin on board a ship

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Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Airport arrival and departure transfers to/from our group hotel or port on the first day and the final day of your voyage package One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Oslo on Day 1 Sightseeing tour of Longyearbyen on Day 2, prior to embarkation (time permitting) Return charter flights between Oslo and Longyearbyen On-board accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner Captain's Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises Educational lectures and guiding services provided by Expedition Team Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consultation) One 3-in-1 waterproof polar expedition jacket Complimentary use of Muck Boots during the voyage Comprehensive pre-departure information Port surcharges, permits and landing fees Wi-Fi. Please note we travel to remote regions and therefore the connection can be unreliable. **EXCLUSIONS** International or domestic flights – unless specified in itinerary Transfers – unless specified in itinerary Airport arrival or departure taxes Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination fees and charges Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges Hotels and meals – unless specified in the itinerary Optional excursions and optional activity surcharges 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 Gratuities for ship's crew - (*A $15 USD per person per day gratuity for the crew is automatically added to your onboard account. It is at your discretion if you would like to remove the tip (or adjust the amount) when you settle your bill. It is not necessary to tip the expedition team members. This gratuity amount is included for suites as part of their 'Suite Benefits'.*)
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Subject to availability upon request. Contact us for more details.

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Notes	Prices are based on per person, may be based on quad/triple/twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. 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.

SUSTAINABILITY

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