THE ARCTIC - SVALBARD EXPEDITION & ICELAND | PURSUIT



TRIP CODE
ACSBSVEI
DEPARTURE
26/06/2028, 24/07/2028
DURATION
17 Days
LOCATIONS
Iceland & Svalbard

INTRODUCTION

This 16â□□day expedition combines remote Arctic wilderness with daily opportunities for wildlife viewing and guided exploration. Guests travel through Svalbard's glacierâ□□lined fjords, where the expedition team leads Zodiac outings, nature walks and iceâ□□edge scouting for polar bears, walrus and seabird colonies. Conditions determine each day's landings, keeping the experience flexible and focused on realâ□□time wildlife activity.

As the voyage continues toward Iceland, the itinerary shifts to volcanic landscapes, geothermal features and coastal communities known for marine life. Guests can participate in guided hikes, coastal cruising and community visits that showcase local culture and natural history. Educational programming, openâ□□bridge sailing and optional paid kayaking add structure to the experience, giving travelers a balanced mix of exploration, learning and wildlife encounters.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Reykjavik

Steeped in history and bursting with contemporary flair, Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland, was founded around 870 C.E, marking the birth of the first permanent settlement on this island nation. Today, it is home to approximately 200,000 inhabitants, making up nearly 60% of Iceland's population. Reykjavík holds the title of the world's northernmost national capital, and it takes pride in its reputation as one of the cleanest, greenest, and safest cities globally. Its commitment to sustainability and eco-consciousness is evident in every corner, from its energy-efficient buildings to its pollution-free skies.



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DAY 2: Isafjordur

The Westfjords in northwest Iceland is a remote and sparsely populated peninsula of steep, tall mountains cut by dozens of fjords. The lack of flat lowlands suitable for farming played a key role in keeping this region wild and sparsely populated. The raw and untamed natural landscape around Ísafjörður is characterized by a subarctic environment. A colorful show of blooming tundra wildflowers carpets the mountain slopes and valleys during the short, cool summer. Vigur Island, second largest island in the Westfjords region, is one of the most renowned areas in Iceland for viewing nesting birds en masse. The area's cliffs host an astonishing wealth of nesting birdlife, while the occasional arctic fox can be spotted patrolling the edges of the bird colonies in hope of an easy meal. According to Icelandic history, Ísafjörður was first settled in the 9th century by a man called Helgi Magri Hrólfsson. The oldest house in Iceland, built in 1734, can be found in Ísafjörður and is now a part of a local museum.



DAY 3: At Sea

Make the most of your time at sea while en route to Greenland by indulging in the ship's facilities. Take in the vast expanse of the ocean and get to know your fellow travelers.



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DAY 4: Jan Mayen Island

Remote and isolated, Jan Mayen is dominated by 2,277 meter (7,470') high Beerenberg Volcano and its large ice cap. The island has two parts: larger northeast Nord-Jan and smaller southwest Sør-Jan, linked by a 2.5 kilometer (1.6 mile) wide isthmus. The League of Nations gave jurisdiction of Jan Mayen to the Kingdom of Norway in 1921. Except for being used as a meteorological, radio and navigation aid for shipping in the Atlantic, the island has remained untouched, its only inhabitants are 18 military personnel. In 2010 Jan Mayen was declared a nature reserve for the protection of its wildlife and is recognized as one of the most important breeding sites for over 250,000 seabirds in the North Atlantic. It supports large colonies of northern fulmars, little auks and thick-billed guillemots. Polar bears found here are genetically distinguishable from those found elsewhere. Although 'officially' discovered by the Dutch whaling captain Fopp Gerritsz in 1614, it may have been sighted by exploring Irish monks as early as A.D. 400.



DAY 5: At Sea

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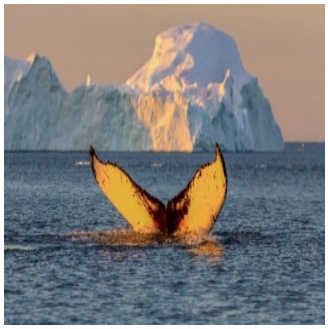

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DAY 6: Longyearbyen

Longyearbyen, the seat of the Governor of Svalbard, is located in a narrow valley along the shores of Adventfjorden a small tributary of Isfjord, the largest fjord system in Svalbard. It extends 100 kilometers (60 miles) into the island of Spitsbergen. Nine large tidewater glaciers, with a combined ice-front of 21 kilometers (13 miles), as well as dozens hanging glaciers drain into the fjord. The town's 2,100 inhabitants exist in one of the most northern settlements on Earth, making their living by a combination of coal mining, education and tourism. Because of the town's extreme isolation, proximity to wildlife, and Svalbard's pristine environment, unique laws exist that are found in few other places. All individuals venturing outside of town are required to carry a rifle for protection against polar bears, possessing a cat is illegal, no one is allowed to be buried here and how much alcohol can be purchased each month is restricted. Longyearbyen was named after the American industrialist John Longyear whose Arctic Coal Company began mining here in 1906.



DAY 7: Svalbard Experience - Day 7 to 12

Svalbard is a remote, vast and wild place, largely untouched by the human presence. In visiting this destination, our plans and itinerary are not set, as we allow the weather, conditions and wildlife to dictate each day. Should a polar bear appear on the horizon we might stop the ship or the Zodiacs in order to get a better look at it. Should ice choke the waters in front of us, we might slow down and explore the edge of this ice while admiring its colors and forms while searching for wildlife, or else turn and choose another destination. Should storms lash against the site we want to visit, we may opt to find a more protected bay and explore a different spot. Whatever we do Svalbard holds many beauties and mysteries and exciting discoveries are always available for those whose eyes and hearts are open.



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DAY 13: At Sea - Day 13 & 14

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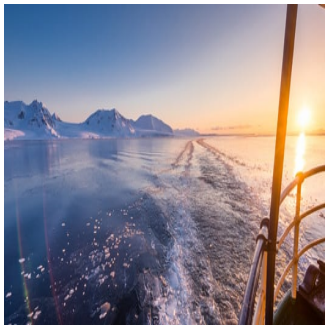

DAY 15: Siglufjordur

Hidden in the northernmost reach of the Icelandic mainland, Siglufjörður is a charming fishing hamlet of approximately 1,200 residents. Founded in 1918, it was once the thriving hub of North Atlantic herring fishing. Today, the legacy of this industry lives on at the Síldarminjasafnið Herring Era Museum, one of Iceland's largest maritime and industrial showcases, where visitors can delve into both traditional and modern aspects of herring fishing. High mountains, serene freshwater lakes, the meandering Hólsá river, black sand beaches, and a plethora of birdlife create a diverse and captivating landscape — the perfect backdrop to this serene destination. INCLUDED SHORE EXCURSION*: The Herring Heyday of Siglufjörður Explore the herring history of Siglufjörður's; visit the acclaimed Herring Era Museum, sharing snippets of local history and culture en route. Here, you'll watch the lively Herring Salting Show, a performance that brings to life the work of the "herring girls." Enjoy the opportunity to sample local herring served with traditional rye bread, complemented by a shot of Icelandic schnapps. *Please note this expedition experience is exclusively available on our expedition sailings onboard Seabourn Venture or Seabourn Pursuit. All shore excursions shared here are subject to availability and are weather and conditions permitting.



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DAY 16: Patreksfjordur

The small village of Patreksfjörður serves as gateway to the Westfjords peninsula in northeastern Iceland and some of the country's most spectacular attractions. Fishing is the main industry here, although tourism is quickly growing thanks to Patreksfjörður's proximity to such natural wonders as Dynjandi waterfalls. Dynjandi — which translates as "thunderous" — rivals Gullfoss in sheer spectacle, cascading more than 325 feet down a series of increasingly wider steps; the rocky footpath to the top passes seven smaller falls. Látrabjarg, a rocky promontory that marks the westernmost point of Europe (not counting the Azores), is recognized as one of the best birdwatching spots on the planet. Látrabjarg's four rugged, wind-battered cliffs — stretching for nearly nine miles and reaching close to 1,500 feet in height — are home to more than 1 million birds, including massive colonies of colorful puffins and around 40 percent of the world's nesting razorbills. The red sands of Rauðasandur beach are a stark contrast to most of the country's black volcanic beaches, while the wreck of Gardar BA 64, Iceland's oldest steel whaling ship, lies in rusting ruins along Patreksfjörður's shore.



DAY 17: Disembarkation in Reykjavik

Steeped in history and bursting with contemporary flair, Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland, was founded around 870 C.E, marking the birth of the first permanent settlement on this island nation. Today, it is home to approximately 200,000 inhabitants, making up nearly 60% of Iceland's population. Reykjavík holds the title of the world's northernmost national capital, and it takes pride in its reputation as one of the cleanest, greenest, and safest cities globally. Its commitment to sustainability and eco-consciousness is evident in every corner, from its energy-efficient buildings to its pollution-free skies.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship

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Chimu The Latin America and Polar Travel Specialists

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Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Accommodation onboard the Pursuit in booked cabin category Group transfers to/from the airport and to/from the ship* (subject to date/time restrictions*) All meals onboard the Pursuit including snacks and 24/7 in room dining Complimentary spirits and wine available on board at all times - full open bar including premium beverages & in room minibar Inspiring enrichment program and lectures from the expedition team All applicable shore excursions and zodiac cruising (except paid adventure options with cost) Digital photography workshops Complimentary expedition-grade parka and day pack All port taxes & landing fees **EXCLUSIONS** International or internal flights unless specified Airport transfers, taxes and excess baggage charges unless specified Meals other than those specified in the pre-departure information Pre or post cruise travel expenses Visa (if applicable) and passport fees Travel insurance (compulsory) Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings Paid adventure options and all personal expenses Miscellaneous extras Laundry and communication charges on board Tipping onboard (optional) - We recommend $15USD per person per day
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available on request. A Single Supplement may be applied. Subject to availability. Please note 'willing to share' option is not available. Contact us for more details.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, 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
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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