THE ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN HIGHLIGHTS: WILDLIFE CAPITAL OF THE ARCTIC | OCEAN EXPLORER



TRIP CODE

ACQESPH

DEPARTURE

21/05/2028, 03/06/2028, 16/06/2028

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

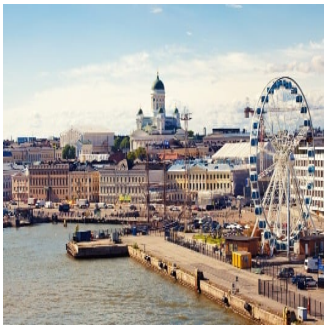
Svalbard

INTRODUCTION

You will experience the amazing Arctic wilderness of Svalbard on this expedition cruise that focuses on the very best highlights of this remote habitat. Despite the mountains and glaciers covering this stony island, a vibrant and varied ecosystem may be found in the fjords and high cliffs. By covering as much ground as you can, you will have the best chance of seeing the walrus, with its long tusks and characteristic whiskers, the majestic biodiversity of all the Arctic bird species and the polar bear, the most iconic of all the animals of the region.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Helsinki, Finland



Arrive in the Finnish capital and make your way to the group hotel located right at Helsinki airport. (The hotel is 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, Svalbard and Embarkation

After breakfast, the group will transfer to the Helsinki airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen, part of 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, snow-capped 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: Exploring Spitsbergen - Days 3 to 6

You'll sail around the shores of this magical archipelago, constantly searching for natural wonders. Covering western Spitsbergen, your expedition will afford ample opportunities to view immense glaciers, deep fjords, soaring mountains and unique flora and fauna. Sailing north into Krossfjorden, have your camera handy, ready to capture some of the best glacier calving in Spitsbergen. Deep in the fjord, the highly active Lilliehöök Glacier awaits. Listen in awe to the growling as big chunks break off into the icy waters below. A Zodiac excursion to nearby Ny-London, an abandoned mining settlement, provides an ideal place for a guided walk. Sightings of wildlife, such as the endemic Svalbard reindeer, might be possible here. After cruising overnight, wake up to the stunning sight of the magnificent Monaco Glacier, another prolific iceberg producing glacier. To make this even more thrilling, help your Expedition Team to scan the shorelines and ice edge for marine mammals. Possible landing sites include Texas Bar, Worsleyneset and Alicehamna. At Smeerenburg you can see the remains of an abandoned settlement that was established by Dutch whalers nearly 400 years ago. Here, at what was once one of Europe's most northerly outposts, you'll have time to explore ashore and learn about Spitsbergen's whaling history. Afterwards, cruising to Magdalenefjorden rewards you with panoramic vistas of snow-capped mountains and massive glaciers reflected in the crystal-clear waters. We hope to round out the day in Alkhornet, taking in the towering cliffs teeming with nesting seabirds, such as fulmars and Brünnich's guillemots (thick-billed murres). Sightings of reindeer are possible here too. Later, in the evening, swap stories with your shipmates and crew one last time, at the captain's farewell dinner.



DAY 7: Disembark in Longyearbyen and Fly to Helsinki

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



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DAY 8: Depart Helsinki

After breakfast at your included hotel, make your way independently to the Helsinki 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.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship & Hotel

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Inclusions	**IINCLUSIONS** 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 pre- & one night post-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.
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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