

THE ARCTIC - IN THE REALM OF THE POLAR BEAR | SEA SPIRIT



INTRODUCTION

Spend more time in one of the Arctic's most productive wildlife regions on this immersive Svalbard expedition focused on polar bear habitat. Exploring the fjords, glaciers and remote coastlines of western Spitsbergen, you'll travel north to the edge of the pack ice, where changing conditions create some of the best opportunities to search for polar bears in their natural environment.

From Zodiac cruises beneath towering glaciers to guided landings along Svalbard's rugged coastline, each day offers new opportunities to experience the Arctic up close. While the focus is on maximising opportunities to encounter polar bears, the region also supports an abundance of Arctic wildlife, with chances to spot walrus, seals, whales, Arctic foxes and reindeer as well as a multitude of seabird species congregate in large colonies of nesting seabirds. Expert-led presentations provide deeper insight into this remarkable ecosystem and the region's rich natural history, combining wildlife viewing, exploration and education in one of the world's most remote environments.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Longyearbyen

Welcome to Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Svalbard and starting point of our Arctic expedition! At the Longyearbyen airport, you will be greeted by our staff and transferred to a quality hotel, which has been arranged by us and is included in the price of the itinerary. You will then be free to explore the charming, walkable town center. We recommend starting your discovery of this fascinating Norwegian High Arctic territory at the excellent Svalbard Museum, where you can also purchase hard-to-find polar books and maps. Afterward, you can enjoy an excellent dinner at one of Longyearbyen's many delightful restaurants. If you are still awake at midnight, you will notice the sun has not set. In fact, the sun will not set for the entire duration of our time in Svalbard.



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ACPEROP
DEPARTURE
13/06/2027
DURATION
10 Days
LOCATIONS
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DAY 2: Embarkation in Longyearbyen

After breakfast at your hotel, the morning is yours to enjoy Longyearbyen. Take in the views of icy fjords and glaciated mountains surrounding this historic former coal-mining town. Take advantage of shopping for souvenirs or some last-minute necessities such as cold-weather gear. Just remember, you will soon receive your very own parka to keep and waterproof boots to borrow on board the ship. For lunch, Longyearbyen offers quick and easy meal options including the most northerly pizzas and kebabs in the world. In the afternoon, you will be transferred to the pier where we will warmly welcome you aboard the deluxe expedition vessel M/V Sea Spirit. Get settled in your spacious suite and explore the ship that will be your comfortable home during the extraordinary adventure to come. After getting underway, a full schedule of events kicks off with informative briefings and introductions from your expedition staff. After the first of many delicious dinners on board, step out onto the open decks to admire the gorgeous scenery in 24-hour daylight as we pass through the wildlife-rich waters of Isfjorden.



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DAY 3: Svalbard & Polar Ice Edge Exploration - Day 3 to 9

The itinerary for this voyage focuses on the spectacular fjords, coasts and islands of western Spitsbergen, the main island of the Svalbard archipelago. This area contains Svalbard’s most impressive scenery and some of the Arctic’s best wildlife viewing opportunities. Our exact schedule and route will be shaped by the weather and ice conditions we encounter. Polar bears and other iconic Arctic animals can be spotted at anytime, anywhere in our area of exploration. One of the pristine natural areas on this itinerary is South Spitsbergen National Park, a vast region of varied landscapes including polar deserts and impassible mountain ranges. The centerpiece of this park is Hornsund, a picture-perfect fjord where countless mighty glaciers cascade from soaring mountaintops into icy inlets. At this time of year, we are sure to encounter fast ice—that is, sea ice that is fastened to the shore. This situation offers an excellent chance of observing polar bears on the hunt for ringed seals. The park also includes the southern shores of Bellsund, a picturesque bay where we find the remains of historical whaling operations, including wooden boats, cabins and thousands of whale bones—a scene from the distant past, literally frozen in time. This area also offers great hiking opportunities through landscapes rich with Arctic flora and birdlife, as well as fascinating geology. Also on our route is Northwest Spitsbergen National Park, the crown jewel of Svalbard’s scenic wonders. Here we find deep fjords flanked by serrated mountain peaks and immense tidewater glaciers calving icebergs into turquoise waters. The whole area is alive with migratory Arctic seabirds. On this voyage, we are just in time to witness the return of millions of murre, guillemots and little auks to the small islands, mountainsides and sea cliffs where they breed within the park. This is also a great area to encounter marine mammals, including various kinds of whales and Arctic seals. Set among this incredible scenery and wildlife activity, we also find evidence of Svalbard’s earliest sealers and whalers. Our area of exploration also includes gorgeous Forlandet National Park. Here we find Prins Karls Forland, one of the best places in Svalbard to observe herds of walrus hauled out on land. Also along the route is North Isforden National Park, where we have the chance to observe endemic Svalbard reindeer grazing and Arctic fox romping in lush tundra meadows. Human habitation along our route can be found at Ny Ålesund, a former mining town and airship base that is now home to an international community of Arctic researchers. This is one of the world’s most northerly settlements where we find a museum, gift shop and post office. In addition to exploring the terrestrial environment and inshore waterways of western Spitsbergen, we make a special effort to reach the edge of the polar pack ice. At this dynamic boundary between solid sea ice and open ocean, we have an unparalleled opportunity to witness the dramatic interplay between polar bears and seals. We will take the ship as close as safely possible to the jumbled and constantly shifting ice floes in the hope of observing polar bears hunting in their preferred habitat. At this time of year, the ice edge is not far from mainland Spitsbergen and our sailing time in open seas will be relatively short. The West Svalbard and Polar Ice Edge route offers a stunning variety of Arctic landscapes and animals with minimal sailing time between excursions. Every day offers something new and exciting. We will not miss a sing

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DAY 10: Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

After enjoying one final breakfast buffet on board, we bid you farewell in Longyearbyen, the capital of Svalbard and final destination of our expedition. After disembarkation, a captivating sightseeing tour awaits you, showcasing some of the most interesting locations in the world's northernmost city. We provide transfers to the airport or to the town center in case you plan to stay longer in Svalbard.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Cabin On board a Ship
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Inclusions	INCLUSIONS 1 pre-voyage hotel night on Day 1 in a hotel in Longyearbyen Group transfer to the ship for embarkation on Day 2 Group transfer upon disembarkation Cabin on board the Sea Spirit Group transfer from the airport to the hotel on Day 1 All meals on board throughout the voyage All-inclusive beverage package that includes soft drinks, house wine and beer, and house spirits Sightseeing tour around Longyearbyen upon disembarkation (2 hours) AECO fees, governmental taxes, and port fees 24-hour tea and coffee station Scheduled landings/excursions (subject to weather and ice conditions) Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader & Expedition Team Expeditions parka to keep Rubber boots for use for shore landings during the cruise Pre-departure materials A Digital Voyage Log with photos and a memorable video from our expedition photographer Wi-Fi on board
	EXCLUSIONS International or internal flights unless specified Transfers from the airport to the hotel if arriving prior to Day 1 of the program; Visa fees (if applicable) Personal expenses such as laundry and telecommunication charges Travel insurance Mandatory Emergency Evacuation Insurance to a minimum benefit of US\$ 200,000 per person Kayaking is an optional activity with limited availability and must be booked separately for an additional charge Staff gratuities
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Subject to availability upon request, contact us for more details. Sharing is available in Triple, Main Deck, Classic, and Superior Suites. If you prefer a cabin for yourself, the following categories are available with the single supplement at: x1.7 for Main Deck, Classic, and Superior Suites x2 for Deluxe, Premium, and Owner's Suite

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Notes	Prices are based on per person, and may be based off triple/or twin share cabins* (please contact us for more details). 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.

SUSTAINABILITY

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