Spitsbergen Highlights: Expedition in Brief

Pack in all the excitement of an epically long arctic cruise into only six days. Yes, in less than a week, you’ll cruise through the pack ice up to 80°N along the west coast of Spitsbergen like an explorer of long ago, on a constant search for wildlife. Though this rocky island is covered in mountains and glaciers, the towering cliffs and fjords play host to a surprisingly thriving and varied ecosystem. Exploring as much of the area as possible will provide optimal opportunities to spot the most iconic of iconic arctic wildlife, the polar bear.

EXPEDITION IN BRIEF

- View arctic wildlife, such as polar bears, walrus and reindeer
- Enjoy all the adventure of an arctic expedition in less than a week
- Cruise in a Zodiac to get up close to glaciers, fjords, icebergs and more
- Hike the colorful tundra
- Take advantage of kayaking options

DID YOU KNOW? A whopping 60 percent of Spitsbergen is covered in glaciers. Renowned for its rugged terrain, the largest island in the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard is a study in contrasts: majestic peaks and massive glaciers are the picture-perfect backdrop for the vividly colored tundra bursting with wildflowers.
Adventure Options

Booking an Adventure Option as part of your expedition is a great way to enhance your polar experience. These options are subject to availability and fill up quickly, so be sure to book yours early. Please note that Adventure Options are weather dependent.

**KAYAKING**

Imagine gliding along the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers! Our kayaking adventures are the best way to feel at one with the sea. Taken by small groups of 10 people, multiple times per voyage, kayaking adventures are only conducted during calm weather conditions. We recommend you have some prior kayaking experience, including the capability to do a wet exit.

*More information about your Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost, is available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser.*

**INCLUDED ACTIVITIES (VARY BY DEPARTURE)**

**HIKING**

Hiking is a great way to appreciate the immense windswept landscapes of the Arctic. The tundra comes alive during the brief arctic summer, with bursts of color from shrubs and plants that live in this polar environment. You’ll find that each hike is different: you’ll explore communities, shorelines or glaciated landscapes, often on the lookout for wildlife. Hiking participation is optional, and your Expedition Team will advise you of what levels of activity you can expect prior to each excursion.
Your Spitsbergen adventure begins when you board your ship in Longyearbyen, the island’s largest settlement. As you embark, you’ll enjoy great views of the mountainous landscape that serves as a backdrop for this seaside village.

**DAYS 2 TO 5 Exploring Spitsbergen**

You’ll sail around this magical island, constantly searching for polar bears and other natural wonders. Covering western Spitsbergen as well as outlying islands to the north, your expedition will afford ample opportunities to view immense glaciers, deep fjords, soaring mountains and unique flora and fauna.

Sailing north into Krossfjord, have your camera handy, ready to capture some of the best 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. Encounters with wildlife, such as the indigenous Svalbard reindeer, are possible here.

After cruising overnight, wake up to the stunning sight of the magnificent Monaco Glacier, another prolific iceberg producer. As if that isn’t thrilling enough, your Expedition Team will also be on the lookout for belugas and other marine mammals. Possible landing sites include Texas Bar, Worsleyneset and the Andoyane Islands (where polar bears have been known to roam). At 80°N, you’ll reach a walrus sanctuary on the tiny, crescent-shaped Moffen Island. Watching large groups of these lumbering giants jockeying for space is an unforgettable experience, so be ready with your binoculars.

The abandoned settlement of Smeerenburg (which means “blubber town”) was established by Dutch whalers nearly 400 years ago. Here, at one of Europe’s most northerly outposts, you’ll have time to explore ashore and learn about Spitsbergen’s whaling history. Afterwards, cruising to Magdalenafjord rewards you panoramic vistas of snow-capped mountains and massive glaciers reflected in the crystal-clear waters.

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**DAY 1 Embarkation Day in Longyearbyen, Norway**

Actual itinerary may vary based on weather conditions.
During your last full day of your arctic adventure, the options are open. You may visit the Russian mining town of Barentsburg, home of the world’s northernmost brewery, or Trygghamma, where you may have the chance to walk on a glacier. Round out the day in Alkehornet, taking in the towering cliffs teeming with nesting seabirds, such as fulmars, guillemots and thick-billed murres. Encounters with reindeer might be possible here. Later, in the evening, swap stories with your shipmates and crew one last time, at the captain’s dinner.

**DAY 6 Depart Longyearbyen**

The time to say goodbye has come. Your adventure ends as it began, in the frontier-style settlement of Longyearbyen. From here, we’ll transfer you to the airport for your flight home.
Arrival & Departure Details

Welcome! As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested to know the details of your arrival and departure. Since air transportation to and from your voyage is not included in the cost of your expedition, you will need to arrange flights from your home to the starting point, and home again from the finishing point. Quark Expeditions® can assist you with booking air arrangements on an individual basis, or feel free to contact your preferred travel agent or airline. Here are the details for your expedition.

Arrival Day and Embarkation

ARRIVING IN LONGYEARBYEN AND EMBARKATION
Please be sure to arrive prior to 3 pm on Day 1 of your expedition. Based on the arrival information you send us, we will arrange for a transfer from the airport to a downtown hotel meeting point. Your luggage will go on to meet you in your cabin when you board the ship. At a designated time which will be communicated during your arrival transfer, you will be transferred to the ship for embarkation.

For passengers arriving one day before the start of the itinerary, a transfer will be provided to your previously arranged hotel. A pre-expedition hotel night is not included. Speak to your Polar Travel Adviser for assistance in booking this hotel accommodation, or if you choose to book independently, please include the hotel information with the arrival details that we will need to arrange your transfer.

Final Day and Departure

DISEMBARKATION IN LONGYEARBYEN AND ONWARD
Your ship is scheduled to arrive back at the pier in Longyearbyen, between 7 am and 8 am local time. After breakfast, and once the ship has docked, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour. After disembarkation, there will be a group transfer either to your hotel if you have booked additional accommodation, or to the airport for those who have booked flights on disembarkation day. Please book your flight home from Longyearbyen to depart as late in the day as possible, or at a date after the end of your expedition. If you have booked a flight that departs before 11 am on the date that your expedition ends, you will be at risk of missing your flight.

Please note: Weather conditions can always delay our arrival, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Booking flexible tickets is always encouraged, as we cannot be held responsible for delays due to unforeseen circumstances. A post-expedition hotel night is recommended.
**Hotel Accommodations**

Your itinerary does not include hotel accommodation before or after the scheduled itinerary. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition, or staying after the disembarkation day, please contact your Polar Travel Adviser for hotel options. Since accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

**Arrival and Departure Transfers**

**LONGYEARBYEN AIRPORT TRANSFERS**

**ARRIVAL**

Transfers in Longyearbyen are included in the expedition. If you arrive one day prior to the expedition, a transfer will be provided from the airport to your hotel, and the following day you will be transferred to the ship at the appropriate time. Details of ship transfer times will be provided when you arrive.

If you arrive on embarkation day, you will be transferred from the airport to a downtown location. Your luggage will be taken directly to the ship, and later you will be transferred from the meeting point to the ship. Details of ship transfer times will be provided when you arrive.

**DEPARTURE**

If you have flights booked for the day of disembarkation, departure transfers are provided to either a downtown location or directly to the airport. Your luggage can be stored in a luggage truck if your flight is scheduled for later in the day.

If you are spending extra time in Longyearbyen after your expedition, a transfer will be provided to your hotel. You will need to arrange your own transfer to the airport if you are flying out after the disembarkation day.

*In order to facilitate your transfers, we request that you provide your flight details to Quark Expeditions® at least 30 days prior to traveling.*
Inclusions

**THIS EXPEDITION INCLUDES**

- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks on board
- All shore landings per the daily program
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled
- Photographic journal documenting the expedition
- Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
- Official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Hair dryer and bathrobe in every cabin
- Comprehensive predeparture materials, including a map and an informative Arctic Reader
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US$500,000 per person
- Arrival transfer from Longyearbyen airport to your hotel if you arrive one day prior to embarkation
- Transfer from your hotel or Longyearbyen airport to the ship on embarkation day
- Group transfer from the ship to Longyearbyen airport or a designated drop-off location downtown on disembarkation day

**THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES**

- International airfare
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international flights
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned
- Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified
- Phone and Internet charges
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew
- Additional overnight accommodation
- Optional kayaking activities
### Dates & Rates

**SPITSBERGEN HIGHLIGHTS: Expedition in Brief**

*Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship OCEAN ADVENTURER*

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*All rates per person in USD.*
POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

LILLIEHÖÖK GLACIER

In 1906, His Serene Highness Prince Albert I of Monaco visited Lilliehöök Glacier to conduct scientific investigations. His great-great-grandson, HSH Albert II, visited the glacier a hundred years later as part of a scientific investigation, this time to further our understanding of the arctic clam, a species that lives for more than a century. The growth rings of a single clam’s shell contain evidence of the chemicals encountered by the clam. Scientists can determine the variations of the water’s temperature and pollutant content by studying the shell.

LONGYEARBYEN

Eighteen hundred people inhabit the administrative capital of Svalbard, which is situated on the shore of Isfjorden. The settlement was founded in 1905 by John Munroe Longyear, the majority owner of the Arctic Coal Company of Boston.

MOFFEN ISLAND

This island is designated as a protected sanctuary for walrus.

MONACO GLACIER

HSH Prince Albert I of Monaco, a pioneer of oceanography, led an expedition to Svalbard in 1906. His team used sophisticated photographic techniques to understand the shape and position of several glacier fronts. Monaco Glacier honors the expedition, the prince and the principality over which he reigned.

WORSLEYNESET

Worsleyneset is a colorful tundra-covered island with foliage with such unique names as moss campion (a small wildflower), saxifrage and Arctic mouse-eared chickweed. The island is a pleasure to explore.

IMPORTANT REMINDER  Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your expedition staff must allow the sea, the ice and the weather to guide route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you’ll experience on this voyage: please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed.

Last updated January 6, 2017