

# THE ARCTIC - NORTH SPITSBERGEN EXPLORER



## INTRODUCTION

The north Spitsbergen pack ice is the main attraction of this trip, with plenty of chances to see walrus, seagulls, polar bears, whales, and other species. The diversity of north Spitsbergen's aesthetically breathtaking landscapes, enormous expanses of sea ice, and numerous opportunities to see whales, polar bears, seagulls, walrus, and other species are the main highlights of this voyage. Savour the breathtaking scenery, daring landings, and walks along the shore.

*\* Please Note: All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Landings are subject to site availabilities, permissions, and environmental concerns per AECO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with AECO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed of our vessel is 10.5 knots.*

## ITINERARY

### TRIP CODE

ACOWORNS

### DEPARTURE

05/06/2026, 12/06/2026

### DURATION

8 Days

### LOCATIONS

Svalbard



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## DAY 1: Longyearbyen - Embarkation

Arriving in Longyearbyen, the hub of administration in Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago, marks the beginning of your journey. Explore the charming remnants of this former mining town, taking in the captivating sights of its parish church and the Svalbard Museum. Despite the seemingly barren landscape, over a hundred plant species have been documented in the area. As the day progresses into early evening, the ship departs from Isfjorden, providing the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the first minke whale of your expedition.



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## DAY 2: Explore North Spitsbergen - Day 2 to 7

Embark on a captivating journey that ventures into the heart of the pack ice and explores the secluded coastlines of the rugged northern region of Spitsbergen. Potential destinations on our itinerary include: Raudfjord: Explore the expansive Raudfjord on the north coast of Spitsbergen, where glaciers cascade and ringed and bearded seals may make an appearance. Thriving seabird colonies, rich vegetation, and the chance to encounter polar bears enhance the allure of this picturesque fjord. Monaco Glacier: Weather permitting, we may navigate into Liefdefjorden, offering a view of the impressive 5-kilometer-long face of Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of the glacier are teeming with kittiwakes, and polar bears often frequent the base of the ice. In case of early season ice conditions, an alternate route along the west coast of Spitsbergen may be taken. Highlights of Hinlopen: Venture into Hinlopen Strait, a habitat for bearded seals, ringed seals, and polar bears. The strait's entrance may provide a chance to spot blue whales. Zodiac cruises among the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya lead to the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet, home to thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. A landing on Nordaustlandet could unveil reindeer, pink-footed geese, and walruses, with an alternate route considered if ice conditions hinder entry into Hinlopen. The Seven Islands: Journey to the northernmost point, potentially reaching 80° north in the Seven Islands. This region is inhabited by polar bears, offering an opportunity for the ship to spend hours amidst the pack ice before heading west again. Sailing the Continental Shelf: While retracing our route west, be on the lookout for polar bears and elusive Greenland (bowhead) whales. Approximately 40 nautical miles west of Spitsbergen, we traverse the edge of the continental shelf, where fin whales forage in the upwelling zones along the Spitsbergen banks during the summer. Near Kongsfjorden's mouth, you may spot minke whales. Forlandsundet, St. Johns Fjord, or Alkhornet: Depending on circumstances, observe walruses in Forlandsundet, sail into St. Johns Fjord, or head south to the mouth of Isfjorden, where a landing at Alkhornet awaits. These areas host seabird colonies, Arctic foxes, and grazing reindeer, creating a diverse and captivating Arctic experience.



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## DAY 8: Disembarkation

Every remarkable adventure reaches its conclusion. The vessel docks back in Longyearbyen in the early morning, and convenient bus transportation to the airport will be arranged for your departure. 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 a ship
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## INCLUSIONS

All meals on board including snacks, coffee and tea.  
 Accommodation onboard the Ortelius in booked cabin category  
 Onboard lecture program from Expeditions Team and Naturalists  
 All applicable shore excursions and Zodiac cruising (except paid adventure options with cost)  
 Use of rubber boots & snowshoes  
 Transfers and baggage handling between the airport, hotels and ship only for those passengers on the group flights to and from Longyearbyen.  
 All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.  
 AECO fees and governmental taxes.  
 Comprehensive pre-departure material.  
 Access to 1.5 GB of free internet connectivity per person, which resets every 24 hours. Supplementary vouchers available to purchase on onboard. Subject to satellite coverage

### Inclusions

## 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 and post land arrangements  
 Visa & passport fees (if applicable)  
 Travel insurance (compulsory)  
 Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings  
 Additional optional activities  
 Tobacco, alcoholic or beverages (other than coffee and tea)  
 Meals ashore  
 Personal expenses such as laundry & bar  
 Miscellaneous extras  
 Gratuities for the crew (guidelines will be provided)  
 Government arrival or departure taxes (if applicable)

**Difficulty Rating** 2 (light adventure)

**Single Surcharge** Subject to availability upon request. No single supplement will apply if willing to share in selected cabins. Please contact us for more details.

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Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, and may be based on quad/triple/twin share.</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.</p>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.</p>

## SUSTAINABILITY

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