



Arctic: Polar Bears, Wildlife Encounters, and Majestic Fjords

DURATION | 10 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Moderate

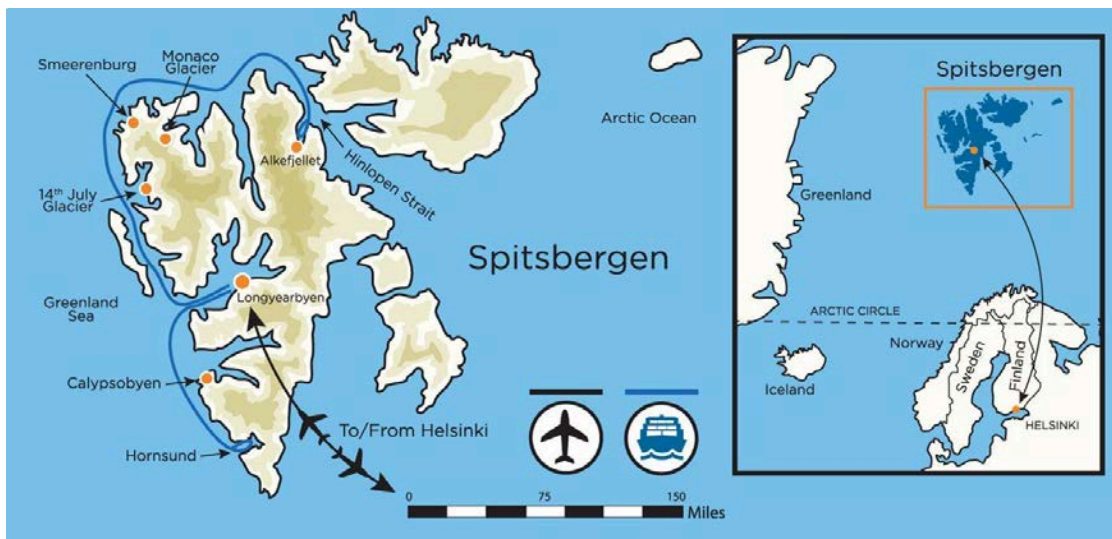
Trip Overview

Embark on a captivating journey with AdventureWomen cruising through the Arctic, starting in Spitsbergen, the “wildlife capital of the Arctic,” where endless daylight illuminates breathtaking landscapes. Begin your adventure in Helsinki before transferring to Longyearbyen, the gateway to this pristine wilderness. Board the Ocean Adventurer, where intimate connections blossom among fellow travelers and expert guides. Traverse majestic fjords and encounter wildlife in their natural habitat. Highlights include the stunning 14th of July Glacier, the historic site of Smeerenburg, and the dramatic cliffs of Alkefjellet. Enjoy wildlife photography opportunities, sea kayaking, and paddle excursions for a closer look at the vibrant tundra and shimmering icebergs. Join this unforgettable expedition for a truly immersive Arctic experience!

Trip Highlights

- See for yourself polar bears, walrus, reindeer and more arctic creature in their natural habitats.
- Bask in the 24-hour daylight of the "midnight sun" as you hike across the tundra and polar desert landscapes.
- Discover glaciers, fjords, icebergs, and go on optional kayaking experiences.

Map View



Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Welcome to the Arctic!

Your Arctic journey commences in Helsinki, celebrated for its remarkable architecture and captivating fusion of eastern and western cultures. Should you arrive early, immerse yourself in the plethora of museums, galleries, and restaurants, unwind at a traditional Finnish sauna, or meander through the dynamic Design District before settling in at your designated hotel, connected to the airport. Once checked in, you will receive information for the following day's flight, and then you can attend a pre-departure briefing to address any questions. Enjoy a lively welcome dinner this evening as you get to know your fellow travelers. Share stories and learn about why each woman is excited to explore the Arctic!

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Hilton Hotel Helsinki Airport (or similar)



Hilton Hotel Helsinki Airport (or similar)

Hilton Helsinki Airport is a full-service hotel conveniently located just a few minutes' walk from Helsinki Airport via a covered walkway. The hotel features state-of-the-art facilities and contemporary design with a touch of Finnish style. Lentoasema Rail Station is adjacent to the hotel, linking to central Helsinki. Enjoy your stay in your fresh and comfortable guest room as well as access to the fitness center and traditional Finnish sauna.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, bathrobes, hair dryer, minibar, refrigerator, flatscreen TV, cable / satellite TV, safe, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi



Trip Itinerary



Day 2

flying to Longyearbyen

Following breakfast at your hotel, board your flight to Longyearbyen, the largest settlement and administrative center of Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. Despite its remote location, it is a vibrant community with a population of around 2,000. The town serves as a hub for scientific research in fields like polar studies and climate research. Due to port logistics, boarding the vessel via Zodiac may be necessary instead of from the pier. There is NO option to pay for additional luggage and there is a strict weight limit on baggage. As your ship embarks on its journey, admire the breathtaking sight of the island's rugged, glacier-capped mountains emerging majestically from the icy waters.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ocean Explorer



Ocean Explorer

The Ocean Explorer is tailored for polar exploration. At the forefront of the ship lies a bright two-story library. Cabins exude a contemporary Scandinavian flair, offering spaciousness and thoughtful design. Guests can unwind in the spacious gym, enjoy the sauna, and indulge in relaxation with two outdoor Jacuzzis. Ocean Explorer is designed to maximize outdoor viewing opportunities, with multi-level decks ideal for capturing stunning long-range photography and observing wildlife. With a fleet of 15 Zodiacs onboard, guests can quickly and safely disembark for off-ship adventures.

AMENITIES: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, bathrobes



Trip Itinerary



Day 3

Exploring Spitsbergen

Sail through the captivating landscapes of Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. Renowned for its stunning glaciers, fjords, and rugged mountains, this Arctic gem is rich in exploration history. Enjoy time on deck watching for wildlife, or dive into activities like Zodiac cruising, varied hiking, and expert-led talks. Capture the polar beauty with guided photography sessions or take a thrilling polar plunge! For the adventurous, optional sea kayaking and paddling excursions offer intimate explorations of this pristine environment. Remember, all activities require advance booking—secure your spot with your Trip Manager! Note: The itinerary provided each day is tentative and cannot be guaranteed. In remote regions, your Expedition Team must carefully consider sea, ice, and weather conditions when determining the route and itinerary details.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ocean Explorer



Trip Itinerary



Day 4

The 14th of July Glacier

Today, a possible sight visit includes the 14th of July Glacier, known for its awe-inspiring polar landscape. The 14th of July Glacier also plays a crucial role in the Arctic ecosystem, serving as a habitat for various species of wildlife and contributing to the regulation of global climate patterns through its influence on sea levels and ocean currents. The Glacier offers included activities range from expert-led discussions, exhilarating Zodiac cruises, and photographic memories with optional opportunities to sea kayak and paddle. The area is known for its impressive glacier front with regular calvings that attract birds like Kittiwakes and thick-billed murre (Brünnich's guillemot) along with Atlantic Puffins.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ocean Explorer

Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Smeerenburg, or "Blubber Town"

Have the opportunity to immerse yourself in the haunting beauty of Smeerenburg, or "Blubber Town," a former whaling hub from the 1600s and now a popular destination for historians, archaeologists, and tourists interested in exploring the history of Arctic exploration and the whaling industry. As you pass by desolate landscapes, discover the remnants of wooden structures and whale oil cauldrons that tell stories of Arctic hardship. Enjoy a breathtaking walrus haul-out, witnessing these massive creatures basking on the shores. Included activities range from expert-led discussions, exhilarating Zodiac cruises, and photographic memories with optional opportunities to sea kayak and paddle.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ocean Explorer



Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Birdwatching and Thick Ice Passages

Explore the breathtaking Alkefjellet, a towering bird cliff teeming with hundreds of thousands of Brünnich's guillemots, known for upright forms reminiscent of penguins. This avian paradise captivates birdwatchers with its dramatic scenery. Then, pass through the challenging Hinlopen Strait, a waterway between Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet, known for its thick pack ice. Here, wildlife thrives; keep an eye out for walrus colonies, seabirds, and elusive marine mammals like narwhals and polar bears. Included activities range from expert-led discussions, exhilarating Zodiac cruises, and photographic memories with optional opportunities to sea kayak and paddle.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ocean Explorer



Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Passing through the Hinlopen Strait

Today, you will pass through the Hinlopen Strait. Despite its harsh conditions, the Arctic tundra is home to a variety of wildlife species. Iconic animals such as polar bears, Arctic foxes, caribou, muskoxen, and various species of migratory birds inhabit the tundra. These animals have specialized adaptations to survive in extreme conditions, including thick fur or feathers, insulation layers of fat, and seasonal migrations. The Arctic tundra is also known for its low-growing vegetation, including grasses, mosses, lichens, shrubs, and hardy flowering plants. Permafrost, a defining feature of the Arctic tundra, consists of soil, rock, and sediment that remains frozen year-round, with only the surface layer thawing during the summer months. Permafrost plays a crucial role in shaping the landscape and influencing plant growth, hydrology, and the stability of the terrain. Included activities range from expert-led discussions, exhilarating Zodiac cruises, and photographic memories with optional opportunities to sea kayak and paddle.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ocean Explorer



Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Hornsund and its numerous glaciers

Hornsund is known for its numerous glaciers, which flow down from the surrounding mountains into the fjord. These glaciers are part of the larger ice cap covering much of Svalbard and contribute to the dynamic and ever-changing environment of the region. It is home to a diverse array of Arctic wildlife, including polar bears, Arctic foxes, Svalbard reindeer, and various species of seabirds. The nutrient-rich waters of the fjord support a rich ecosystem of marine life, including seals, whales, and seabirds. Enjoy opportunities for wildlife viewing, glacier exploration, hiking, and photography in one of the most remote and untouched regions of the world. Today's activities may include Zodiac cruising, hiking, daily polar experts chats and presentations, a polar plunge (scheduled only once per expedition), and photography opportunities (included). Additional options include Sea kayaking, paddling excursions (extra fees apply)

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ocean Explorer



Trip Itinerary



Day 9

Final Day Aboard the Ocean Explorer

During your final full day aboard the Ocean Explorer, seize the numerous chances for capturing wildlife through your lens. Witness polar bears set against breathtaking natural scenery of towering mountains and icy landscapes, amidst a constantly shifting display of magnificent icebergs. Enjoy a farewell dinner with your new AdventureWomen friends. Reflect on the cherished memories you've created and celebrate the conclusion of an amazing journey through this truly remarkable Arctic land. Today's activities may include Zodiac cruising, hiking, daily polar experts chats and presentations, a polar plunge (scheduled only once per expedition), and photography opportunities (included). Extra activities include Sea kayaking, paddling excursions (extra fees apply)

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ocean Explorer



Trip Itinerary



Day 10

Farewell from Longyearbyen

After breakfast, say goodbye to your Expedition Team as your journey comes full circle in Longyearbyen. Disembarkation takes about an hour and may include one final Zodiac ride to the pier. Transfer to the airport for your charter flight back to Helsinki, with arrival details provided 30 days prior. If you wish to book international flights early, consider a post-night stay in Helsinki; our team can assist with arrangements. If traveling immediately, ensure a three-hour gap between your charter arrival and international departure. Taxis are available for transfers to the city

What's Included

What's Included

- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- Charter flights between Helsinki and Longyearbyen
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- All snacks, soft drinks, and juices on board throughout your voyage
- Select beer and wine with dinner
- Experienced expedition guides including on all shore landings and other activities
- All Zodiac transfers, shore landings and cruising as per the daily program
- Presentations by the Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled
- A photographic journal documenting the expedition
- A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions
- A 3-in-1 parka for you to keep
- Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Emergency evacuation insurance coverage up to a maximum of \$500,000

Not Included

- International airfare to and from Helsinki
- Any arrival and departure transfer (unless specified otherwise)
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature
- Mandatory waterproof pants for zodiac cruising and landings, or any other gear not mentioned
- Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Laundry, spa, bar, internet, and phone charges
- Phone and Internet charges (connectivity may vary by location) (unless specified otherwise)
- Cost of hospitalization or evacuation (unless otherwise specified)
- Gratuity for shipboard staff and crew
- Adventure options. Advanced booking required.
- Excess baggage fees on international and domestic flights

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

