

# Arctic Polar Bear Adventure Cruise Around Spitsbergen

*Join us on this small ship voyage over 600 miles above the Arctic Circle. Under the “Midnight Sun” we cruise, hike and explore by zodiac this wonderland of rugged mountains and massive glaciers home to whales, seals, walrus, reindeer and polar bears!*

**Note:** The following itineraries describe the cruise’s general activities and route. However, the actual itinerary can vary. Changes in weather, ice conditions, wildlife movements, unplanned opportunities and other considerations will affect our route and excursions. If ice conditions are favorable, instead of sailing through the Hinlopen Strait, we may sail around Nordaustlandet and visit Kvitøya, the place where the Swedish Explorer Andree perished. The area between Kong Karls Land and Edgeøya offers a good chance of observing rare Right Whales.

**The ice conditions will determine the sailing plan, but the following is a realistic plan.**

**Day 1** - Arrive in Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Spitsbergen archipelago of which West Spitsbergen is the largest island. Before embarking there is an opportunity to stroll around this former mining town, whose parish church and Polar Museum are well worth visiting. In the early evening the ship will sail out of Isfjorden.

**Day 2** - Heading north along the west coast, we arrive by morning in Krossfjorden, where we go on the Zodiacs for a cruise along the sculpted front of the 14th of July Glacier. On the green slopes near the glacier, a colourful variety of flowers bloom, while large numbers of Kittiwakes and Brünnich’s Guillemots nest on the nearby cliffs. There is also a good chance of spotting Arctic Foxes, who patrol the base of the cliffs in case a chick falls from its nest, and Bearded Seals, who cruise this fjord. In the afternoon we sail to Ny Ålesund, the world’s most northerly settlement.

Once a mining village - served by the world’s most northerly railway, which can still be seen - Ny Ålesund is now a research centre. Close to the village is a breeding ground for Barnacle Geese, Pink-footed Geese and Arctic

Terns. Visitors interested in the history of Arctic exploration will want to walk to the anchoring

mast used by Amundsen and Nobile in the airship Norge in 1926 and Nobile in the airship Italia in 1928 before their flights to the North Pole.

**Day 3** - Near the mouth of Liefdefjorden, we will go ashore for a walk on the tundra island of Andøya. Many common eiders and pink-footed geese nest here, and the more rare King Eider may also be seen. Sailing into Liefdefjorden, we will cruise near the face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favourite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes and occasionally polar bears are seen on the glacier.

**Day 4** - Today we will reach our northernmost point at Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet. Here we will be at 81 degrees north, just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole. Polar bears inhabit this region, along with ivory gulls. We may sit for several hours in the pack ice, taking in our spectacular surroundings and seeing a Ross gull, before we turn south again.

**Day 5** - We will visit Laagøya today, a low island with a big lagoon where a big herd of Walrus tends to congregate. Sabine’s Gulls nest

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on the island as well. At Sorg Fjord we may find another herd of walrus not far from the graves of 17th century whalers. On a nature walk, we may encounter families of ptarmigans.

**Day 6** - Today we will sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to Bearded Seals, Ringed Seals, Polar Bears, and Ivory Gulls. We'll navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in our zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. On the east side of Hinlopenstrait, we'll attempt a landing at Augustbukta on Nordaustlandet, home to Reindeer, Pink-footed Geese, breeding Ivory Gulls, and Walrus. Near Torrelneset, we will explore the polar desert of Nordaustlandet, next to the world's third largest ice cap, which meets the sea nearby. We will walk along beautiful coastline covered in smooth rocks, sculpted by the surf over thousands of years. We may encounter walrus along the way.

**Day 7** - In Freemansundet we plan to land at Sundneset on the island of Barentsøya to visit an old trapper's hut and then take a brisk walk across the tundra in search of Spitsbergen Reindeer and Barnacle Geese. Later we cruise south to Diskobukta on the west side of Edgeøya. After a Zodiac cruise through the shallow bay, we land on a beach littered with whale bones and tree trunks, which have drifted here from Siberia. We can also climb to the rim of a narrow gully which is inhabited by thousands of Kittiwakes, together with Black Guillemots and piratical Glaucous Gulls. During the breeding season, the base of the cliffs is patrolled by Arctic Foxes and Polar Bears, especially females with young cubs, searching for young birds that have fallen from the nesting ledges.

## **Tour Details**

**Trip Type:** Adventure Cruise

**Trip Length:** 10 days / 9 nights

**2012 Departure Dates:** Please note that all dates & rates are subject to change. All voyages will operate subject to a minimum of 50 participants on Antarctic Dream, 70 participants on Plancius and 60 participants on Ortelius.

**m/v Ortelius:** July 3-12, July 12-21, July 21-30, July 30-August 9

**m/v Plancius:** July 4-13 (with scuba diving option), July 13-22, July 22-31, July 31-August 9

**m/v Antarctic Dream:** July 10-19, July 19-28, July 28-August 6, August 6-15

**Day 8** - We start the day quietly cruising the side fjords of the spectacular Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen, enjoying the scenery of towering mountain peaks. Hornsundtind rises to 1,431m while Bautaen shows why early Dutch explorers gave the name 'Spitsbergen' - pointed mountains - to the island. There are also 14 magnificent glaciers in the area and very good chances of encounters with seals and Polar Bears.

**Day 9** - Today we land on Ahlstrandhalvøya at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden. Here piles of Beluga skeletons (the Beluga is a small white whale), the remains of 19th century slaughter, are yet another reminder of the consequences of thoughtless exploitation. Fortunately, Belugas were not hunted to the edge of extinction and may still be seen locally. Indeed, there is a good chance that we will come across a pod. Cruising into Recherchefjorden during the afternoon we can explore an area of tundra at the head of the fjord where many Reindeer feed.

**Day 10** - Return to Longyearbyen and disembark for the transfer to the airport and the flight to Oslo and home.

**Note: The chances that we can complete a full Spitsbergen circumnavigation (based on our experiences from 1992 until 2010) are about, 30 % in the first half of July, 60 % in the second half of July, 90% in the first half of August, 95% in the second half of August. In case we cannot complete a full circumnavigation we will mostly resort to a program in Northeast or Southeast**

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(d) *Diving Departure* - \$400 per diver includes tanks and weights, maximum 24 divers per voyage. All other equipment is responsibility of diver (drysuit, BC, regulator, fins, mask, etc.). Must have an Advanced Diver certification, a minimum of 20 drysuit dives with 5 drysuit dives in the 6 months prior to the cruise.

**2013 Departure Dates:** Please note that all dates & rates are subject to change. All voyages will operate subject to a minimum of 50 participants on Antarctic Dream, 70 participants on Plancius and 60 participants on Ortelius.

**m/v Ortelius:** July 8-17, July 17-26, July 26-August 4, August 4-13 (hiking departure with hikes of 5-7 hours), August 13-23 (11 days/10 nights)

**m/v Plancius:** July 3-12 (with scuba diving option for \$450, kayaking, photo workshop, snowshoe/hiking), July 12-21, July 21-30, July 30-August 8, August 8-18 (11 days/10 nights)

**2012 Price:**

**m/v Ortelius:**

Quad Non-Private:	\$4,700
Twin Non-Private:	\$5,550
Twin Porthole:	\$6,450
Twin Window:	\$6,700
Superior:	\$7,200
Suite:	\$8,900

**m/v Plancius:**

Quad Porthole:	\$4,950
Triple Porthole:	\$5,700
Twin Porthole:	\$6,450
Twin Window:	\$6,700
Twin Deluxe:	\$7,200
Superior:	\$8,000

**m/v Antarctic Dream:**

Twin Inside:	\$5,600
Twin Porthole:	\$6,450
Twin Deluxe:	\$7,200
Superior:	\$8,000

**Single Supplement:** Add 70% to the base trip price.

**2013 Price:**

**m/v Ortelius:**

	<u>7/8, 7/17, 7/26</u>	<u>8/4, 8/13</u>
Quad Non-Private:	\$4,950	\$5,500
Twin Non-Private:	\$5,800	\$6,450
Twin Porthole:	\$6,750	\$7,500
Twin Window:	\$7,050	\$7,800
Superior:	\$8,350	\$9,200
Suite:	\$9,400	\$10,350

**m/v Plancius:**

	<u>7/3, 7/12, 7/30</u>	<u>8/8</u>
Quad Porthole:	\$5,200	\$5,700
Triple Porthole:	\$6,000	\$6,600
Twin Porthole:	\$6,750	\$7,500
Twin Window:	\$7,050	\$7,800
Twin Deluxe:	\$7,550	\$8,400
Superior:	\$8,350	\$9,200

**Single Supplement:** Add 70% to the base trip price.

**Fuel Surcharge:** Due to the high current cost of fuel, a \$25 per person per night fuel surcharge will be added to the prices listed above.

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**Trip Fees Include:** Accommodations aboard ship; all meals aboard ship including snacks, coffee and tea; all shore excursions and activities by Zodiac; lectures by noted naturalists; leadership by experienced expedition staff; park fees; transfers and baggage handling between hotels, airports and ship on selected flights to/from Longyearbyen (call us for information); all service taxes and port charges.

**Trip Fees Exclude:** Airfare; pre- or post land arrangements; transfers and baggage handling between hotels, airports and ship (except on selected flights to/from Longyearbyen); passport expenses; government arrival and departure taxes; meals ashore; travel insurance; excess baggage charges; personal items such as laundry, bar, beverage charges, phone, fax, and internet charges; gratuities for ship staff and crew (guidelines will be provided).

**Free Rubber Boots:** Free use of rubber boots on *Plancius* cruises. These boots are high quality, perfect for the Antarctic conditions and will keep your feet dry, warm and comfortable for all landings. Boots provided onboard.

**Payments & Cancellations:** A deposit of 10% of the cruise price is due at reservation. Balance is due 90 days before cruise departure. The following cancellation fees will apply:

- Cancel 90 days or more prior to departure: 10% of total cruise price
- Cancel 89-60 days prior to departure: 50% of total cruise price
- Cancel 59-31 days prior to departure: 75% of total cruise price
- Cancel less than 31 days prior to departure: 100% of total cruise price

For bookings of 10 passengers or more, a **20% deposit** is due at reservation and the following cancellation fees will apply:

- Cancel 180 days or more prior to departure: 10% of the total cruise price
- Cancel 179-90 days prior to departure: 50 % of the total cruise price
- Cancel less than 90 days: 100 % of the total price

**Roommate Policy:** If you are traveling alone, you can request us to arrange a roommate of the same sex. If we cannot arrange one, your single supplement fee will be waived.

**Travel Insurance:** *Emergency medical evacuation insurance is required for the cruise.* We also strongly recommend travel insurance to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, other medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

**Meeting Time & Place:** Longyearbyen, Norway. Boarding between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Day 1. The cruise dock is about a 5-minute taxi ride from the Longyearbyen airport. If you arrive the day the cruise begins on a group flight arranged by the cruise company, your transfer is free and you'll be met at the airport and driven to the dock. If you arrive on your own or on a flight arriving the day before the cruise, you can take a taxi. They are readily available throughout the town and nowhere is more than a 10-minute drive to the dock.

**Trip Conclusion:** Longyearbyen, Norway Day 10 of cruise. Arrival time will vary with flight schedules from Longyearbyen. Call us for specific information on your cruise 1-800-488-8483.

**Group Flights:** Group flights are available from Oslo to Longyearbyen and returning to Oslo. Call us for specific information at 1-800-488-8483.

**Itinerary & Rate Changes:** All dates and rates are subject to change and cruises operate subject to a minimum number of participants. The itinerary above describes the cruise's general activities and route. However, the actual itinerary will often vary. Changes in weather, ice conditions, wildlife movements, unplanned opportunities and other considerations can all affect our routes and activities.

## **Our Ships**

**m/v Ortelius:** The ice-strengthened vessel "Ortelius" is an excellent vessel for Polar expedition cruises in the Arctic and Antarctica. "Ortelius" was built in Gdynia, Poland in 1989, was named "Marina Svetaeva", and served as a special purpose vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. The vessel is re-flagged and renamed "Ortelius". As was Plancius, Ortelius was a Dutch / Flemish cartographer. Abraham Ortelius (1527 – 1598) published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* or Theatre of the World in 1570. At that time, the atlas was the most expensive book ever printed.

The vessel has the highest ice-class notation (UL1 equivalent to 1A) and is therefore very suitable to navigate in solid one-year sea ice and loose multi-year pack ice. "Ortelius" is a great expedition vessel for 100 passengers with lots

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of open-deck spaces and a very large bridge which is accessible to the passengers. The vessel is manned by 34 highly experienced Russian nautical crew, 15 international catering staff, including stewardesses, 6 expedition staff (1 expedition leader and 5 guides/lecturers) and 1 doctor.

"Ortelius" offers a comfortable hotel standard, with two restaurants, a bar/lecture room and a sauna. Our voyages are primarily developed to offer our passengers a quality exploratory wildlife program, trying to spend as much time ashore as possible. As the number of passengers is limited to approximately 100 on the "Ortelius", flexibility assures maximum wildlife opportunities.

*Ortelius* specifications:

- Length 299 feet
- Width 58 feet
- Draft 19 feet
- Speed 12 knots
- Capacity 100 passengers
- Crew 34
- 21 staff and 1 doctor

*Ortelius* Cabin Descriptions: All cabins are spacious outside cabins with a minimum of two portholes or windows.

- **Quad:** 5 with bunk beds and shared bathroom and shower facilities.
- **Twin:** All lower berths (2 single bed); 14 with shared bathroom and shower facilities; 9 with portholes and private bathroom and shower and 10 with windows and private bathroom and shower.
- **Superior:** 6 with double bed and separate day room.
- **Suite:** 1 with double bed and separate day room.

**m/v Plancius:** Originally designed as a research vessel for the Dutch Navy, the Plancius perfectly meets the exploratory and educational needs of our natural history adventures. Comfortable but not luxurious, Plancius was completely refurbished for passenger service in 2008 and is fully SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) compliant. It has 54 cabins, all with private baths and showers, accommodating up to 112 passengers plus a restaurant/lecture room, observation lounge and bar with picture windows and spacious open deck areas.

*Plancius* specifications:

- Length 267 feet
- Width 43 feet
- Draft 15 feet
- Speed 12 knots
- Capacity 112 passengers
- Crew 30
- 12 staff and 1 doctor

*Plancius* Cabin Descriptions:

- **Quad:** Two single lower berths, and 2 single bunk beds, private bath and shower. Approximately 50 sq. ft.
- **Twin:** All lower berths (2 single beds or 1 queen), private bath private bath and shower. Approximately 50 sq. ft.
- **Superior:** All lower berths (2 single beds or 1 queen), private bath and shower. Approximately 70 sq. ft.

**m/v Antarctic Dream:** A modern, SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) compliant ice strengthened vessel built in the Netherlands and completely refitted in 2004 for passenger service in polar seas. Guests are almost always welcome on the bridge and there are plenty of open deck-viewing areas. It carries a full complement of zodiac excursion craft for landings and wildlife viewing. Hearty meals are prepared by international chefs and served in a dining room with large windows on 3 sides which also doubles as the bar. It also has a separate lecture room where all passengers can be accommodated at the same time.

*Antarctic Dream* specifications:

- Length 274 feet
- Width 39 feet
- Draft 15 feet

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- Speed 12 knots
- Capacity 84 passengers
- Crew 30
- Nine staff and 1 doctor

*Antarctic Dream* Cabin Descriptions:

- **Twin Inside:** No windows or portholes. Two single beds, private bath and shower
- **Twin Porthole:** Small portholes. 15 with queen beds, five with 2 single beds, private bath and shower
- **Twin Deluxe:** Large window. 6 with queen beds, 10 with 2 single beds, private bath and shower
- **Superior:** Large windows on 2 sides and bath. 3 with queen beds, one with 2 single beds, private bath and shower

## **The Next Step...**

**References** Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

**The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee:** *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value.* If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!

**How do I join this trip?** Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at [www.TheWorldOutdoors.com](http://www.TheWorldOutdoors.com). Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

**Special Requests:** If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

**Then Leave the Rest to Us...** Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, information on pre- and post-trip arrangements, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

**How do I book airfare for this trip?** Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Marriner, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at [sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com](mailto:sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com). Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call Frosch Travel, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at [Georgia.Terry@frosch.com](mailto:Georgia.Terry@frosch.com). Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

## **General Information**

**What weather can I expect?** Be prepared for anything from calm sunny days in the 50's to windy, foggy, snowy weather in the 10's... all in the same day! And remember, on the water wind makes all temperatures feel colder.

**How difficult is this trip? ... Really:** The trip is designed for healthy adults who are comfortable being active outdoors several hours a day. However, guests can participate in activities as much or as little as they choose. Terrain on shore is often rocky, wet and slippery with snow and ice. Some people will find a walking stick helpful. Zodiacs accesses requires going up and down a steep gangway from the ship to water level. The cruise is in remote areas without access to sophisticated medical facilities.

**Emergency Contact Information:** Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Marriner at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

*Oceanwide Expeditions* is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. They can be reached from the U.S. at 1-800-453-7245 or 1-281-987-9600, from outside U.S +1-1-800-453-7245 +1-281-987-9600 or within. After hours, call from the U.S. 1-281-987-9600 for answering machine or 011-31-118-410-410; from outside U.S. +1-281-987-9600 for answering machine or +31-118-410-410 to reach the Dutch Headquarters 24 hour response center. + means you need to dial the appropriate international calling code for the country you are calling from before the rest of the number. Ask local information for the correct code. Each ship also has contact information which passengers are given prior to departure.

**Pre-/ Post Lodging:** Call us for suggestions in Longyearbyen and Oslo

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How much time do we spend on shore? It depends on the weather and constraints of time and distance. Depending on the voyage, you may spend several days aboard the ship, followed by a series of landings, each several hours long. On some voyages you land two or three times every day. During our cruise we have almost continuous daylight, which means we may schedule excursions before breakfast, after dinner - or in the middle of the 'night'. Often the light for photography is best at these times. We want to show you as much as possible but leave it up to you to skip an excursion.

Is seasickness a problem? It depends on the individual. If you are particularly susceptible to sea-sickness, see your doctor before the cruise. Bring motion sickness medications and eat reasonably and get plenty of rest. Our ships physician is always available to help you.

What are the age limitations? Cruises are adult oriented and not suitable for children under 13. There are no children's discounts. Children must be accompanied by at least one adult. Parents are responsible for their children at all times and they must stay with the group. Ships do not have child facilities - toys, books, children's medicines, children's life vests, etc. so parents must bring these with them. Life vests are required for all zodiac excursions.

Local Tour Operator: Our cruise is operated by a company who specializes in small boat adventure cruises. They have years of experience and an outstanding safety record in operating passenger cruises in polar seas.

Tour Leaders and Ship Crew: All our expedition leaders are knowledgeable, helpful and dedicated to the protection of the environment. The Russian crews are highly experienced in ice navigation and our captains are recognized experts in polar navigation. The language spoken by all the cruise staff – cruise leaders, chef, purser - and used for all lectures, instructions and excursions is English unless otherwise indicated. The crew is Russian and some speak a bit of English.

Luggage Restrictions: You are allowed a maximum of 44 lbs of luggage plus a carry-on maximum of 17 lbs. We ask you to pack reasonably and limit each person to two medium size pieces and a daypack. Soft sided luggage works best. Clearly mark each piece of luggage with your name, address and contact information.

Carbon Offsetting: If you would like to offset the carbon emissions from your trip, please visit the following link: [https://sustainabletravelinternational.org/documents/op\\_carboncalcs.html](https://sustainabletravelinternational.org/documents/op_carboncalcs.html)