

SPITSBERGEN EXPLORER



15 JUN – 26 JUN 2021



11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS



STARTS LONGYEARBYEN

AN IN DEPTH EXPLORATION OF SPITSBERGEN AND THE SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO

The Norwegian territory of Svalbard and the islands that make up the archipelago offer a tremendous wildlife and birdlife experience, as well as a fascinating lesson in glaciology. The islands were first used as a whaling base in the 17th and 18th centuries and are now celebrated as a breeding ground for many seabirds, along with marine mammals and the elusive polar bear.

Our expedition vessel is perfectly suited for remote polar exploration. With her high ice-classification, we are able to push further to the north along the edge of the ice pack. It is here we frequently encounter the icon of the Arctic – the polar bear – hunting for seals and other protein sources to sustain them through the Arctic summer.

Throughout our journey we enjoy a comprehensive series of presentations by polar experts, providing an excellent background to the expedition. Days are busy with shore excursions to places of historical interest, visits to wildlife colonies, viewing the exquisite native flora and soaking up the stunning landscapes. Short or long hikes on shore are another feature along with regular cruising in the Zodiacs. Sea kayaking is another popular option. Our voyage focuses on the western and northern coast of Spitsbergen, and as far north as the permanent pack ice. This area has the highest concentration of wildlife and places of historical and scenic interest in the archipelago.



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- > The best place in the Arctic to see polar bears in their natural habitat
- > A 12-day expedition deep inside the Arctic Circle only 600 miles from The North Pole
- > Travel in the company of marine biologists, naturalists, historians and polar experts
- > Sail onboard the RCGS Resolute and access Svalbard's most spectacular sites

ON THIS TRIP

-  Zodiac excursions
-  Onshore hiking options
-  Wildlife observation
-  Photographer-in-Residence
-  Sea kayaking available
-  Whale watching
-  Educational presentations
-  Active Cruising & Wellness

IMPORTANT VOYAGE LOGISTICS

This trip starts in Longyearbyen, the principal town in the Svalbard archipelago. Longyearbyen is easily accessed with several daily flights from Norway's stylish capital city - Oslo. Flights are also available from Tromso in northern Norway.

We recommend you arrive in Longyearbyen at least one day prior to the scheduled voyage departure date. This gives you a buffer in the event of any unexpected travel delays between home and trip departure time. An airport transfer shuttle to your hotel is provided upon arrival.

At the conclusion of the trip a transfer to the airport for your onward flight is provided, or to your local hotel if staying in Longyearbyen.

Full joining instructions are provided in your final travel documentation. If you have questions before this time, please ask us.



YOUR SAMPLE DAY-BY-DAY EXPEDITION ITINERARY

There is significant variability in ice concentration and location from year to year. The itinerary below provides a realistic expectation of places we intend to visit. The day-to-day itinerary will likely change based on the presence/absence of ice and our local knowledge of wildlife hotspots often seasonally dependent on the movement of sea ice.

DAY 1 / LONGYEARBYEN, SVALBARD, (TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 2021)

We board our expedition ship, RCGS *Resolute*, in Longyearbyen and sail through Adventfjorden and into Isfjorden, then out into the Greenland Sea. So begins your Arctic cruise, 24 hours of daylight and hopefully some great photographic opportunities and memories.

DAY 2 / BOURBONHAMNA

We arrive at Bourbonhamna, known for the beluga whales that transit the narrow sound and head out in Zodiacs for the first time in search of belugas. Adult belugas are pure white and the younger calves a mottled grey colour. It is estimated there are approximately five to ten thousand belugas in the Svalbard population. The beluga has no dorsal fin - a diagnostic feature of whale species that live in the High Arctic such as the narwhal and bowhead - and it has been postulated the lack of dorsal fin is an adaptation to living in waters that are frequently covered by ice. At Bourbonhamna we hike to Ingebrigstenbukta stopping to view the old hunting cabin and other artefacts along with piles of beluga whalebones, a reminder of Svalbard's hunting past. This is also a great place to see reindeer.

DAYS 3 / STORFJORDEN

Coming around the most southerly point of Spitsbergen, we push into the broad expanse of Storfjorden. Exploring Dolerittneset near Kapp Lee, the lush vegetation of this region is remarkable given the latitude at 70° North. This area has a large scattering of reindeer antlers, however, it is the plethora of ancient whalebones that makes the excursion so memorable. Some 400 years ago, whales were hunted almost to extinction in the waters surrounding Svalbard. Now nature has turned the

decaying old bones into items of beauty. Time and the elements have altered their original shape and sculpted them into works of art, covered in blankets of green moss and grasses, black and orange lichen, and framed with purple saxifrage, yellow cinquefoil and white sandwort flowers. They are fascinating photographic subjects. Now, even after death, the noble whale supports life by robustly protecting the delicate flora from the harsh winds and providing nutrients to ensure their survival.

DAY 4 / HORNSUND

Returning to the west coast, we explore the glacier-filled bay leading into Hornsund. The entire archipelago of Svalbard is a lesson in glaciology and our on board guides will explain the formation of this fantastic landscape during hikes and Zodiac excursions. Hornsund is home to the Polish Polar Research Station and a good place to see reindeer and Arctic foxes.

DAY 5 / SMEERENBURGFJORDEN

Smeerenburgfjorden has a four hundred year history of whaling and is a favorite spot as we round the northwestern tip of Spitsbergen. A wander along the beach looking at the blubber cookers, or an hour behind a tripod shooting landscapes on your camera might be on the schedule, all the while looking for wildlife that can appear anywhere in Svalbard.

DAYS 6-7 / EXPLORATION OF THE SEA ICE

We continue north and east up into the ice, hoping to cross the 80° north parallel. Approaching the ice-edge the ship slows down and all hands are either on the bridge or out on the outer decks scanning for wildlife. Bearded seals, ringed seals and walrus may be found hauled-out on the edges of the ice. Harp seals swim in herds of 10 to 20 through the open water channels in the ice. A buttery coloured lump miles away on the ice metamorphosizes into a polar bear as we slowly work our way through the ice toward it. RCGS *Resolute* is perfectly designed for near silent approach and the captain takes great pride in bringing you in as close as possible to the wildlife, without disturbing it, for some great photographic opportunities.



DAY 8 / PHIPPSOYA

At 81° degrees north latitude, Phippsøya - one of the Seven Islands - is only 540 nautical miles from the North Pole. Because of its proximity to the permanent pack ice, Phippsøya offers the potential for great polar bear viewings. Be sure to get up to the bridge and take a picture of the ship's GPS showing this incredibly high polar latitude near the top of the world. Trivia: The archipelago of seven islands is the northernmost land in Svalbard. It was named in the 1780s by an English sailing party. The smallest and least significant island named Nelsonøya after the lowly midshipman, who was promoted over the years to the rank and title of Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson.

DAY 9 / SORGFJORDEN AND ALKEFJELLET

We begin the day in Sorgfjorden, a bay located South West from Phippsøya and at the entrance of the Hinlopenstretet (Hinlopen Strait). Sorgfjord translates to the "Fjord of Grief" named so by the Dutch whalers in 1683 who experienced harsh winters, trapped by unforgiving ice.

We then make our way down the Hinlopenstretet to the Alkefjellet Cliff. The Hinlopenstretet is filled with life during the warmer summer months with the return of the seabirds, just in time for our visit. Their return brings along the seals, and consequently the polar bears. Be sure to have your complimentary binoculars handy.

Alkefjellet makes for a spectacular sight, with jagged cliffs sprouting from the sea. This area is a true bird-watching paradise. It is home to thousands of Brunnich's guillemots, a few colonies of kittiwakes, and glaucous gulls. If you are lucky you may even spot an Arctic fox, patiently waiting for a hatchling's misstep.

DAY 10 / 14TH JULY GLACIER AND SIGNEHAMNA

The rocky shores of Krossfjorden are home to numerous bird colonies and a range of species. The ship will anchor in a protected harbour, launch the Zodiacs and cruise along the bird cliffs near the 14th July Glacier. Bearded and ringed seals are known to frequent the waters here and we watch out for them in the dark waters of the fjord. Lilliehook Glacier, at the northwestern head of Krossfjorden, is an incredible sight. The glacier face stretches just over four miles and has a height of around 80 metres - viewed from the Zodiac cruise you come to appreciate the enormous scale of your surroundings. Large colonies of birds including kittiwakes and ivory gulls can be seen diving at the front of the glacier when chunks calve off, stirring up the nutrients in the water. Polar bears can often be seen patrolling here because of the number of seals on ice.

DAY 11 / ALKEHORNET

Alkehornet, at the mouth of Isfjord, offers breath-taking views and an incredible tundra walk. Arctic foxes can often be seen here, as well as reindeer. Towering above the site is a horn-shaped mount covered in guillemots and kittiwakes. This evening, we celebrate the journey with a special dinner attended by the ship's Captain. It's a great time to reflect on a wonderful voyage in this wild and remote place.

DAY 12 / LONGYEARBYEN DISEMBARKATION (SATURDAY, 26 JUNE 2021)

We arrive back into Longyearbyen this morning and disembark after breakfast. We then transfer back into town with a chance to visit the museums and buy a few last-minute souvenirs before transferring to the airport for your return flights.

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

Expedition cruising can be unpredictable. Specific sites visited will depend on the multiple factors that come into play when executing the best possible voyage for our guests. **The above itinerary should be read as a 'guide only' and may change.** Due to many variables, we operate our voyages in true 'expedition style', which means that last-minute itinerary, destination and excursion changes are possible on all voyages. We will communicate all known changes ahead of your voyage, however please embrace the 'expedition spirit' while onboard. The ship's Captain, in conjunction with the Expedition Leader, continually review the sailing plan and make adjustments to the itinerary along the way to take advantage of optimal weather conditions or to maximize our encounters with wildlife. Decades of experience spent exploring only water accessible regions mean we have a large number of outstanding landing sites and allow our expedition team with the ability to find adventure anywhere in our Zodiacs, even when the weather conditions may not be ideal or varying factors hinder our planned route. **A flexible approach is something we encourage you to bring to the ship.**

YOUR EXPEDITION INCLUDES:

- ✓ Comprehensive pre-voyage information package including details to help you prepare for your trip
- ✓ Transfers to the ship on embarkation day and from the ship to the airport or local hotel on disembarkation
- ✓ Shipboard accommodation in your selected cabin category with daily housekeeping. Cabins feature outside views with windows or portholes
- ✓ High quality, eco friendly, Canadian made natural amenities in every cabin
- ✓ All breakfasts, lunches and dinners on board throughout your voyage with daily afternoon tea
- ✓ 24-hour tea, coffee, hot chocolate in bar lounge plus in-cabin tea/coffee facilities
- ✓ Experienced Expedition Leader and professional expedition team of marine biologists, naturalists, historians, adventure guides and photographers
- ✓ Daily off-ship excursions by Zodiac boat breaking into small groups for shore landings
- ✓ Guided hikes and walks on shore of various durations for guests of all abilities
- ✓ Visits to wildlife colonies, historic sites, places of outstanding natural beauty and community visits
- ✓ Educational presentations and talks by experts in their field (ie. marine biologists, naturalists, historians etc). Onboard and on shore
- ✓ Resident photography guide available to assist all guests
- ✓ Access to computers in the multimedia zone for image downloads, file back up and management
- ✓ An emergency trained medical physician onboard every voyage
- ✓ Dedicated hospitality team including Hotel Manager, chefs, professional bar tenders and Adventure Concierge staff
- ✓ Onboard sauna, plunge pool, jacuzzi and fitness centre including massage options (charge applies for massage treatments)
- ✓ Access to well stocked library full of polar reference books
- ✓ Optional Sea Kayaking program (\$US695)
- ✓ End of voyage slideshow and take home USB
- ✓ Port fees and all permits to access visited areas

EXPEDITION GEAR INCLUDED



When you travel with One Ocean Expeditions, you will have the use of an expedition gear package free of charge. Containing around \$US900 worth of essential equipment, this kit includes a quality waterproof/windproof jacket and bib-pants plus insulated rubber boots designed for extended walking. We also include a set of binoculars and a Nordic trekking pole for use when on shore. A waterproof backpack completes your package. This kit saves you buying expensive clothing and equipment you may only ever use once. It also eliminates the need to carry such cumbersome gear to the ship (total weight around 8kg/17lbs).

THE EXPEDITION DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- > Any international or local airfare unless otherwise specified in the voyage itinerary
- > Visa and passport expenses
- > Pre or post-cruise hotel accommodation unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)
- > Personal expenses onboard such as bar charges, laundry expenses or mini bar/in cabin snacks (dependent on cabin inclusions)
- > Personal expenses on board such as alcoholic beverages, bar charges or laundry expenses
- > Telecommunication charges (ie. email, satellite phone)
- > Baggage, cancellation or medical travel insurance related expenses (comprehensive travel insurance is mandatory on all One Ocean Expeditions trips)
- > A voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and ship crew (suggested amount - approximately \$US15 per day)

RCGS RESOLUTE | THE RIGHT SHIP | THE BEST EXPERIENCE



RCGS *Resolute* offers exceptional onboard facilities and provides an ideal platform for expedition cruising in remote locations. Outstanding observation areas both inside and from the outer decks allow you to be completely absorbed by the coastal landscapes along the way. Our priority is to craft specially designed itineraries that provide you with maximum time in the pristine locations we visit. The vessel has capacity of just 146 guests and we break into small, special interest groups. There are wonderful hiking options onshore, visits to small coastal communities, historic sites and throughout the voyage we enjoy outstanding wilderness areas. Cruising in the Zodiacs photographing the landscapes, or observing coastal marine and bird life is a highlight for many. For the more adventurous, sea kayaking is another memorable experience. To learn more about this exceptional vessel, request a copy of the [SHIP FACT SHEET](#) containing detailed technical specifications and additional information about cabins, amenities and inclusions.

BEFORE YOU BOOK | IMPORTANT VOYAGE DETAILS

COMPREHENSIVE PRE-VOYAGE INFORMATION

Upon receipt of your deposit and booking forms, a detailed booklet will be sent to you providing additional information to help you prepare for your voyage. This resource is full of useful facts and covers practicalities such as suggested clothing, life on board the ship, wildlife, geography and history as well as details about the activities available throughout your voyage. Information regarding passports and visas, budgeting, as well as travel insurance requirements are also found in this helpful document.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

On all One Ocean Expeditions' voyages, you must have comprehensive travel insurance. Your booking agent can recommend a policy designed to cover participants on these voyages. Your policy must provide coverage for your medical costs in case of hospitalization, emergency travel and repatriation.

Please check the terms of your policy carefully, particularly with regard to limits of cover. Also ensure you are familiar with the procedure for making claims. Once you have paid your deposit or full payment, certain fees will apply if you have to cancel your holiday (see the cancellation provisions in our booking terms and conditions). For this reason you should take out travel insurance at the time of paying your deposit, which should then protect you in such a situation. You will be required to send us travel insurance policy details prior to your voyage.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Most nationalities do not require a visa to visit Svalbard, which is territory of Norway and falls within the European Union. We advise you to check visa requirements with your travel agent or a Norwegian consular authority well before travelling. You will need a valid passport with you throughout the duration of

the journey. Our ship departs from Longyearbyen, the principal settlement in Svalbard, located in Norway. Most people will fly into Oslo, the capital of Norway, where they will clear Customs and Immigration formalities, then fly north to Longyearbyen from where our voyages depart.

SEA KAYAKING

The sea kayaking program is directed at any passenger with an adventurous spirit and some prior paddling experience. This option **MUST** be reserved at the time of booking and attracts an additional charge of \$US695 per participant. You can not book sea kayaking on board the ship. You will need to complete a special questionnaire outlining your previous kayaking experience. Ask your agent, or our office for a copy of this document if you are interested in joining the sea kayaking program.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

The polar regions are fascinating places for young and enquiring minds. These voyages are family friendly and we offer special rates for children and youth (up to 21 years of age at time of travel*) when travelling with parents or a relative. Several voyages are specifically geared towards families. For children younger than 12 years of age at the time of travel, please contact your booking agent, or our office to discuss the options.

*Children between 18-21 years must be a student with valid student identification to be eligible for youth rates

THE ONE CLUB – EXPEDITION ALUMNI

Come as a passenger, leave as a friend. Once you have experienced one voyage with us, it's likely you will want to experience another. Your commitment to travel with us is rewarded with our commitment to you, our valued guest. As members of the One Club Expedition Alumni, your loyalty is rewarded with a range of great travel benefits when you return for your next voyage — no matter the destination. Ask your booking agent for details.



IMPORTANT:

The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, some of the information may become out of date. Please keep this in mind and check with us if you want to be sure about anything. The document was correct at time of printing. If you have any queries, please contact your voyage booking agent or our office. We are here to help you.

THE ONE OCEAN STORY. PART OF YOUR EXPERIENCE.



THE 'CLEAN UP SVALBARD' INITIATIVE

This remote group of islands lies in the middle of the prevailing Atlantic Gulf Stream current. This oceanic current originates in the Caribbean and travels up the western Atlantic Ocean. It acts as a 'conveyor belt' bringing large amounts of pollution, including plastic bottles and abandoned fishing nets to shores of Svalbard. Every time we go ashore, we assist the local government in collection and disposing of this refuse.



WORLD LEADING - THE WORLD OVER

For several years One Ocean Expeditions and The Royal Canadian Geographical Society have maintained a collaborative relationship grounded in geographical education, exploration, science, social and economic community development, Canadian national identity and experiential travel. We are proud to be the exclusive marine travel partner of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society and affiliates.



THE RIGHT TEAM

You will come to appreciate the dedication of our team when onboard the ship. The highest shipboard team to guest ratio in the industry (1:2) allows you to experience the broadest range of activities possible, catering to all interests and abilities. We are known for our flexible, yet professional approach and an ability to 'make it happen'.

INTERESTED IN THIS EXPERIENCE?

When choosing to travel with One Ocean Expeditions we ensure your experience from start to finish is straight forward and well organized.

Start by customizing your journey and mapping out the voyage ahead.

If this sounds like the right trip for you, please discuss your ideas and plans with your preferred booking agent. They will reserve a cabin for you on your chosen voyage. This provides time to book flights to the embarkation points of this voyage and to plan other pre or post-voyage travel requirements. Please remember that you will require comprehensive travel insurance to join our voyages. This is best arranged at the time of booking. Following confirmation of your reservation, you will need to complete a detailed **One Ocean Expeditions Booking Package** plus other pre-voyage documentation to accompany your deposit. At this point your voyage of discovery is underway.

Take advantage of our experience, which spans decades of expedition travel.

Should you have any questions, we are here to help at any time.

YOUR NOTES:

Trip Note Updated: 27AUG19 - TP



there is only one ocean
www.oneoceanexpeditions.com