



The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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DISCOVER SVALBARD: THE REALM OF ICE

Embark on an unforgettable 12-day cruise as we journey to a mesmerising realm of ice in Spitsbergen. Prepare to be awestruck as we navigate through towering ice peaks and the pristine sea ice of this bountiful Arctic archipelago. Get ready to witness a captivating polar wildlife festival that showcases the magnificent presence of polar bears, walrus, seals, reindeer, arctic foxes, and whales. Delve into the rich history of the polar region as we explore the captivating coastal areas, retracing the footsteps of whalers, trappers and the remarkable expeditions led by Prince Albert I of Monaco. Our ultimate objective is to reach the legendary White Island, situated in the extreme northeast of the archipelago. This icy land is characterised by vast cold deserts and majestic polar caps, offering a truly unique and awe-inspiring experience. Spitsbergen has been a protected sanctuary for polar bears since 1973, and the summer season attracts hundreds of these magnificent creatures. With regular sightings, you can expect each encounter to be a truly remarkable and unforgettable moment.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 - Longyearbyen

Depending on your arrival time, you may be able to enjoy some free time in Longyearbyen town before boarding the ship. To begin our adventure, we'll navigate through Isfjorden, close to the Russian enclave of Barentsburg, the second-largest settlement in the archipelago.

DAY 2 - Krossfjorden and Magdalenefjorden

We'll journey along Dei Sju Isfjella—once named The Coast of the Seven Icebergs by whalers—where a breathtaking glacier front extends over seven kilometres. Magdalenefjorden unveils an impressive setting of majestic mountains and glaciers with scree slopes that are home to thousands of birds. The extended graveyard and remains of blubber ovens set in the Gravneset Peninsula bear testimony to the many whalers who used to find shelter in the fjord. Nowadays, the land welcomes a growing number of walrus.



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DAY 3 - Ice floes and Monacobreen

We'll navigate among the well-preserved ice floes in search of polar bears on the north coast. Monacobreen is a glacier reaching down into Liefdefjorden, whose landscapes and icebergs provide some of the most spectacular views in the whole archipelago. Tonight, we'll travel towards the island of Moffen where whales, walrus and bears like to dwell, before proceeding beyond the 80th parallel north.

DAY 4: Hinlopen Strait and Nordaustlandet

We'll reach Murchisonfjorden, as famous for its buildings from the 1958 International Geophysical Year research expedition as it is for its walrus colonies. One of the largest and most remarkable bird colonies on the archipelago is nestled among the steep cliffs made up of dark basaltic rock and bright limestone. Ice permitting, we'll resume our search for polar bears as we continue northeast.

DAYS 5 TO 9: Northeast land

These four days will be spent navigating around Nordaustlandet, a 15,000 km² island lying almost entirely under thick ice caps. The area is brimming with unique sights such as Austfonna and Vegafonna—two ice caps forming a colossal glacier front—and Kvitøya, a majestic island covered by an ice cap with an hourglass-shaped dome. This polar desert offers a distinctive ecoregion where large glaciers, snow and bare rock form a harshly cold environment that allows colonies of walrus and bears to thrive due to the melting of ice in the summer. This area inspired the bravest explorers and was witness to several tragically famous exploits such as Andrée's Arctic balloon and the Royal Navy's first polar expeditions, as well as General Umberto Nobile's flight aboard the Italia airship, which crashed approximately 120 km northeast of Nordaustlandet. This section

of Svalbard is also home to Karl XII-øya and Storøya, the least-explored islands in the whole archipelago. Ice permitting, we'll navigate through Wijdefjorden and catch a glimpse of its highest peaks and former trapper stations before moving on to Sorgfjorden. Also known as the 'Bay of Sorrow', it has been the scene of armed conflicts between different whaling nations as far back as 1693. If the pack ice is too dense to navigate back to Longyearbyen via the east, we will either circle back through the south, passing the Freemansundet Sound—a famous stop to witness polar bear migrations—and the spectacular Hornsund and Bellsund fjords, or travel through the north via Sjuøyane, the Seven Islands archipelago, Raudfjorden, Smeerenburgfjorden, and Kongsfjorden.

DAY 10 - Smeerenburgfjorden

Once home to a busy whaling station and a starting point for major Arctic expeditions, this legendary fjord—where glaciers form a spectacular ice front against the sea—has now been claimed by wildlife. Walrus and seals are a likely sight, as bears wander about the slopes of steep, rugged mountains with beautiful ice-sculpted tops. We'll discover rarely explored bays and impressive little auk colonies, the most populous bird species in Svalbard.

DAY 11 - Kongsfjorden

The pyramidal peaks of the majestic Tre Kroner Mountains overlook Kongsfjorden, an inlet comprising several cultural-heritage sites. Norwegian explorer and key figure of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration, Roald Amundsen, made an attempt to reach the North Pole by flying boats from this area in the early 20th century. From gigantic icebergs calving from the edge of glaciers to bird colonies, nature reserves, and research stations, Kongsfjorden offers a unique array of riches. To top it

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off, you'll likely cross paths with a few reindeer and arctic foxes!

DAY 12 - Longyearbyen

At the end of your adventure, you'll disembark in Longyearbyen.

Please Note:

This itinerary is subject to change depending on the ice, weather and wildlife. This cruise is meant to provide you with every opportunity to observe the local wildlife, and our stops and route could be adapted to better fulfill our goal. Please note that only the captain of the ship and the expedition leader have the authority to change the itinerary.

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YOUR SHIP: EXPLORER

YOUR SHIP:	Explorer
VESSEL TYPE:	Polar Yacht
LENGTH:	46.5 meters
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	12
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	1994 / 2020

This A1 ice-class polar yacht was built in 1994 to perform oceanographic research in Greenland. With the goal of reducing its impact on the environment, Grands Espaces founder Christian Kempf has partnered with naval architect Marco Coppola to completely renovate the vessel for the 2021 sailing season. At 46.5 meters long and 10.5 meters wide, the Explorer is designed for easy navigation through high seas and ice. The spacious, refurbished interiors offer top-notch amenities--making for a comfortable and refined cruising experience. A spacious panoramic lounge, a gym room, sauna, and two Jacuzzis are all available for you to relax in after your exciting small-boat outings. Or you can choose to spend some time on the bridge where a second panoramic lounge opens out to an outdoor lounge-bar area. The Explorer is fitted with 14-to-20 sq. m. cabins ranging from single to twin or double cabins, and suites equipped with floor-to-ceiling or picture windows for greater observation.





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PRICING



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