

Spitsbergen Explorer



Start: Longyearbyen Finish: Longyearbyen

Day 1: Embarkation - Longyearbyen



The islands of Svalbard, including the largest, Spitsbergen, are glacier-topped mountains that rise from Arctic waters sprinkled with ice floes. Your first view will be from the air as you fly into Longyearbyen to embark.

Days 2 - 4: Western Spitsbergen



On the west coast of Spitsbergen, we'll cruise in Zodiacs, near a magnificent ice cliff, the 14th of July Glacier. We'll also visit Ny Alesund, an international Arctic research station. Birders should add to their life list, as this is a known habitat for Arctic Terns, Arctic Skua, Purple Sandpipers, Common Eiders, Barnacle Geese and Snow Buntings.

Days 5 - 8: Smeerenburg, Phippsøya, Thousand Islands



At Smeerenburg, we'll visit relics of the whaling industry, blubber ovens and whalebones. A tour of the former whaling station recounts the Dutch and Basque influences on the local community, which relied on the harvesting of bowhead whales for survival.

The temperature drops as we continue northward, crossing 80° N, 965 km (600 miles) from the North Pole. Polar bear and walrus are known to inhabit the waters around this small archipelago, the most northerly in Svalbard!

Norway's Arctic Islands of Svalbard are so numerous that certain areas within the archipelago have names that reflect the profusion, Tusenøyane (Thousand Islands) for example. We'll go ashore on Aekongen to seek Red-throated Divers and a whale skeleton.

Days 9 - 10: Bourbonhamna



The narrow sound near Bourbonhamna is a favored route of beluga whales. We'll search for the white whales before going ashore, where we'll learn about hunting and whaling.

Day 11: Longyearbyen - Disembarkation



We'll transfer you from the ship to the airport for your flight home. Those who wish to extend their stay will be dropped at the Radisson Hotel on the way.

A SELECTION OF SVALBARD SITES

Alphabetically listed

Please note that this list is a sampling of some of the possible sites visited during our expeditions to Spitsbergen. Your expedition may or may not include sites listed here. No expedition will include all sites listed.

SVALBARD

[Alkefjellet \(79° 30'N, 21° 22' E\) Hinlopenstretet](#)

This cliff is a seabird center, where Brunnich's Guillemots (Thick-billed Murres) raise their young. An estimated 100,000 breeding pairs nest in the basalt cliffs. The birds do not build nests, rather they lay an egg on the bare ledge.

[Diskobukta \(77° 55'N, 21° 22' E\)](#)

Edgeøya Island

This bay on the west shore of Edgeøya affords a landing site with a box canyon where Black-legged Kittiwakes raise their young. Arctic fox have been seen combing the canyon floor to feed on scraps that have fallen from the nests above. Watch for bones of ancient bowhead whales on the canyon floor, evidence that the shoreline has changed over millennia.

[Isbukta \(76° 47' 60"N, 17° E\) Spitsbergen](#)

On the eastern shore of the southern tip of Svalbard is Ice Bay. Sabine Gulls, Skuas, and bearded seals inhabit the bay. Polar bears are known to patrol the area.

[Lilliehöök Glacier \(79° 19' N, 11° 35' E\)](#)

Spitsbergen

In 1906, His Serene Highness Prince Albert I of Monaco visited Lilliehöök Glacier to conduct scientific investigations. His great-great-grandson visited the glacier 100 years later. He too was part of a scientific investigation, this time to further our understanding of the Arctic clam. The species lives for more than a century. The growth rings of a single clam's shell contain evidence of the chemicals encountered by the clam. Scientists can determine the variations of the water's temperature and pollutant content by studying the shell.

[Longyearbyen \(78° 13' N, 15° 37' E\)](#)

Spitsbergen

Eighteen hundred people inhabit the administrative capital of Svalbard, which is situated on the shore of Isfjorden. The settlement was founded in 1905 by John Munroe Longyear, the majority owner of the Arctic Coal Company of Boston.

[Moffen Island \(80° 01' N, 14° 30' E\)](#)

Svalbard

Designated a protected sanctuary for walrus.

[Monaco Glacier \(79° 30' N, 12° 33' E\)](#)

Spitsbergen

HSH Prince Albert I of Monaco, a pioneer of oceanography, led an expedition to Svalbard in 1906. His team used sophisticated photographic techniques to understand the shape and position of several glacier fronts. Monaco Glacier honors the expedition, the prince and the principality over which he reigned.

[Nordaustlandet Island \(79° 47' N, 22° 23' E\)](#)

Svalbard Archipelago

The second largest island in the Svalbard Archipelago. The largest glacier in Europe is located on the island, which is a known habitat for reindeer and walrus.

[Ny Ålesund \(78° 55' N, 11° 56' E\)](#)

Spitsbergen

A former mining community turned into a research station. Visitors can explore a museum, a shop and mail postcards in what is purported to be the most northerly post office in the world.

Palanderbukta (79° 24' N, 20° E) Nordaustlandet Island

On the western coast, the bay stretches south and east from the Wahlenberg Fjord.

Phippsøya (80° 42' N, 20° 41' E) Seven Islands

This small archipelago is the northernmost land in Svalbard. Englishmen left their mark during a survey of the islands in 1780s. The party named the islands after themselves – Phipps, Parry, Martens et al. The smallest and least significant island was named Nelsonøya, after the lowly midshipman. Horatio Nelson eventually rose to become the hero of the Battle of Trafalgar.

Rosenbergdalen (78° 4' N, 21° 4' E) Edgeøya Island

An excellent location for hiking and reindeer watching.

Samarinvågin (76° 57' N, 15° 30' E) Hornsund, Spitsbergen

The Samarin Glacier dominates the landscape that surrounds the bay.

Vibebukta (79° 47' N, 22° 23' E) Nordaustlandet Island

This polar desert may seem barren, but traces of life can be found – fossils and whalebones that are 9,500 years old. The bones provide nutrients for microenvironments that leach from the ancient bones.

Von Otterøya (79° 21' N, 20° 11' E) Hinlopenstretet

Otter Island is an excellent location for Zodiac cruising to search for polar bears and walrus.

Worsleyneset (80° N, 27° 10' E) Svalbard

A beautiful tundra covered island with moss campion, saxifrage and Arctic mouse-eared chickweed.

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SHIP SPECIFICATIONS

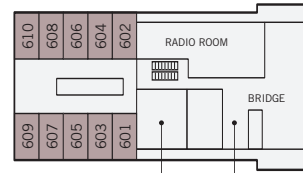
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Passengers:	110
Length:	117.04 m
Breadth:	18.28 m
Draft:	6.09 m



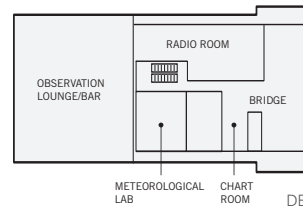
AKADEMIK IOFFE & AKADEMIK SERGEY VAVILOV DECK PLANS

- TRIPLE (SHARED FACILITIES) 1 upper and 1 lower berth, sofa bed, washbasin in cabin, writing desk, porthole
- TWIN (SHARED FACILITIES) 1 upper and 1 lower berth, washbasin in cabin, writing desk, porthole
- TWIN (SEMI-PRIVATE FACILITIES) 1 lower berth, 1 sofa bed, writing desk, window
- SUPERIOR 1 lower berth, 1 sofa bed, writing desk, window
- SUPERIOR PLUS 2 lower berths, writing desk, window or porthole
- SUITE 1 double berth in a separate sleeping area, windows, 1 sofa bed, private facilities, TV/DVD
- COOK SUITE 1 double berth in a separate sleeping area, 1 sofa bed, private facilities with bathtub, desk/chair, TV/DVD

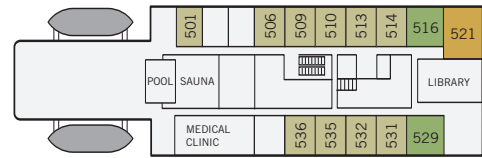
Please note that there is a second presentation room on Deck 1.



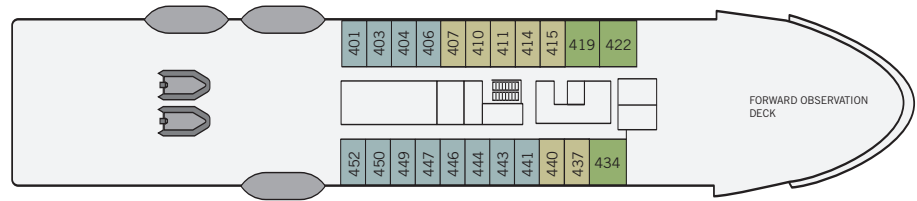
DECK 6
AKADEMIK IOFFE



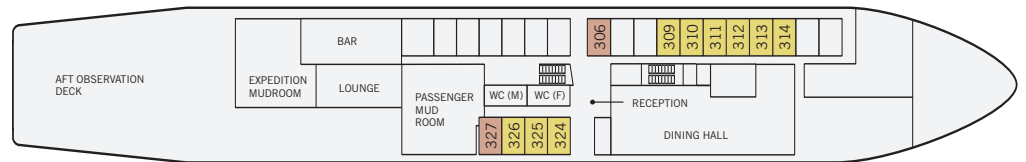
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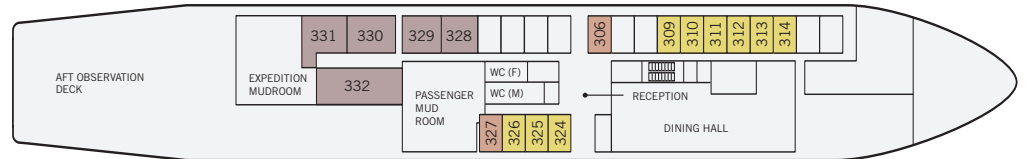
DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3
AKADEMIK IOFFE



DECK 3
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