



Around Spitsbergen, In the realm of Polar Bear & Ice

Full Spitsbergen Circumnavigation

Dates:

16 Jul - 25 Jul, 2026

Tripcode:

PLA08-26

Duration:

9 nights

Ship:

m/v Plancius

Embarkation:

Longyearbyen

Disembarkation:

Longyearbyen

Language:

English, German, Language Assisted

Itinerary

Voyage overview

Take a cruise around Spitsbergen and explore the icy waters of the North Atlantic. This special expedition offers you the chance to catch sight of whales, reindeer, Arctic foxes, walruses, seals, and the star attraction, the polar bear.

Day 1: Largest town, biggest island

You touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. Though the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded in it. In the early evening the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where you might spot the first minke whale of your voyage.

Day 2 - 9: Clockwise circumnavigation of West Spitsbergen

Krossfjorden and Ny Ålesund

Heading north along the west coast, you may arrive by morning in Krossfjorden with great views on glacier fronts. In the afternoon you sail to Ny Ålesund, the northernmost settlement on Earth. Once a mining village served by the world's most northerly railway – you can still see its tracks – Ny Ålesund is now a research center. Close to the community is a breeding ground for barnacle geese, pink-footed geese, and Arctic terns. And if you're interested in the history of Arctic exploration, visit the anchoring mast used by polar explorers Amundsen and Nobile in their airships, *Norge* (1926) and *Italia* (1928).

The massive Monaco Glacier

Depending on the weather, you could sail into Liefdefjorden, land at Texas Bar, and cruise within sight of the 5-kilometer-long (3.1 miles) face of the precipitous Monaco Glacier. The waters in front of this glacier are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes, and the base of the ice is a popular polar bear hunting ground. Another possibility is the mouth of Wijdefjorden with at both sides tundra landscape and a the glacier front of Nordbreen. If ice conditions prevent sailing here early in the season, an alternate route along the west coast of Spitsbergen can be implemented.

Stop at the Seven Islands

The northernmost point of your voyage may be north of Nordaustlandet, at Chermsideøya, and Phippsøya in the Seven Islands. Here you reach 80° north, just 870 km (540 miles) from the geographic North Pole. Polar bears inhabit this region, so the ship may park for several hours among the pack ice before wheeling around west again. When the edge of this sea ice is tens of miles north of the Seven Islands (mostly in August), you can spend a second day in this area. Alternatively (mostly in July) you may turn to Sorgfjord, where you have the chance to find a herd of walruses not far from the graves of 17th-century whalers at Eolusneset. A nature walk here can bring you close to families of ptarmigans. The opposite side of the fjord at Heclahamna is also a beautiful area for an excursion.

Highlights of Hinlopen

Today you sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to bearded and ringed seals as well as polar bears. At the entrance there is even the possibility to spot blue whales. As with Liefdefjorden, you can take an alternate west Spitsbergen route if ice prevents entry into Hinlopen. After cruising among the ice floes of Lomfjord in the Zodiacs, you then view the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with their thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. On the east side of Hinlopen Strait, you may attempt a landing in Palanderbukta where reindeer, pink-footed geese, and walruses are likely sights. Alternatively, at Torrelneset you can also visit the polar desert of Nordaustlandet, next to the world's third-largest ice cap. Here you may encounter walruses during a coastline hike over the area's raised beaches.

Storfjorden's many bounties

The plan is to sail through Freemansundet, the strait between Barentsøya and Edgeøya, with a stop on Barentsøya at Sundneset with the small Würzburgerhytta and lakes with waterfowl. Later in the day we may land at the mouth of the valley Skjolddalen on West Spitsbergen four kilometers from an Ivory Gull colony. A landing at Diskobukta on Edgeøya,

near a canyon with a large Kittiwake colony is also an option. Other landings like at Kvalhovden near mighty glacier fronts are also possible.

Land of the Pointed Mountains

You start the day by cruising the side fjords of the Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen, taking in the spire-like peaks: Hornsundtind rises 1,431 meters (4,695 feet), and Bautaen is a perfect illustration of why early Dutch explorers named this island Spitsbergen, meaning “pointed mountains.” There are 14 sizable glaciers in this area as well as opportunities for spotting seals, beluga whales, and polar bears. We may land in Samarinvaagen and Birgerbukta, where we have great opportunities for a long walk.

Bell Sund's flora, fauna, and haunting history

Today you find yourself in Bell Sund, one of the largest fjord systems in Svalbard. The ocean currents make this area slightly warmer than other areas in the archipelago, which shows in the relatively lush vegetation. Here there are excellent opportunities to enjoy both history and wildlife. A possibility is Ahlstrandhalvøya, at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden, where piles of beluga skeletons can be found. These remains of 19th-century whale slaughter are a haunting reminder of the consequences of rampant exploitation. Fortunately, belugas were not hunted into extinction, and you have a good chance of coming across a pod. Alternately, while cruising the side fjords of Bellsund, you can explore tundra where reindeer like to feed as well as rock slopes where little auks are breeding, near Vaarsolbukta.

Day 10: There and back again

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. You disembark in Longyearbyen, taking home memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

PLEASE NOTE:

N.B. The chances that we can complete a full Spitsbergen circumnavigation (based on our experiences from 1992 – 2019) are about 30% in the first half of July, 70% in the second half; 90% in the first half of August, and 95% in the second half. In case we cannot complete a full circumnavigation, we may devise a program in northeast or southeast Spitsbergen. All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Landings are subject to site availabilities, permissions, and environmental concerns per AECO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with AECO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed of our vessel is 10.5 knots.

Included in this voyage

- Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.
- Complimentary use of waterproof neoprene expedition muck boots and snowshoes.
- Transfers and baggage handling between the airport, hotels and ship only for those passengers on a selection of flights (advised by Oceanwide) to and from Longyearbyen.
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.
- AECO fees and governmental taxes.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi connectivity. All guests receive 1.5 GB of data usage per day, which resets every 24 hours.
- Complimentary Doppie water bottle for use during and after your expedition.

Excluded from this voyage

- *Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights*
- *Pre- and post- land arrangements.*
- *Transfers to / from the vessel outside Spitsbergen.*
- *Passport and visa expenses.*
- *Government arrival and departure taxes.*
- *Meals ashore.*
- *Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended).*
- *Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges.*
- *The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).*



Cabins & Prices

Quadruple Porthole



- Cabin size 12 m²
- 1 porthole
- 2 upper & lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair Flatscreen
- TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
- Hair dryer
- Ample storage space
- Safe deposit box
- This cabin is suitable for families traveling with children, or passengers who do not require a twin or more luxurious cabin

S S S S

Complete cabin

24000 USD

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

S O O O

Sharing berth

6000 USD

Share your cabin with others for the best price.

Triple Porthole



- 1 porthole
- 1 upper berth & 2 lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair
- Flatscreen TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
- Hair dryer
- Safe deposit box Ample storage space
- This cabin is suitable for families traveling with children, or passengers who do not require a twin or more luxurious cabin

S S S

Complete cabin

22050 USD

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

S O O

Sharing berth

7350 USD

Share your cabin with others for the best price.

Twin Porthole



- Cabin size 12 m²
- 1 porthole
- 2 lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair Flatscreen
- TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
- Hair dryer
- Safe deposit box
- Ample storage space

S S

Complete cabin

17200 USD

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

S

Single cabin

14620 USD

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

S O

Sharing berth

8600 USD

Share your cabin with others for the best price.

Twin Window



- Cabin size between 12,5 m² and 13,5 m²
- 1 window
- 2 lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair Flatscreen
- TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented) Hair
- dryer
- Safe deposit box
- Ample storage space
-

S S

Complete cabin

18700 USD

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

S

Single cabin

15895 USD

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

S O

Sharing berth

9350 USD

Share your cabin with others for the best price.

Twin Deluxe

Sold out

Waitlist (non-obligatory)



- Cabin size 13,5 m²
- 2 windows
- 2 lower berths
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair Flatscreen
- TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented) Hair
- dryer
- Ample storage space
- Safe deposit box
- These cabins are corner cabins and are slightly more spacious than the normal twin porthole/window cabins

S S

Complete cabin

20100 USD

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

S

Single cabin

17085 USD

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

S O

Sharing berth

10050 USD

Share your cabin with others for the best price.

Superior



- Cabin size between 21 m² and 23 m²
- 2 windows
- 1 double bed
- 1 sofa bed
- Private shower & toilet
- Desk & chair Flatscreen
- TV
- Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
- Refrigerator
- Coffee & tea maker Hair
- dryer
- Safe deposit box
- Ample storage space

S S

Complete cabin

22500 USD

Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

S

Single cabin

19125 USD

Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).



Day Night Siraj Tower (lift 4)
Gulshan Badda Link Road , Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.
Mobile : +8801314248048, +8801729412368

