



## Realm of the Polar Bear

Roaming polar bears, lounging seals, grazing reindeer, and colonies of birds all co-exist in the harsh lands of Svalbard, an area we dare only to explore a few months of the year. From close-up encounters with icebergs and glaciers to the region's plentiful wildlife, this is a voyage of non-stop highlights.



8 days/7 nights

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Arrive Longyearbyen & embarkation

Arrive into Longyearbyen today, no later than 2:00pm. Transfer from the airport to the central meeting point in Longyearbyen. All passengers will be transferred to the ship as a group for embarkation, departing from the central meeting point at 4:00 pm. Please ensure that for embarkation you have your passport accessible (not in your luggage which is being transferred separately to the ship).

If you are staying for the night pre-cruise (recommended, please ask us to quote you for the extra night's stay) make sure you drop your checked luggage off at the central meeting point between 09:00 - 12:00. A local representative will be in the luggage storage room. They can provide general information about the town or your embarkation process.

Get your first glimpses of the midnight sun in Spitsbergen's capital Longyearbyen. Embark the G Expedition in the afternoon and depart Longyearbyen in the evening. Meals: (D)

#### Day 2-7: Svalbard Archipelago / Spitsbergen



We will spend six days exploring the remote polar regions. Each day will be planned to take advantage of local ice and weather conditions. Distances are relatively short in the Archipelago and as there are no ocean crossings, the seas are normally calm. We will visit ice covered seas, fjords with breathtaking mountain scenery and glaciers flowing into the sea.

From close-up encounters with icebergs and glaciers to the region's plentiful wildlife, this is a voyage of non-stop highlights. Always on the lookout for wildlife you will explore this landscape by ship, via Zodiac and on foot. Spend time on deck searching for polar bears and whales, lounging seals, arctic foxes and colonies of birds; cruise through breathtaking fjords and admire massive glaciers; experience the midnight sun; learn about Arctic history and ecology from our expert guides; brave the Arctic waters and take a polar plunge and enjoy the silence of the Arctic tundra. At one or more of the stops, we hope to see Svalbard's species of reindeer.

Some years it is possible to sail through the Hinlopen Strait to attempt a circumnavigation of the archipelago, while other years there is a great deal of ice, which makes it harder to navigate around. We recommend the earliest cruise for those keen on seeing large ice floes and the richest bird life. For those who would rather travel further east with the chance to sail around Spitsbergen, we recommend the latest departure. There are opportunities to cruise in Zodiacs along the ice edge viewing seals or walrus, in fjords with glaciers spilling down to the sea or in front of spectacular seabird cliffs. The final itinerary is dependent on ice and weather conditions, which are constantly assessed during the voyage.

The evening of our last full day of adventure will find the expedition ship anchored off Longyearbyen. Meals: (B, L, D)

#### Day 8: Depart Longyearbyen

You arrive back to Longyearbyen during the night, with embarkation around 8:00am, after an early breakfast. You will be transferred to either the central hotel (for those with afternoon or evening flights) or directly to the airport for late morning flights). Due to limited flights from Longyearbyen a special disembarkation and transfer is possible during the night for those with very early flights. Meals: (B)

Have some extra time to spend searching for polar bears and exploring the tundra? Ask us about the **11 day Realm of the Polar Bear in Depth** cruise program which gives you extra to do a more complete exploration of the islands of Svalbard.

## Details

**Maximum group size:** 134

**Minimum age requirement:** 10 (travellers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult).

#### Trip Code:

002506 - W17

## INCLUDED

- 7 nights aboard the G Expedition
- All meals as listed onboard the ship
- Zodiac excursions
- Expert expedition guides
- Lectures and educational programs
- Longyearbyen airport transfer on arrival
- Expedition parka
- Loan of waterproof boots (USA size 6-16)
- Arctic destination guidebook
- 1 expedition team member per 10 guests
- Visit to research station or the local town of Ny-Ålesund

## NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to/from Longyearben
- Taxes, fees and airline surcharges



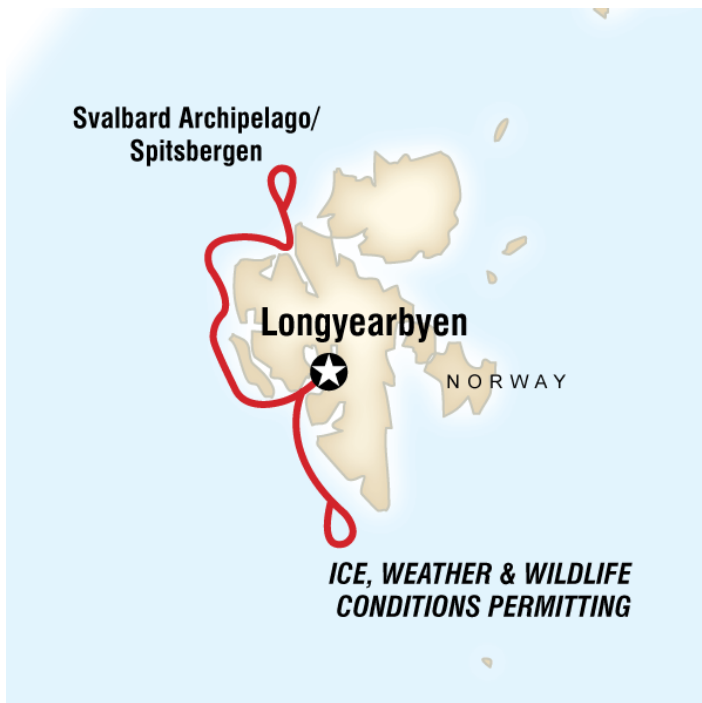
- Gratuities, optional tours and items of a personal nature
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel Insurance (mandatory evacuation coverage is required)
- Passport and visa fees, if applicable

## TOUR NOTES

**Planeterra Foundation:** Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment. Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

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## ROUTE MAP



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