

Svalbard in Depth

Oslo, Norway, Europe

Day 1 Arrive in Oslo

Having made your way to Oslo, check in at our group hotel at Oslo Airport. Please visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk to collect your luggage cabin tags and to speak with our ground operations team, who may have information to share with you about pre-embarkation or to provide you with information about where to dine, withdraw cash or purchase last minute items from a local pharmacy or supermarket. The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense. Accommodation: Radisson Blu Airport Hotel, Oslo Gardermoen



Day 2 Fly to Longyearbyen, embarkation

This morning, please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before transferring to the airport for our charter flight to Longyearbyen for embarkation. Any valuables or personal items should be kept on you throughout the day. The charter flight is scheduled to depart at 09:35 for Longyearbyen and arrive at 12:45. In Longyearbyen, explore the town on a guided excursion tour. On the drive to Camp Barentz, located in Advent Valley, your guide will give you an introduction to Longyearbyen's fascinating history. Once at Camp Barentz we enjoy a presentation in the large 'lawo' - a traditional building common in northern Norway. You will also have the opportunity to meet the friendly huskies and perhaps pick up some souvenirs. A visit to the Svalbard Museum and the Seed Vault is included back in town before embarking the vessel in the late afternoon. After the tour, you will be transferred directly to the pier to embark in the late

afternoon. Settle into your cabin before attending important safety briefings and enjoy the thrill of departure as we 'throw the lines' and set sail. *Note: the excursion is contingent on the arrival time of our charter flight to Longyearbyen.

Days 3–14 Svalbard Archipelago

Svalbard offers Arctic wilderness at its best. Our experienced expedition team will use their expertise to tailor our day-to-day itinerary, choosing the best options, based on the prevailing weather, sea-ice conditions, and the possibility of encounters with wildlife. Above the Arctic Circle during the boreal summer, the sun does not drop below the horizon until late August, so we enjoy 24 hours of daylight, and more time to explore this breathtaking part of the planet. Svalbard's phenomenal fjords, magnificent mountain ranges and polar desert are rich in fossils, perfectly setting the stage for heroic tales of early exploration. We may encounter walrus hauled-out on sea ice or wallowing on beaches. We may seek out towering cliffs noisy with nesting guillemots and listen to the busy chanting of little auk colonies protected amongst the scree slopes. With more time than on our classic Svalbard voyages we plan to reach further afield; we will attempt to explore the two largest islands in the archipelago; Spitsbergen and Nordauslandet. We may enjoy the delights around Barentsoya and Edgeoya that are located in the Hinlopen Strait, a known polar bear migration route. We plan to visit the remains of old whaling settlements, old pomor sites, and enjoy early morning Zodiac cruises. We will encounter glittering glaciers, keep watch for beluga whales and watch for ivory gulls. Weather and ice permitting we may sail along the most northerly point of the Svalbard archipelago, a favoured spot to a large colony of walrus. We may encounter the mighty polar bear in its element, in the pack ice. If you are participating in an optional activity such as kayaking, you will have opportunity to experience the Arctic whenever conditions allow. For those who are enthusiastic to participate in a polar plunge, when conditions are perfect, you will hear the announcement to prepare for an exhilarating dip – a memory to savour for years to come.

Day 15 Disembark in Longyearbyen, fly to Oslo

In the morning, we cruise back into Longyearbyen for disembarkation. Farewell your crew and expedition team. In Longyearbyen, explore Longyearbyen's rich history with visits to three historic sites and a delicious

lunch at Nansen. Discover Mine 3 where machines and equipment still remain from when the mine was shut down in 1996, the Nordover art gallery, and the fascinating North Pole Expedition Museum before transferring to the airport for your return charter flight to Oslo to continue your journey in the evening. The charter flight is scheduled to depart at 19:35 (07:35pm) for Oslo and arrive at 22:45 (10:45 pm).