



KINGDOM OF THE POLAR BEAR
SVALBARD
EQUIPMENT AND TRAVEL INFORMATION





SVALBARD, NORWAY

Far North beyond any other civilization on Earth is the Norwegian archipelago situated between mainland Norway and the North Pole. Svalbard is a rugged and remote Arctic landscape dominated by frozen tundra, mountains, glaciers and exciting wildlife. Exploring this magical part of the world on board a small expedition ship offers exceptional up-close viewing and photographic opportunities of the Arctic wildlife, including the “King of the Arctic”, the majestic polar bear.





LANDSCAPES & ICE FLOES

Experience the dramatic, raw & untouched landscape of the Arctic. Where mountains meet the sea, Svalbard's rugged landscape boasts ancient glaciers with ice as old as 4000 years old. These landscapes offer a look into one of the most remote and unique regions on our planet.

Adventure Quest X traverses the numerous fjords and coastlines of Svalbard at the start of the Midnight Sun, when the sun does not set in the Arctic. In May the sun swirls lower on the horizon, providing a soft, less harsh light than mid-summer. The constant of light energizes the Arctic landscape, the snow-covered mountains and glaciers still white from their dark winter. The Central Arctic Ocean sea ice pack drifts its way towards Svalbard's archipelago and the migration of marine mammals and birds comes into full swing. The movement of the Central Arctic sea ice pack is vital for the many Arctic marine mammals like the polar bear, who use the sea ice pack for hunting and finding a potential mate.







KING OF THE ARCTIC

The largest carnivore on the planet, the Polar Bear reigns over the sea ice and treacherous Svalbard tundra. Svalbard is home to 2,000 - 3,000 polar bears, more than the population of humans on Svalbard. The most sought after sighting amongst the diverse arctic fauna, polar bears are often found along the east coast and in the fjords to the north where their favorite prey, ringed seals, are concentrated.





ARCTIC WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

There are opportunities to see other charismatic megafauna that for thousands of years have adapted to the Arctic climate and ecosystem. Svalbard and Jan Mayen are home to numerous marine and terrestrial species like arctic fox, walrus, reindeer, ptarmigan, and seals. At the start of summer, walrus, whales, dolphins, puffins, little auks, and other bird species flock to Svalbard for food, mating, and caring for their young.



THE M/S FREYA AND TEAM

The M/S Freya is a Swedish ship originally built in 1981 in the Åsiverken shipyard in Amal primarily used to build lighthouses. She served as part of the Swedish Coastguard until 2013, when she was bought and converted into an expedition vessel and has been in Svalbard since 2016.

She has a capacity for up to 18 passengers in seven newly renovated twin cabins and four triple cabins. The Adventure Quest X team brings only 12 passengers.

The guides and crew on board the M/S Freya are incredibly knowledgeable. With eight crew and three guides, they are committed to providing you the best experience in the Arctic and your stay on the M/S Freya.







SCHEDULE AND RATES

Join us in Svalbard

April 30 to May 9, 2024 (M/S Freya)

A 10 day/9 night expedition cost ranges from \$9,895.00 per person (2024)

Group size limited to 12.

Price includes:

- All accommodations, activities on board Freya, guides, fees/permissions and all meals on board
- First night's accommodation at Radisson Blu Polar

Not included:

- Flight to/from Longyearbyen
- Local transport to and from airport and the hotel/ship in Longyearbyen
- All extra activities ashore
- Specific beverages, beer/wine/liquor and snacks
- Travel insurance
- Tip for the ship's crew and guides

Optional add-on activities:

Arrive early and join us for snowmobiling and/or dog sledding:

- 4/29 Snowmobiling 3 hrs - approx. \$232 USD per person
- 4/30 Dog Sledding Bolterdalen 4 hrs with Green Dog - approx. \$175 USD per person



DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM

DAY 1

ARRIVAL TO LONGYEARBYEN

Arrive to Longyearbyen, the world's most northern settlement. Check into the hotel, The Radisson Blu Polar

DAY 2

EMBARK INTO THE ARCTIC WILDERNESS

In the afternoon we board our ship at the harbor in Longyearbyen. We meet the crew and have a safety briefing while we begin cruising out of Adventfjorden via Isfjorden out into the Arctic wilderness. We settle in on the ship and in our cabins. During the evening we eat a welcome dinner, socialize and enjoy the magnificent glaciers and mountains pass by as we travel towards the land of the polar bear.

DAY 3 - 9

EXPLORING THE ARCTIC WILDERNESS

Travelling through the drift ice, our exact route will be decided by ice and weather conditions. Our goal is to explore and experience as much as possible of what the Arctic has to offer and encounter the impressive wildlife, of course hopefully also the King of The Arctic: the polar bear. When conditions allow, we get into our zodiacs to cruise around and perhaps go on land or ice. We will most likely travel to the fjords Fuglefjorden and Raudfjorden on the north side of Spitsbergen where we should encounter the edge of the North Pole pack ice. Later in the week, we travel down south on Spitsbergen's west coast to Bellsund and Hornsund.

DAY 10

BYE BYE ARCTIC

After a last breakfast together on the ship it is time to leave. There is time to explore the village some more and perhaps shop some souvenirs for friends and family back home.

Please note: Our exact route and travel plans are depending on weather and ice conditions and where we expect the best opportunities at the time of our expedition. We will do everything possible to make the most out of our Arctic adventure. Flexibility is the key to a successful expedition!

During our expeditions we typically encounter polar bears and other wildlife, such as seals, walrus, and foxes. And of course always the magical scenery of Svalbard. There are never any guarantees for anything up here though. But we do know one thing: it will be amazing. It always is, and every expedition is unique and unlike the others.

Nature is the boss. And that is what makes this a true adventure.













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