



NORTH POLE ICEBREAKER CRUISE

“Unique” and “one-of-a-kind” are words bandied about in the cruise industry, but rarely do the voyages or the ships they’re associated with live up to these superlatives. Here’s one that does: a North Pole expedition aboard 50 Years of Victory, a nuclear-powered icebreaker that takes you to a spot inaccessible to all other commercial passenger vessels. Only one vessel can deliver you to 90° North, the geographic top of the world. On your cruise to the North Pole, watch in amazement from high above the surface as your vessel’s twin nuclear reactors generate 75,000 horsepower, powering the vessel to crush Arctic sea ice as thick as three meters. Enhancing your time aboard are presentations by our experienced expedition staff – historians, scientists, naturalists and others – all of whom will bring your North Pole cruise alive with thoughtful insights and fascinating perceptions of the region. On attaining the true geographic North Pole, celebrate on the ice this spot that ostensibly belongs to no one, yet to everyone. But your expedition to the North Pole is only half over, and there’s still much to see and do. Your return journey to Murmansk takes you to Franz Josef Land, an archipelago of uninhabited islands, yet rich with wildlife and startling scenery. From the safety of the ship’s towering superstructure, look for polar bears on their daily prow, or colonies of seabirds nesting on rocky cliff sides. Under the guidance of our expedition team, head ashore in Zodiac landing craft at Tikhaya Bay on Hooker Island, where dilapidated buildings still stand at the meteorological station abandoned 50 years ago. On this North Pole expedition, you’ll have the opportunity to go aloft in the ship’s helicopter for an aerial tour. Far below will be 50 Years of Victory, your

home-away-from-home during your voyage to the top of



the world.

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Day 1. Murmansk

Welcome to the city of Murmansk on Russia’s Kola Peninsula, starting point of our adventure. Upon your arrival at the airport we provide a transfer to your hotel, which has been arranged by us and is included in the price of the voyage. Murmansk is easy to reach by regular flights with stopovers in Moscow or Saint Petersburg. You may wish to extend your stop in Moscow.

Day 2. Embarkation in Murmansk

Today we provide a group transfer to the port where we welcome you aboard the nuclear-powered icebreaker 50 Let Pobedy. Explore the ship and get orientated as we slip our moorings and



sail north out of Kola Bay.

Day 3-6: The Voyage North

Nowhere can it be more truly said that “getting there is half the fun”. As we cruise northward through the Barents Sea there is always the possibility of seeing whales. Meanwhile, you have the opportunity to learn about the unique icebreaking capabilities of the ship. You are also treated to a tour of the engine room. As we make our way across the ice cap, you witness firsthand the ship’s awesome power as massive ice blocks give way under the enormous bulk of the spoon-shaped bow. The sensation of being on deck at this time is surreal and unforgettable. We also take advantage of 24-hour daylight to offer helicopter flightseeing tours. From the air you can observe the ship crushing a path through the ice. You also have a unique vantage point from which to witness the stunning beauty of this vast polar icescape.

Day 7: North Pole

Welcome to the geographic North Pole! After carefully navigating to 90 degrees North, we ceremoniously drop the anchor on a sturdy stretch of ice and disembark onto the frozen sea. Now is the time to experience the long-anticipated thrill of standing at the top of the world. Join hands with your fellow passengers and literally walk around the world during our special International Round Dance. You are also treated to a barbeque meal on the ice. You may even have the chance to take a plunge into the icy water! After our memorable time at the North Pole we turn around and head south. But the adventure is not over yet. The High Arctic archipelago of Franz Josef Land is still to come!

Day 8-10: Exploration of Franz Josef Land

The Franz Josef Land archipelago, part of the Russian Arctic National Park since 2012, is a nature sanctuary. Polar bears and other quintessential High Arctic wildlife—such as walrus and some rare whale species—can be spotted anytime, anywhere in and around Franz Josef Land. Scree slopes and cliffs around the islands host enormous nesting colonies of migratory seabirds such as guillemots, dovekies, and ivory gulls. We take advantage of 24-hour daylight to exploit every opportunity for wildlife viewing and excursions via Zodiac and helicopter. Franz Josef Land is home to some interesting geological features, such as the mysterious stone spheres on Champ Island. Collectors of geographical extremes may take note that Cape Fligely on Rudolf Island is the northernmost point of land in the Eastern Hemisphere. Franz Josef Land also offers visitors the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of famous polar explorers at well-preserved historical sites. The journals of explorers such as Julius von Payer, Benjamin Leigh Smith, Frederick George Jackson, and Fridtjof Nansen come alive at Cape Norway, Cape Flora, Eira Harbour, and Cape Tegetthoff. Memorials, monuments, crosses, and the remains of dwellings are testimony to incredible historical events that are further illuminated by our expert lecturers. Tikhaya Bukhta is currently a Russian Arctic National Park ranger station occupying Soviet-era research buildings and was also a major base for polar expeditions. Nearby, the fascinating columnar basalt cliffs of Rubini Rock are home to thousands of nesting seabirds.

Day 11-12: The Voyage South

After our amazing time in Franz Josef Land we cross back south through the bountiful waters of the Barents Sea. Presentations and workshops by our expert staff ensure that these days at sea are not idly spent. You may also take advantage of onboard



facilities and amenities such as a polar library, volleyball court, gym, two saunas, warm seawater pool, gift shop, and massage treatments. Seabird viewing and whale sightings can be enjoyed from panoramic open decks as well as exterior stateroom windows.

Day 13: Disembarkation in Murmansk and Flight to Moscow

Our once-in-a-lifetime journey comes to an end. After breakfast we say farewell in Murmansk. We provide you with a transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Please Note:

Itinerary, landings and all other activities during the cruise depend strongly on ice and weather conditions and are subject to the decisions of the Expedition Leader and the Captain of the vessel. Encounters with any mentioned wildlife cannot be guaranteed.



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