

NORWAY'S FJORDS AND ARCTIC SVALBARD EXPEDITION CRUISE

Sail Norway's beautiful fjord-carved coast from colorful Bergen past the North Cape to remote Trømso, gateway to the Arctic. Glide into dramatic narrow straits and survey secluded inlets and coves by kayak and Zodiac. Experience the seabird spectacle of Bear Island, cross the Barents Sea, and spend five days exploring the icy wildnerness of the Svalbard archipelago in the midnight sun above the Arctic Circle - where polar bears prowl and walruses lumber. A choice of activities allows guests to tailor their days as they see fit and experience extraordinary adventure in Norway's coastal wonderland.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Bergen, Norway

Arrive in Bergen, the gateway to the Norwegian fjords, and transfer to your centrally located hotel. This afternoon, explore the city at your own pace, experiencing Bryggens Wharf, a UNESCO World Heritage Site or a funicular ride up to Mt. Fløyen overlooking the surrounding fjords. Check in with the hospitality desk this afternoon before embarking the ship.

Day 2 Nordfjord

Arrive at the spectacular glacial mountain landscape of Nordfjord, a haven for adventurers and photographers. Travel up the Loen Valley by coach amidst picture-book beauty, surrounded by a turquoise lake and craggy peaks. Consider hiking a trail through the valley carved by the Briksdal Glacier.



Alternatively, take a scenic boat ride across Kjenndal Lake to the catch a glimpse of this retreating glacier and the striking geography of the region. Capture these scenic peaks and valleys from the railing as you sail back out of the fjord in the afternoon.

Day 3-5 Exploring the Fjords of Norway

Spend three days exploring the central Norway coast, revered by travelers worldwide for its mountainous islands and steep-walled fjords. Your Expedition Leader and Captain will consult with local Norwegian pilots on landing spots offering optimal adventure options. Zodiac under vertical rock faces, paddle serenely in a deep fjord surrounded by cascading waterfalls or venture ashore for hikes with your naturalist staff. Visit local island communities protecting their cultural and natural heritage and go for walks with resident guides that have grown up surrounded by the ocean and these remote coastal islands.

Day 6 Lofoten Islands

The Lofoten archipelago boasts an enchanting landscape of picturesque villages ringed by jagged granite peaks. Enjoy village walks and island explorations as you venture through an area known for its dramatic landscapes and its cod fishing traditions throughout the centuries. A bit later, admire one of Norway's most dramatic fjords from the deck as the ship navigates through Trollfjorden.

Day 7 Tysfjorden

The nimble ship enters Tysfjorden, where mile after mile of near-vertical walls ascend above you and a scant few villages manage to cling to the rocky shores. Enjoy a Zodiac cruise or kayak within this magical place alive with birch forests and tumbling waterfalls. Explore a hiking trail through Hellemobotn Valley that reaches almost to the Swedish border.

Day 8 Tromsø

Arrive in Tromsø, known as the "gateway to the Arctic" for numerous Arctic expeditions that originated from here. Explore this charming coastal city and its surrounding area: choose a visit to a local husky farm--known for its beautiful setting, friendly dogs and world-caliber dog musher--or choose to stay in town and visit the waterfront museums, which offer a range of local food tastings and historical insights into the variable aspects of this dynamic region.

Day 9 Bear Island

Sitting at the confluence of the Norwegian and Barents Seas, Bear Island is ironically known as a birdwatcher's paradise. The island also houses one remote meteorological station. With conditions permitting, enjoy a Zodiac cruise around the southernmost member of the Svalbard archipelago and revel at the bird cliffs, home to countless thousands of fulmars, kittiwakes and guillemots.

Day 10-14 Exploring Svalbard

Explore in true expedition style, letting nature dictate your day-to-day movements within an immense Arctic wonderland. The fully stabilized, ice-class expedition ship probes deep into the ice where the polar bears forage, walrus sun themselves and the Svalbard reindeer roam. Join spotters on the bridge as you scan the floes and islands for these iconic creatures, along with bearded and ringed seals; Arctic fox; and beluga, fin and minke whales. There's no greater thrill than a sighting that brings everyone rushing to the bow or Bridge for a close-up view. Sail deep into protected bays and fjords where even a novice kayaker can comfortably paddle surrounded by sparkling bergs



and dramatic mountains. Video from the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) allows you to peer into the mysterious world that exists 1,000 feet below the surface during Recaps with your multi-talented field staff.

Day 15 Longyearbyen / Disembark Ship / Oslo

Disembark in Longyearbyen for one more taste of civilization in this northern frontier. Join the recommended group flight to Oslo; transfers to the nearby hotel and luggage assistance will be provided. Upon arrival, overnight at the Radisson Blu Airport Hotel with dinner on your own.

Day 16 Oslo

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDURANCE

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

A next-generation expedition ship, purpose-built for polar navigation. National Geographic Endurance is a next-generation expedition ship, purpose-built for polar navigation. A fully stabilized, highly strengthened, ice-class Polar Code PC5 (Category A) vessel, it is designed to navigate polar passages year-round, and safely explore unchartered waters, while providing exceptional comfort. Its patented X-BOW® is key to its design; its powerful wave-slicing action provides an extremely smooth ride in even adverse conditions, and even reduces spray on deck, for superior observation. She carries a full suite of expedition tools and offers a variety of experience-enhancing amenities. The luxury of comfort on expedition National Geographic Endurance comfortably accommodates 126 guests in 69 outside-facing cabins. Cabins are efficiently designed, with sizes range from the 140-square-foot solo cabin to the 430-square-foot category 7 suite. Fifty-three of the 69 cabins, including all 12 of the solo cabins, will feature small balconies with floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that bring in the spectacular views and ample natural light. Comfort & convenience in every room Every cabin has two portholes, a large window or balcony, and temperature controls. Bathrooms are modern and stocked with botanically inspired hair products, soap, and shower gel, plus a hairdryer. Cabins are equipped with expedition command centers with tablets and USB/mobile device docking, TVs, Wi-Fi connections, and hair dryers. Dining: Food served aboard is fresh, local, and delicious, and sourced from suppliers who share our values of sustainable use whenever possible. Meals aboard are almost always served in the dining room, located aft of the lounge deck. When weather conditions allow, lighter fare may be served on the observation deck. There is no assigned seating and our dining room accommodates the entire expedition community in a single seating. During meals your expedition leader, naturalists, and any guest speakers aboard will join you. Public Areas: Two restaurants, a Chef's Table for small group dining, Observation Lounge with bar, gym, Wellness area, infinity-style outdoor hot tubs, library, main lounge with full service bar, 24-hour beverage, state-of-the-art facilities for films, slideshows and presentations, and a photo workshop area; plus, an expedition base with lockers for expedition gear, and an "open bridge" for access to our captain, officers and the art of navigation. Meals: Two restaurants, featuring local, sustainable choices and unassigned seating for flexible, inclusive dining; plus a Chef's table for intimate, small group dining. Main restaurant has 270° views, and the Observation deck restaurant features lighter, made-to-order fare. Cabins: All cabins face outside with large windows, private facilities and climate controls. 53 cabins have balconies. Cabins are equipped with expedition command centers with tablets and USB/mobile device docking, TVs, Wi-Fi connections, and hair dryers. Expedition Tools: Zodiac landing craft, kayaks,

snowshoes, cross-country skis, undersea specialist operating a remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and underwater video camera for unique access to polar marine world, hydrophone, aerial remote-controlled camera and video microscope. Special Features: A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and video chronicler, an internet cafe and laundry. Wellness: The vessel is staffed by our wellness specialists and features a glass-enclosed yoga studio, gym, treatment rooms and spa relax area, and high- and low-heat saunas with ocean views. Expedition Landing Craft: Key to our operation is our fleet of expedition landing craft, which we use to land in places that would otherwise be inaccessible. With 8 of these boats and two loading stations used every time we disembark, we're able to transfer guests off the ship quickly, so you can be out on adventures, not idly waiting. The expedition landing craft we use are 19 feet long, powered by four-stroke outboard engines, and are capable of comfortably carrying 10-12 people. They are widely recognized as the safest and most versatile small boats afloat. Remotely Operated Vehicle: Capable of reaching 1,000 feet, far beyond the range of any Scuba diver, the ROV allows you to literally view parts of the undersea that are as unexplored as the moon. Chances are you, like many of our guests, will be struck by how surprisingly colorful undersea life is in these unlikely places. And this glimpse may fundamentally change how you view the ocean. Kayaks: National Geographic Endurance will be equipped with a fleet of kayaks large enough to ensure everyone who wants to can paddle at every opportunity. Consequently, prior kayaking experience isn't necessary--many of our guests have their first kayaking experience in extraordinary locations. Our custom-designed floating platform lets us deploy kayaks from the ship, or any location we want--including far from shore. Kayakers are usually free to explore where they want within boundaries set by the undersea specialist and officer of the watch. Underwater camera: Our undersea specialist will dive often during your expedition, even in Alaska, with cold-water gear, to shoot high-definition, Cousteau-like footage of the deep. Colorful nudibranchs, swimming, plant-like crinoids, and mysterious fish with antifreeze blood that thrive in the frigid sea will give you an entirely new appreciation of the marine environment. Video microscope: Naturalists will use the video microscope to help explain all elements of the environment, including tiny organisms that are the building block of the marine ecosystem. Spellbinding live views of krill at 80x magnification fills the high-definition screens in the lounge with vivid detail, and fills every onlooker with a sense of wonder at the importance of otherwise unobservable creatures. Hydrophone: This underwater microphone is deployed to listen to the vocalizations of marine mammals. Real time transmissions of their eerie, haunting sounds can be broadcast through the ship or recorded for later playback. Few experiences in nature are as captivating as watching humpback whales feed close to the ship as their vocalizations play through the ship's PA system. Electronic charts: An electronic chart showing the ship's location, course, and speed is almost always on display in the lounge. Open bridge: You'll find our captains are engaged, knowledgeable members of your expedition who are eager to share their passion with you. Venture's open bridge features comfortable spaces to sit, enjoy the view, drink your morning coffee, or simply chat with the officers. Snorkeling gear & wetsuits: On warm weather itineraries where there will be snorkeling, you'll select a mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit that remain yours for the duration of the expedition. There's no need



to pack and tote your own gear, although guests who prefer to are welcome to bring



their own.

The Small Cruise Ship Collection
www.small-cruise-ships.com

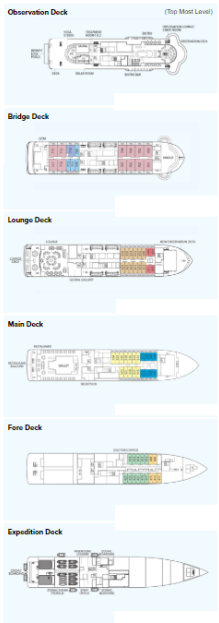
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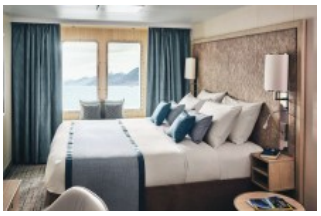


INSIDE YOUR SHIP

National Geographic Endurance



Category 01



Category 02



Category 03



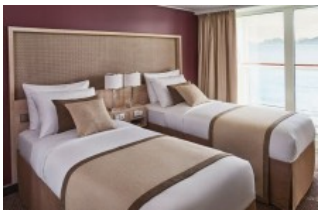
Category 04



Category 05



Category 06



Category 07





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