

## THE NORWEGIAN FJORDS, BEAR ISLAND & SVALBARD

Join the small ship M/S Stockholm on an extraordinary adventure, exploring some of Norway's most exciting and scenic locations. Our stops along the Norwegian coast include the majestic Storfjord, the charming town of Ålesund and the picturesque fishing village of Nusfjord, included on UNESCO's World Heritage list. We continue towards the seldom visited Bear Island, located in the middle of Barents Sea and home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds. The adventure culminates in one of the world's most magnificent wildernesses – Svalbard. This early in the season, Svalbard is characterised by a wonderful purity, pastel coloured skies and breathtaking sceneries. Here we keep our eyes open for polar bears, walrus and other Arctic animals, but above all we enjoy the stunning nature that surrounds us – ice formations and snow covered mountains, glistering glaciers and fjord ice.



### ITINERARY

### Day 1: Bergen

The great journey begins in the city of Bergen, beautifully surrounded by high mountains and deep fjords. We stay the night at a centrally located hotel.

#### Day 2-9: Expedition

We embark the beautiful M/S Stockholm and head towards the beautiful passage of Alversund. During our adventure along the Norwegian coast we hope to visit some of the following places:

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

01432 507 280 (within UK) info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com



Ålesund Upon reaching Ålesund we explore this small town, built in a true Art Nouveau style, enjoying its delightfully decorated facades, towers and pinnacles. Geirangerfjorden We get to know the majestic Storfjorden and pay a visit to the UNESCO-protected Geirangerfjorden, which is characterised by deep blue water and lush mountain plains with beautiful waterfalls. Grip This deserted fishing village is now popular with summer guests. Its original and colourful wooden buildings are well preserved. We visit the beautiful church and we also pass by the small and very dramatically situated lighthouse. Torghatten On our way north we sail past famous natural attractions like the mountain peaks known as the Seven Sisters, followed by Torghatten - a rock with a big hole, that the ice sheet once created, or according to the legend; the hole a giant created in despair from a broken heart. Kerringøy Kierringøy is a real gem on the Norwegian coast. Here we encounter a diverse landscape of mountains, white sandy beaches and small farming communities, but the island is most famous for its old trading post. This is a unique heritage consisting of 15 well-preserved houses, which gives the visitor a great insight into what it was like to live in this northern trading town in the 1800s. Reine We hope to visit the picturesque fishing village of Reine. This charming village, with characteristic wooden houses overlook Kirkefjord with high mountain tops in the background. It is not difficult to see why it was once voted Norway's most beautiful place. Nusfjord Nusfjord is a well-preserved and authentic fishing community with focus on cod fishing. The village is part of UNESCO's World Heritage list of unique wooden houses with a charming old fashioned shop well worth a visit. We sail further along what is known as the Lofoten wall. In the evening we enter magical Trollfjorden and later set course towards Tromsø. Tromsø In Tromsø we visit the prestigious Polar

Museum and learn more about the first polar explorers, who went north to seek fame and fortune. The city is known as Paris of the North, which derives from its vast cultural offerings.

#### Day 10 - 16: Bear Island & Svalbard

We set sail towards the remote Bear Island, situated in the middle of the Barents Sea. On the 400-meter high cliffs, hundreds of thousands of seabirds are nesting - puffins, guillemots, razorbills and kittiwakes among others. As well as a spectacular Zodiac cruise along the impressive bird cliffs we aim to make a landing on this rarely visited island. We then continue our journey and sail over night. Our next destination is Svalbard - one of the world's most magnificent wildernesses. It is spring in the Arctic and it is a powerful experience to witness the archipelago spring to life. We enjoy the stunning nature that surrounds us - sparkling ice formations, snow covered mountains and glistering glaciers. We start by exploring parts of Storfjorden and constantly keeping our eyes peeled for the Arctic wildlife. How far in we reach depends on the drift ice that often accumulates here this time of year. We continue towards majestic Hornsund, consisting of several fjords, which glaciers calve out shimmering blue icebergs. It is also a favourite haunt for polar bears. In Bellsund we hope to reach Vårsolbukta, where the little auks nest in tens of thousands.

#### Day 17: Longyearbyen

We disembark in Longyearbyen and begin our journey home.

### Please Note:

The places mentioned are just examples of some of the many sites we have the chance to visit during this unique trip. Our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and wildlife. We always strive to maximise your experience. Please remember

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

01432 507 280 (within UK)

info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com



that flexibility is the key to a successful expedition!

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

01432 507 280 (within UK) info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com



# YOUR SHIP: STOCKHOLM

YOUR SHIP: Stockholm VESSEL TYPE: LENGTH: PASSENGER CAPACITY: BUILT/REFURBISHED:

The M/S Stockholm is a classic vessel built in 1953 for the Swedish National Maritime Administration. In 1999 she was totally refitted and started her career as a comfortable polar passenger ship. The M/S Stockholm exclusively carries a maximum of 12 passengers in outside twin cabins, all with upper and lower berth and private facilities. She is a marvellous piece of maritime history with beautiful brass details and pine decks. No wonder the M/S Stockholm is loved by so many! On board the ship you will enjoy delicious meals in the company of likeminded travellers who enjoy the natural world, and who are as fascinated by the Arctic as you will be. The food on board is of a high standard. All wine, beer and drinks are included in the trip fare. With such a small party on board, this is like travelling on a private yacht. An entirely different experience and perspective to that of a larger and more conventional vessel! The M/S Stockholm is also ideal for private parties who wish to explore the Svalbard archipelago. The owner, Captain and crew of the ship have long experience in Arctic waters, and are actively involved in making expeditions in tune with nature conservation. The crew onboard M/S Stockholm are great enthusiasts of the unique wildlife and unspoilt nature too, so do

not be surprised if you suddenly see the chef ashore taking photographs or studying birds, whenever his time permits. The genuine curiosity of the crew is a prerequisite for expedition cruises of this kind. A trip on board M/S Stockholm in these northern waters, with its unique wildlife and pristine nature is anexperience of a lifetime, simply



hard to beat.

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

01432 507 280 (within UK) info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com



# PRICING

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

01432 507 280 (within UK) info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com