

SOUTH SPITSBERGEN EXPLORER - BEAR ISLAND EXPEDITION

Across 9 nights, prepare to explore southern Spitsbergen, the largest island in Svalbard and home to a plethora of Arctic wildlife. From walrus haul-outs and encounters with the king of the Arctic, you'll glimpse the drama of life in one of Earth's most extreme environments. Then, visit remote Bear Island as you voyage to Norway's beautiful far north beneath aurora-filled night skies.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Longyearbyen - the start of your journey

You touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. Though the countryside appears stark, more than 100 plant species have been recorded here. In the early evening, the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where you might spot the first minke whale of your voyage.

Day 2: Spectacular Hornsund



We start the day by quietly cruising the side fjords of the spectacular Hornsund area in southern Spitsbergen, dominated by towering mountain peaks. The mountain of Hornsundtind rises to 1,431 meters (4,695 feet), while the peak of Bautaen testifies to why early Dutch explorers gave this island the name Spitsbergen, which translates to "pointed mountains." There are 14 magnificent glaciers in the area, and we have a fair chance of encountering seals and polar bears. The nearby cliffs of Sofiakammen are also home to thousands of pairs of nesting kittiwakes and little auks. In the evening, we might see thousands of harp seals rutting on ice floes at Sørkapp.

Day 3 - 4: The seabird colonies of Bear Island

Today, we venture along the west side of Bear Island, heading toward the southeast- an excellent place for viewing large seabird colonies. The nearby nesting cliffs are part of an extensive nature reserve where shore landings are not permitted. Afterward, we'll sail northeast into Sorhamna, where we can get closer to the seabird cliffs. Chiefly, Brunnichs guillemots, kittiwakes, and fulmars nest here.

Just northeast of this is Revdalen, where, at a safe distance, we can watch breeding great skuas, large seabirds known to be fiercely territorial. From there, we may climb some way to the bird mountain at the coast. In Kvalrossbukta, we will land at the remains of a whaling station from the early part of the previous century. As we continue north along the east side of Bear Island, we will look for other good landing and activity spots.

Day 5: Along and through the pack ice

Sailing northward, we may still encounter sea ice, where we have a good chance of spotting polar bears as well as various species of whales, seals, and seabirds. Sailing along the western side of the Tusenøyane, we may see polar bears, walruses, and belugas.

Day 6: Kittiwakes & hiking in Diskobukta canyon

We land at a beach dotted with bones of prehistoric bowhead whales and walk to a canyon with over 10,000 pairs of breeding kittiwakes on both sides, and often Arctic foxes preying on eggs, and sometimes a polar bear. The valley south of the colony is inviting for long walks.

Day 7: The ivory gulls of Agardhfjellet

We land at the east coast of Spitsbergen at the mouth of Skjolddalen river, where ivory gulls gather to breed. Then, a relaxed walk takes us to the summit of Fleinskallen (about 300 m high), with some tens of breeding Ivory Gulls spread along the ridges. Here it pays to keep one eye on the ground at your feet - the area is very rich in fossils, such as belemnites.

Day 8: Dinosaurs and seabird colonies at Kvalhovden

The area around Boltodden is famous for its preserved dinosaur fossil tracks. Behind these are the steep bird mountains of Kvalvaagen, home to many thousands of Brunnich's Guillemots and other seabirds. At Kvalbreen, we have a good opportunity for a Zodiac cruise and seal observations. Polar bears are not uncommon in this area, so keeping your camera handy here is a must.

Day 9: Bellsund's flora, fauna, and haunting history

Bellsund is one of the largest fjord systems in Svalbard. Here, there are excellent opportunities to enjoy both history and wildlife. A possibility is Ahlstrandhalvøya, at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden, where piles of beluga skeletons can be found, remains of poorly managed 19th-century whaling. Thankfully,



belugas were not hunted to extinction, and we have a good chance of encountering a pod. Alternatively, while cruising the side fjords of Bellsund, you can explore the tundra where reindeer like to feed, as well as rock slopes where little auks breed, near Vaarsolbukta.

Day 10: There and back again

Even the most remarkable journeys must eventually come to an end. We disembark today in Longyearbyen, taking home memories that will accompany us wherever the next adventure lies. Here, you can further explore the town or prepare for your onward flight.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: ORTELIUS

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

The ice-strengthened vessel "Ortelius" is an excellent vessel for Polar expedition cruises in the Arctic and Antarctica, providing possibilities to adventure remote locations such as the Ross Sea. The vessel has the highest ice-class notation (UL1 equivalent to 1A) and is therefore very suitable to navigate in solid one-year sea ice and loose multi-year pack ice. "Ortelius" is a great expedition vessel for 100 passengers with lots of open-deck spaces and a very large bridge which is accessible to the passengers. The vessel is manned by 34 highly experienced crew, 15 international catering staff, including stewardesses, 6 expedition staff (1 expedition leader and 5 guides/lecturers) and 1 doctor. "Ortelius" offers a comfortable hotel standard, with two restaurants, a bar/lecture room and a sauna. Ortelius' voyages are primarily developed to offer our passengers a quality exploratory wildlife program, trying to spend as much time ashore as possible. As the number of passengers is limited to approximately 100 on the "Ortelius", flexibility assures maximum wildlife opportunities. Passengers on a typical voyage range from in their 30s to their 80s, with the majority usually between 45 65. Our expeditions attract independent travelers from around the globe who are characterized by a strong interest in exploring remote regions. The camaraderie that develops on board is an important part of the Oceanwide experience, and many passenger groups include several nationalities. "Ortelius" was built in Gdynia, Poland in 1989, was named "Marina Svetaeva", and served as a special purpose vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. The vessel is re-flagged and renamed "Ortelius". Ortelius was a Dutch / Flemish cartographer. Abraham Ortelius (1527 - 1598) published the first modern world atlas, the Theatrum Orbis Terrarum or Theatre of the World in 1570. At that time, the atlas was the most expensive book ever printed. What to Wear In keeping with the spirit of expedition, dress on board is informal. Bring casual and comfortable clothing for all activities, and keep in mind that much of the scenery can be appreciated from deck which can be slippery. Bring sturdy shoes with no-slip soles, and make sure your parka is never far away in case one of our crew shouts "Whales!" over the loudspeaker and you have to dash outside in a moment's notice. Opt for layers, as it is comfortably warm aboard the ship though often cold on deck. Electric Current The electrical supply aboard ship is 220v, 60Hz. Electrical outlets are standard European with two thick round pins, so some passengers may need a 220v/110v converter. Tipping The customary gratuity to the ship's service personnel is made as a blanket contribution at the end of the voyage and is divided among the crew. Tipping is a personal matter, and the amount you wish to give is at your sole discretion. As a generally accepted guideline, we suggest 8 10 euros per passenger per day. It is better for the crew if you give cash. Smoking Policy Ortelius has a non-smoking policy inside, though you can smoke

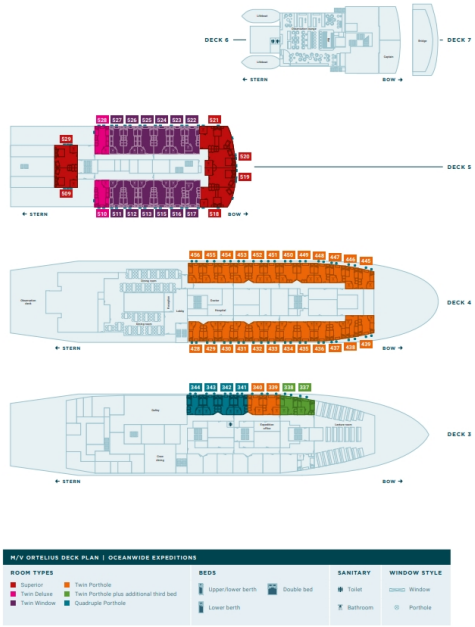
in certain designated areas. We ask that you please respect the wishes of non-smokers and please never throw your cigarette ends overboard or anywhere except the



designated bin.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



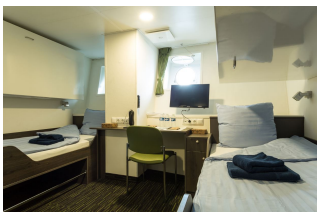
Quadruple Porthole



Superior



Triple Porthole



Twin Deluxe



Twin Porthole



Twin Window





PRICING

10-Jul-2027 to 19-Jul-2027

Quadruple Porthole	£4845 GBP pp
Triple Porthole	£6035 GBP pp
Twin Porthole	£7055 GBP pp
Twin Window	£7650 GBP pp
Twin Deluxe	£8288 GBP pp
Superior	£9222 GBP pp