



## SVALBARD AND NORTHERN NORWAY EXPEDITION

This is a true expedition cruise for those of you who are dreaming of experiencing the magical autumn in Svalbard and exploring some of Northern Norway's most scenic sites. In October, our small and charming ship, M/S Stockholm, heads out on an expedition cruise from Svalbard to Tromsø, during which we aim to visit sites that are hard or impossible to reach during the summer season. The autumn in Svalbard invites us to a soft photo light, beautiful sunsets, crisp autumn colours and chances to see the magical Northern lights dancing in the sky. The fjords are slowly starting to freeze and perhaps the first snow has fallen and covers the impressive mountain peaks. October is a perfect time to explore the landscape on foot and we hope to head out on several refreshing hikes to enjoy breath-taking views, dramatic nature and the Arctic silence. While sailing and exploring, we keep our eyes peeled for the fantastic wildlife Svalbard has to offer such as the Svalbard reindeer, Arctic foxes in winter fur, humpback whales, herd of seals, walrus and the king of the Arctic - the polar bear. After some time in the untamed wilderness of Svalbard, we continue our voyage towards Northern Norway. On our way we pass the remote Bear Island, located in the middle of the Barents Sea. In Northern Norway we experience the spectacular fjord landscape around Tromsø. Here we enjoy the views and keep a lookout for humpbacks and the Northern lights. We also plan to sail into some of Northern Norway's most stunning fjords such as Kvaernangen and Lyngenfjorden. The number of days we will be in Svalbard before heading to Northern Norway is not set. Since autumn in these areas can be windy, the time of our passage will be determined by the weather and wind conditions. This is

one of the reasons why we call it a true expedition cruise! It is also the ultimate trip for someone who has visited Svalbard earlier in the season and would like a different experience of the



archipelago.

### ITINERARY

Day 1: Longyearbyen

We arrive in Longyearbyen, embark our expedition ship M/S Stockholm and are welcomed by our guides and crew. After being settled in, we head out through Isfjorden - our Arctic



adventure has started!

#### Expedition days in Svalbard

We are now in a part of the world where we are totally dependent on the ice and weather conditions. Our exact itinerary depends on these factors and on the wildlife we encounter. Our ambition is to make landings or cruises every day with our Zodiacs. Here are some examples of places we may visit: Isfjorden Isfjorden offers plenty of great landing sites and splendid hiking opportunities. Maybe we get to visit Svenskhuset (the Swedish house), a wooden house built on the initiative of Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld in 1872, and learn more about its interesting history. At the entrance of Isfjorden is the characteristic cliff Alkhornet, and even if most birds have left during this time of the year we marvel at the fascinating landscape. Arctic foxes are often seen in the rock crevices around the mountain and with some luck we might see these lovely little animals scurrying around, frantically looking for food. Magnificent fjords Svalbard offers its visitor countless of spectacular fjords. During our journey we will explore a few of them such as Lilliehöökfjorden, located far into Svalbard's fjord system. Here is the Lilliehöökbrean, a glacier that stretches four kilometres from side to side. The glacier is active, producing many small icebergs that majestically sail out through the fjord. We might also visit the scenic Magdalenafjorden, eight kilometres long and five kilometres wide. In Krossfjorden we revel in the beautifully sculptured front of the 14th of July Glacier. Virgohamna, Danskøya Two of the most courageous attempts to reach the North Pole started on the island of Danskøya. Swedish explorer Andrée made an attempt with a hydrogen balloon and American journalist Wellman started with an airship. There are still interesting remnants from these

expeditions left on this site. Møffen Møffen is a flat island located north of Spitsbergen. It is also a popular haul out for walrus and you can often see large colonies on the beaches. Until mid-September you are not allowed to make a landing on the island, but when we are here in October we hope to be able to go ashore and explore the unique nature. Sjuøyane These islands are situated north of Nordaustlandet and it is Svalbard's northernmost outpost. On one of the islands, Rossøya, Andrée and his companions had one of their depots with supplies in case their, by now legendary, balloon trip in the late 1800s would fail... Nordaustlandet Nordaustlandet is the second largest island in the archipelago and is almost completely covered by ice. We travel here through Hinlopen, a channel where we have great chances of spotting whales. Both nature and history lovers are fascinated with Nordaustlandet and here you find one of Svalbard's most impressive glaciers, Bråsvellbreen. It stretches out for 200 kilometres and the ice edge is 15-20-metre high, intersected by hundreds of melt-waterfalls. Outside Bråsvellbreen is Olagstretet and during this time of year pods of humpbacks whales is not an uncommon sight. In eastern Svalbard we get to experience an endless polar desert and views that remind us of a vast moon landscape. Southeastern Svalbard Barentsøya and Edgeøya south of Nordaustlandet offer magnificent landscapes and vast tundra. Chances are good to encounter walrus, Arctic fox and Svalbard reindeer here. Along large parts of Edgeøya's coast there are remains of whaling stations, Pomors and Norwegian hunters. With sites such as Kapp Lee, Diskobukta and Andræetangen, the island of Edgeøya has interesting stories to tell. At the point of Andræetangen, stands the cabin built in 1946 by Henry Rudi, also known as "the Polar Bear King". Tusenøyane are located 20 kilometres southwest of Edgeøya





and includes around 40 islands, which we rarely get to visit. Here we find many remains from Russian whalers who overwintered here between 1700 and 1850. We have also a great chance to spot female walrus with calves. At sea we leave Svalbard's incredible landscape behind and set course across Barents Sea towards the Norwegian mainland. Please note: what exact day we start our crossing can vary due to weather and wind conditions.

#### Day 11: Bear Island

On our way from Svalbard to Tromsø we pass Bear Island, this fascinating rocky island, located in the middle of Barents Sea. Weather allowing, we aim to make a landing on the island discovered by Willem Barentsz in 1596. The island owes its name to the encounter and killing of a polar bear by Barentsz' men. There are many cultural remains here that date from different historical eras and stem from different nations. During WWII and the Cold War the waters surrounding Bear Island was of high military importance. In 1941 the German navy established an automatic radio station on the island.

#### Expedition days in Northern Norway

Kvaernangen Kvaernangen is a 117 kilometres long fjord north of Tromsø. Here we have the chance to see the spectacular Northern lights and enjoy scenic nature. In November you often spot orcas here, and if we are lucky, they arrive early this year and we get a glimpse of these wonderful creatures. In Kvaernangen there are several islands including Spildra and Skorpa. Hopefully we can go ashore one of them and hike along the small trails surrounded by mountains, forests and beaches. The island of Spildra offers Viking history, old Sámi graves and sacrificial sites. Lyngenfjorden Between Tromsø och Alta we find Lyngenfjorden, a fjord framed by majestic mountains peaks

towering 1800 meters above the sea. This is a place where we get close to the Arctic nature, the culture and the Norwegian people. Lyngenfjorden is a popular destination for whale safaris and with some luck we see humpback whales here. In Årøybukt lies the world's northernmost distillery, Aurora spirit (bivrost.com), where we hope to make a visit Havnes We continue to cruise along the magnificent peaks of Lyngsalpan and head for one of the most beautiful little trading post in Norway – Havnes. Archaeological findings from the Stone Age show there has been human settlement in the area for more than 6000 years. Since 1868 the settlement belongs to the Giæver family and still today they run Havnes as a traditional fishing village. Tromsø Tromsø is located 350 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, beautifully framed by fjords and mountains peaks. The city has been the starting point for many polar expeditions and was referred to as "the Gateway to the Arctic" in the 1800s. Perhaps the first snow has fallen and settled over the high mountain peaks, offering marvellous sceneries together with the small picturesque houses. The area is also a popular haunt for white-tailed eagles. They can be seen soaring above us with their impressive wingspans.

#### Day 17: Homewards

In the morning we disembark our ship in Tromsø and begin the journey home.

#### Please Note:

The exact route will depend on weather, wind and possible wildlife encounters. Your captain and the expedition leader will do everything to maximise our experience. The places mentioned are just examples of some of the many sites Svalbard and Northern Norway has to offer. Please remember that flexibility is the key to a successful expedition!



## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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### 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 an experience of a lifetime, simply



hard to beat.





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