

# The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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## SVALBARD CIRCUMNAVIGATION - THE ULTIMATE BUCKET LIST ADVENTURE

The goal of this Albatros Expeditions voyage is to circumnavigate Svalbard - the ultimate bucket-list adventure! During this outstanding adventure we will enjoy the immense beauty of Svalbard on this high Arctic voyage among whales, walrus, polar bears and millions of sea birds. We will explore northwest Spitzbergen, one of the largest protected areas in the Arctic, before we approach the polar bear's favorite summer residence. As we cruise to 80 degrees north, we will get as close as possible to the pack ice north of Svalbard - a constantly shifting wilderness of ice and sea which stretches to the North Pole and beyond. While the many amazing locations along the coasts of Svalbard's islands are kept navigable by the warm Gulf Stream, how far north we reach, and the exact route of the voyage will depend on the whims of Mother Nature. This far north, everything is governed by the sea, wind and ice. Onboard Ocean Albatros you will experience areas of Svalbard not easily accessible by any other means of exploration as we carefully navigate around this breathtaking archipelago. We will next visit extraordinary locations in the eastern part of Svalbard such as Edgeøya and regions such as Bellsund and Hornsund in southern Svalbard. During the short summer, wildlife such as reindeer, geese and Arctic foxes are busy amassing energy for the icy polar winter. The cliffs shimmer with life as every surface is populated with countless birds - all struggling to raise the new generation of Arctic sea birds before they are ready to leave their nests. The prolific bird life can be seen as Brunnich's guillemots, black guillemots and razorbills fishing in the wake of our ship. Onshore, the huge walrus enjoy the short Arctic summer as well as many whales and seals foraging along the

edge of the pack ice and the coasts. In our fleet of Zodiac boats, we are able to view wildlife safely at close proximity. The Zodiacs allow us to have frequent shore landings and embark on exploratory mini cruises in the fjords and glacial landscapes. From historical sites, to glacier fronts, to remote lonely beaches, no area is off limits to us! Experience high summer in the Arctic with the brand new Ocean Albatros - one of the few ice-class expedition ships built to withstand the North Pole's pack ice. Experience everything this remarkable high Arctic paradise has to offer.



Experience with us!

### ITINERARY

DAY 1 LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN. EMBARKATION

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Board your flight in Norway ( additional charge )and arrive in Longyearbyen, Svalbard - the world's northernmost... everything! This remarkable little city is not only the northernmost town in the world (if one excludes the tiny research community of Ny-Ålesund, slightly further north on Svalbard), but also hosts the world's northernmost civilian airport, schools, bank and supermarket. The town's rugged frontier edge belies a core of warm Nordic hospitality and coziness - hyggligt, as we say in Denmark!

Immediately after landing in Longyearbyen, you find yourself in a different world. The chilly Arctic breeze can be felt as soon as you step onto the tarmac, and the famous signpost outside the terminal reminds visitors how far north they really are; as well as to keep watch for bears! The snow-capped mountain Hjorthjellet looms over the airport on the far side of Adventfjorden, and off in the distance can be seen the saw-toothed peaks and languid glaciers of northern Spitzbergen.

After arrival, you will board the awaiting Ocean Albatros. After our mandatory safety briefing and lifeboat drill, head onto the outer decks to enjoy a glass of champagne while watching your expedition vessel leave civilisation behind... And set a course for adventure!

### DAY 2 KONGSFJORDEN REGION, NORTHWEST SPITZBERGEN

During the 'night' (what is night, when the sun never sets?), Ocean Albatros will have repositioned past the saw-toothed

mountains of Prins Karls Forland and arrived in magnificent Kongsfjord. Surrounded by craggy mountains, bounded by the magnificent Kongsbreen and Kongvegen Glaciers, and crowned by the Three Crowns (a set of pyramidal mountains said to represent the monarchies of Norway, Sweden and Denmark), this is surely one of the most beautiful and tranquil corners anywhere in the world.

Our first landing will be at the small settlement of Ny Ålesund. Situated further north than Longyearbyen, Ny-Ålesund is Earth's northernmost settlement, if a group of scientific stations, a post office and a single shop open for a few hours can be described as such... You will have to judge for yourself!

These islands' geographical location has made them the staging post for exploratory and scientific expeditions for centuries - a proud legacy which continues to this day. The setting is spectacular, and the scientific projects are as fascinating as the history of the town, which has hosted the Nobile, the Norge and the Fram, Amundsen, Nansen and Nordenskiöld, all legends of polar exploration who passed this lonely outpost seeking to push the boundaries of humanity. The remnants of these expeditions (such as the mooring mast of the Norge) can still be seen today.

### DAY 3 NORTHWEST SPITZBERGEN

One of the largest protected wilderness areas in Europe, North West Svalbard was declared a national park in 1973. The area is famed for its history, which documents some of the earliest human arrivals on Svalbard. While Norse explorers may have

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sighted these icy shores during the Viking Age, the first definite arrival was the expedition of William Barents, the legendary Dutch explorer for whom the Barents Sea is named. While now protected from human disruption, when Barents arrived in 1596, he noted the vast numbers of whales and seals which were soon prey to English and Dutch whalers, who arrived within a decade of Barents to pillage the area's wildlife. The area occupies the triple point between land, sea and ice, and as such was the perfect location from which to harvest the gentle giants of the oceans. Sites used to dismember whale carcasses and render them for their precious oil include the Dutch settlement of Smeerenburg, where the remains of 16th Century blubber ovens and building foundations can still be seen. Other sites such as nearby Ytre Norskøya record the darker side of this industrialised slaughter, where hundreds of young men who hoped to make their fortunes are buried thousands of miles from home.

Today, all that remains from this period of history are bones and the scant remnants of human habitation. Slowly reclaimed by creeping Arctic nature, the region is now a nature lovers paradise. Tiny Arctic poppies and purple saxifrage defy the brutal conditions to flower in the brief summer, while geese, eider ducks and other seabirds return to the island to raise their young. Walrus can be found hauled out on beaches, and we must always be on careful lookout for wandering polar bears in this now again wild region.

### DAY 4 INTO THE ICE

An icy breeze touches your exposed cheeks. The scent of snow

and sea fills your nostrils. Sunlight reflects off the floating ice, illuminating the clouds overhead. Enter an environment like no other, the vast shape-shifting realm of floating ice which crowns our planet. The vast ever-changing ice pack to the north of Svalbard stretches from this already isolated archipelago to the North Pole, and onwards across the Arctic Ocean towards the northern shores of Chukotka and Alaska.

The Arctic ice pack is one of Earth's largest habitats, although unlike most it varies hugely year on year, expanding in winter and retreating in summer. The location of the sea ice around Svalbard can also vary wildly - however, your Expedition Leader will work hard to maximise our chances of finding and exploring this impossibly remote environment. At first glance, this stark white wilderness seems barren, empty and lifeless. This icy wilderness holds on to its mysteries, and of course wildlife sightings are at the whims of Mother Nature. With a little perseverance however, the ice reveals its secrets.

As Ocean Albatros pushes through the narrow channels in the ice, tiny cod-like fish can be seen silhouetted against the ice in the clear water. Kittiwakes and Glaucous Gulls follow the vessel as it disturbs the water. Further out on the ice, black dots appear; moving closer, they resolve into seals, basking on the ice. A plume of water reflects the sunshine - a pod of belugas perhaps, or maybe even the vast gentle bowhead whale crushing the ice from below as its massive body surfaces. There, beyond the banks of rucked ice - a yellowish dot pads along the ice, the head swinging from side to side: the King of the Arctic continues his never-ending quest for prey. This is the kingdom of the polar bear, the vast icy wastes at the top of the world.

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### DAY 6 EAST SVALBARD

At the end of the day, we will start cruising towards the Hinlopen Strait that divides Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet.

### DAY 5 NORTHEAST SVALBARD

From the icy wilderness of the pack ice, we will head back towards land, cruising into the Hinlopen Strait. If the weather is on "our side" we may have a good view of the steep cliffs of Alkefjellet. The area is home to a dense congregation of Brunnich's guillemots - one of the largest colonies in the world. There are so many birds that hardly an inch is free! Nesting Brunnich's guillemots and other auks crowd the cliffs, while predatory skuas and gulls cruise the skies above, constantly on the lookout for their next meal. During the raucous summer the breeding pairs offer a wild view of frantic activity, both along the cliffs and in the sea in front - one of nature's most spectacular sights!

More wildlife awaits us as we land on the polar desert landscapes of Nordaustlandet. Although the polar desert landscapes of this region appear stark and barren, they are wildly beautiful - unearthly plantless landscapes illuminated by the weak Arctic sunlight. However, it is in the marine environment where Svalbard's biodiversity is richest. Walrus haul their vast bodies onto flat beaches to rest, where they snuggle together for warmth and protection. Belugas frolic in large pods in the waters off the coast, harvesting fish and crustaceans from the seabed, and further offshore the vast gentle baleen whales can sometimes be seen feasting upon copepods and small fish.

As we continue to venture around these remarkable islands, we arrive in Southeast Svalbard - a region where the cold easterly polar waters collide with the last tepid gasp of the Gulf Stream. If the ice is passable, we can make it through the southern edge of the Hinlopen Strait and cruise through Freemansundet, which separates Barentsøya and Edgeøya. We enjoy the views of the massive Kapp Lee as we exit the Strait.

We will aim to land on Edgeøya, Svalbard's third largest island. Vast piles of snow-bleached bones on the island's beaches bear witness to the systematic and industrial-scale slaughter of walrus and beluga in their thousands. The earliest humans on the islands (mainly English and Dutch whalers and Russian Pomor trappers) had little regard for conservation, seeking only profit, a situation which continued well into the 19th century. Thankfully all wildlife on Svalbard is now protected by law, and vast tracts of the archipelago are designated as nature reserves and National Parks - some of the largest and richest in the world!

Further east on Edgeøya, sites include the walrus colonies of Andreetangen and Kapp Lee, and the spectacular raised shorelines and bird colonies of Sundneset. From these remote shores, we will cruise around Sørkapp and back towards Spitzbergen, the largest island of Svalbard.

### DAYS 7-8 SOUTH SVALBARD

Having passed the southern tip of Spitsbergen we arrive back

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into the greener warmer regions of this Arctic wilderness. The southwest coast of Svalbard is washed by warmer water coming up through the Atlantic, so winter ice generally retreats first from this region. This allows us to enter the southern fjords of Bellsund and Hornsund - easily some of the most spectacular regions of this stunning archipelago. Throughout this maze of fjords and islands, birds cluster together on high cliffs and reindeer graze on the fertile slopes below, while icebergs drift by from the various large glaciers in the area. Tiny calico snow buntings flit between crags, while perfectly camouflaged purple sandpipers scamper along the shore. Look higher up on the vegetated slopes, and there - greyish white 'boulders' move and resolve themselves into sheep-sized reindeer: the unique subspecies native to Svalbard. A flash of bluish-black, and the screeches of nearby birds herald the arrival of the Arctic fox, the only native land predator on Svalbard (the polar bear being classified as a marine mammal).

The mountaintops are most often covered by dense clouds and the East-Spitsbergen current often leads pack ice into the mouths of the fjords. With a huge variety of landing sites to explore, this region is without doubt one of the most exciting and diverse regions of Svalbard! Options to explore in the area include the huge bird cliffs of Alkhjornet and Varsolbukta, and the historical sites of Calypsobyen and Bambsebu, where prospectors, trappers and a range of other adventurers attempted to make their fortunes.

### DAY 9 WEST/CENTRAL SPITZBERGEN

During the night we will enter Forlandssundet, the strait which

separates Prince Karls Forland from Spitsbergen. Our destinations may include Poolepynten (Poole Point), a small headland named after the British whaler Jonas Poole. Today the area is inhabited by herds of walrus who can be seen (and smelled!) from a distance. The large mammals flaunt their tusks and whiskers, as well as their considerable bulk. The remote beaches, rugged mountains and tundra plains of the region positively beg to be explored!

From Forlandsundet, we will return southwards during the afternoon towards the town of Longyearbyen, all the while on the lookout for wildlife and spectacular views as we return to civilisation.

### DAY 10 LONGYEARBYEN, SPITZBERGEN. DISEMBARKATION

During the evening, the Ocean Albatros will reposition to return to the port of Longyearbyen. Even this small town will feel like a metropolis after days of isolation in the wilderness of the Arctic!

After enjoying exploring Longyearbyen and a fond farewell to the crew and fellow guests of Ocean Albatros, return to Svalbard Airport and join your flight back to the Norwegian mainland (additional charge) with memories to last a lifetime.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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### YOUR SHIP: MV DISCOVERER

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>MV Discoverer</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>Expedition Ship</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>108 metres</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>1989 / 2023 / 2026</b>

Discoverer is a boutique expedition ship purpose-built for exploring the polar regions, combining genuine expedition capability with a high level of comfort and personalised service. Carrying just 140 guests, the vessel offers an intimate atmosphere that allows for flexible shore landings, meaningful wildlife encounters, and access to remote destinations beyond the reach of larger ships. With an Ice Class 1A rating, expansive outdoor viewing areas, and a wrap-around deck designed for wildlife observation and photography, Discoverer is ideally equipped for immersive exploration in some of the world's most spectacular environments. Recently refurbished, the ship features stylish outward-facing accommodation, many with private balconies or Juliet balconies, alongside inviting public spaces that create a relaxed boutique feel. Guests can unwind in the panoramic Observation Lounge, outdoor Jacuzzis, sauna, steam room, fitness centre, or wellness area after a day of adventure. Onboard amenities also include a lecture theatre, library, restaurant, bar, outdoor grill, and expedition facilities, while expert-led presentations, Zodiac excursions, and an experienced expedition team ensure every voyage is both enriching and unforgettable.

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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Category A Suite - Junior Suite



- Balcony Suite

Category C Stateroom - Balcony Stateroom



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Category D Stateroom - Albatros Stateroom (Porthole)

room - French Balcony Stateroom

Category F Stateroom - Triple Stateroom (Porthole)

room - Single Stateroom (Porthole)

Discovery Suite

nhilde Suite

Grand Suite

om

Ocean Stateroom

Porthole Stateroom

Freydis Suite

Solo Vista Stateroom



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## PRICING

### 28-Jun-2026 to 07-Jul-2026

Family Suite - Brynhilde Suite	£14626 GBP pp
Category E Stateroom - French Balcony Stateroom	£7542 GBP pp
Category C Superior	£8158 GBP pp
Category F Stateroom - Triple Stateroom (Porthole)	£6079 GBP pp
Category G Stateroom - Single Stateroom (Porthole)	£8928 GBP pp
Category A Suite - Junior Suite	£13009 GBP pp
Category B Suite - Balcony Suite	£10160 GBP pp
Category C Stateroom - Balcony Stateroom	£7696 GBP pp
Category D Stateroom - Albatros Stateroom (Porthole)	£7157 GBP pp
Premium Suite - Freydis Suite	£14626 GBP pp

### 07-Jul-2026 to 16-Jul-2026

Category B Suite - Balcony Suite	£10160 GBP pp
Category G Stateroom - Single Stateroom (Porthole)	£8928 GBP pp
Category C Stateroom - Balcony Stateroom	£7696 GBP pp
Category F Stateroom - Triple Stateroom (Porthole)	£6079 GBP pp
Family Suite - Brynhilde Suite	£14626 GBP pp
Premium Suite - Freydis Suite	£14626 GBP pp
Category A Suite - Junior Suite	£13009 GBP pp
Category E Stateroom - French Balcony Stateroom	£7542 GBP pp
Category D Stateroom - Albatros Stateroom (Porthole)	£7157 GBP pp

### 07-Sep-2027 to 16-Sep-2027

Grand Suite	£12319 GBP pp
Solo Vista Stateroom	£12319 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£11315 GBP pp
Navigator Stateroom	£9855 GBP pp
Discovery Suite	£9469 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom	£9005 GBP pp
Vista Stateroom	£8315 GBP pp
Ocean Stateroom	£8235 GBP pp
Porthole Stateroom	£7159 GBP pp