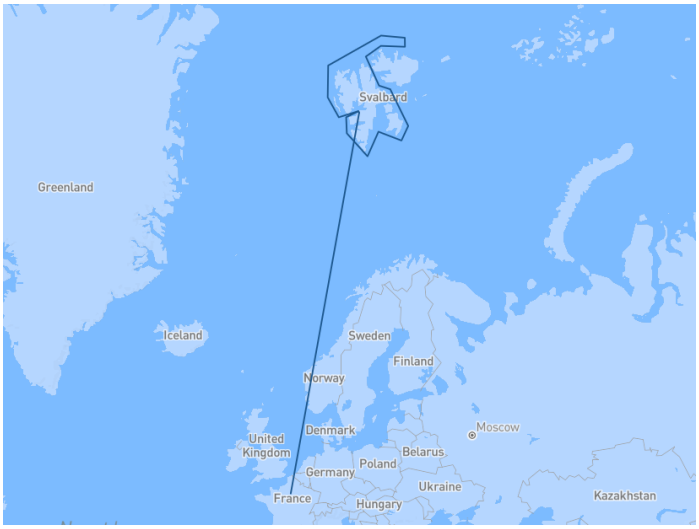


HEART OF SVALBARD EXPEDITION CRUISE: A 12-DAY HIGH ARCTIC EXPEDITION CRUISE

Join an unforgettable 12 day cruise deep inside the Arctic Circle and into the 'heart of Svalbard' exploring the islands of Spitsbergen, Nordaustlandet and Edgeøya. This voyage offers an incredible nine days exploring and experiencing some of the Arctic's most fascinating landscapes, home to an astounding diversity of wildlife including Polar Bears and Walrus, only accessible by expedition ship. Your adventure begins with a night in Paris, before flying to Longyearbyen, Norway, the world's northernmost town and capital of Svalbard, nestled in a deep valley on the shores of the idyllic Adventfjord and surrounded by steep mountains and glaciers. From here we set sail to expedition cruise Svalbard, exploring this wilderness archipelago where awe-inspiring fjords, glaciers and fascinating human history are joined by wildlife in staggering numbers. Our exploration of this collection of large islands, just a few hundred kilometres from the North Pole and normally blanketed in snow and ice, coincides with the brief summer months when they burst into life. These nutrient rich waters attract millions of sea birds to their towering cliffs to breed, and Humpback, Blue and Sperm Whales to feed on the ocean's abundance. Large huddles of Walrus haul out on the beaches, and Polar Bears gather to take advantage of this seasonal bounty, hunting both land and pack ice. Arctic Fox and Reindeer search for food across the polar tundra, which briefly blooms with a colourful carpet of mosses, lichen and masses of tiny flowers. Being well above the Arctic Circle, under the Midnight Sun, allows for long days of exploration and allow for myriad opportunities for adventure, whenever they arise. Even in high summer, the ice never completely loses its grip, giving the landscape a primaeval, starkly beautiful character. If we are lucky, we may see famed glaciers Monacobreen and the 14th of July Glacier calving into spectacular fjords, creating stunning ice cathedrals. As the sea ice begins to break up, it creates a labyrinth of sparkling ice floes, resting places for Ringed and Bearded Seals, as well as a hunting ground for their main, apex predator, the Polar Bear. The eastern and western sides of Svalbard display very different characters, and we plan to explore and experience them both. The west, bathed in the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, makes for a slightly warmer climate and less sea ice, while on the cooler northern and eastern shores, winter's icy grip seems to cling on for much of the year. Our voyage around these islands will be dictated by weather and wildlife, with our experienced expedition team making the best of every opportunity. Whether exploring by ship, cruising in Zodiacs, or landing at remote beaches for adventures on foot, this will allow for extraordinary experiences the natural wonders and fascinating human cultures of this remarkable Arctic oasis. This voyage also includes the option to join sea kayaking excursions with an





expert guide

ITINERARY

Day 1: Paris, France

Arrive in Paris, France's effortlessly cool capital where haute couture meets a world-famous cafe culture, renowned art galleries, avant-garde gastronomy and iconic symbol of modernity, the Eiffel Tower. Make your way to your hotel, where you will spend the first night of the expedition. This evening, meet your fellow voyagers and some of our expedition guides over dinner at the hotel.

Day 2: Longyearbyen, Norway

After breakfast at the hotel, join our charter flight to the land of the Midnight Sun and the world's most northerly town and capital of Svalbard, Longyearbyen. With 'the North Pole just around the corner from the pub', as the locals like to say, Longyearbyen is the perfect gateway to our High Arctic adventure. There will be time this afternoon to explore Longyearbyen with its rich mining history and colourful buildings, shops and locals, before boarding Heritage Discoverer. The captain and expedition team will welcome you on board, and you will have time to settle into your accommodations and familiarise yourself with the ship. You are invited to join the expedition team in the Observation Lounge as we set our course for the islands of Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet, as our Arctic adventure begins.

Days 3 – 11: Svalbard

We have the luxury of nine days to explore the High Arctic wilderness of Svalbard, deep inside the Arctic Circle, on an authentic expedition cruise of one of the world's most remote frontiers. With long days of adventure under the Midnight Sun, we plan to explore and experience as much as possible of the two main islands, Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet, as well as the southeastern island of Edgeøya.

Spanning an enormous intricate coastline, the remote, rugged wilderness of north-west Spitsbergen combines the breathtaking natural beauty of dramatic glacier-carved fjords with 17th-century whaling camps, and High Arctic wildlife including Polar Bears and Walruses. Steep mountains, glaciers, fjords, offshore islands and arctic tundra make this a magical place to explore, with surprises possible around any corner.

We will land on remote shores, looking for Reindeer, Arctic Foxes, Walrus lounging on the beaches and the curious Rock Ptarmigan with its feathered legs and feet, the only bird able to live here all year round. Our guides will also be looking for large footprints in the sand and wisps of white fur, evidence of Polar Bears in the area. We will also look to enjoy the botanical



spectacle and splendour of the tundra in bloom.

For a few brief months, the snow and ice are replaced by a remarkable array of plant life, including dazzling mounds of Purple Saxifrage, Arctic Poppies which track the sun with radar-like flowers, and catkins of the tiny, High Arctic 'trees' of Arctic Willow - the world's northernmost woody plant. At sea, we will look for Blue, Sperm, Minke and Humpback Whales, drawn here at this time of year to feed in the rich ocean. In deep fjords like Hornsund, Bellsund and Liefdefjorden, majestic mountains are streaked with snow and ice, while massive glaciers, including Monacobreen and the 14th of July Glacier, tumble into the sea. These rivers of ice are alive with resounding creaks, cracks and groans during their gradual descent. Occasionally, gravity and this movement cause huge chunks of ice to calve off the glacier front, creating beautiful, blue-tinged floating fields of icebergs, which we will explore from our Zodiacs.

Heading further out, we plan to explore the ice edge, a magical place where ice floes and open water are in a constant state of flux. The ice here stretches all the way to the North Pole! We look forward to exploring this sparkling, ever changing world by Zodiac, an unforgettable experience. From the ship, we will be looking for Ringed and Bearded Seals resting on the ice floes. While it may look like a safe place to sleep, they can never fully drop their guard as this is also a favoured place for Polar Bears to hunt, using the floating ice as cover as they swim towards their prey.

Our expedition team will be looking for Polar Bears throughout our voyage - on land, at sea and on the ice, increasing our chances of viewing these magnificent animals in their natural habitat. Our exploration of the north will be dictated by the legendary pack ice. The warming waters of the Gulf Stream do not reach here, so the fjords and channels can often be clogged with ice through most of the year. However, we hope to be able to navigate Hinlopen Strait, a channel between the two main islands and a taste of Svalbard's harsher side. Permanent ice caps cover much of Nordaustlandet, with snow and ice blanketing the hills, often down to sea level. Any bare ground here is a Polar desert, where only the tiniest and hardiest plants survive. At this time of year, seabirds are incredibly abundant in Svalbard. There are literally millions of them, drawn to the rich oceanic feeding grounds and safe locations to raise their young. Places where vertical towering cliffs plunge into the ocean are home to thousands of breeding Guillemots, Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Little Auks and Puffins. With masses of birds on land, as well as swirling in the air above and swimming in the surrounding sea, a Zodiac cruise under one of these bird colonies is an almost overwhelming, multi-sensory wildlife experience.

While most of Svalbard is true wilderness, it also has a long history of human exploration and settlement. During our explorations, we will be looking out for indications of this through old hunters' cabins and historic whaling sites to share this human history with you. A highlight of which can be found deep inside beautiful Kongsfjorden at Ny-Ålesund, the world's most northerly settlement. This historic, former mining town and starting point for Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile's North Pole expeditions is now a famed international Arctic research hub.

Day 12: Longyearbyen – Paris



Early this morning, we will arrive back in Longyearbyen. After a final breakfast, we bid farewell to Heritage Discoverer and our expedition team and board our charter flight for Paris. In case of unexpected delays due to weather and/or port operations, we ask you not to book any onward travel from Paris until after 3pm.

Note: Wildlife imagery captured using long-focus telephoto lenses and in accordance with AECO and Svalbard Government regulations. During our voyage, circumstances may make it necessary or desirable to deviate from the proposed itinerary. This can include poor weather and opportunities for making unplanned excursions. Your Expedition Leader will keep you fully informed.

This tour offers a variety of activities and excursions. Your personal interests will determine which of these you wish to join. Please note that some activities and excursions will run at similar times, and it will not be possible to participate in both. Accordingly, refunds for excursions and missed landings are not available. Voyages are planned and scheduled pending final regulatory approval.



YOUR SHIP: HERITAGE DISCOVERER

YOUR SHIP: **Heritage Discoverer**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

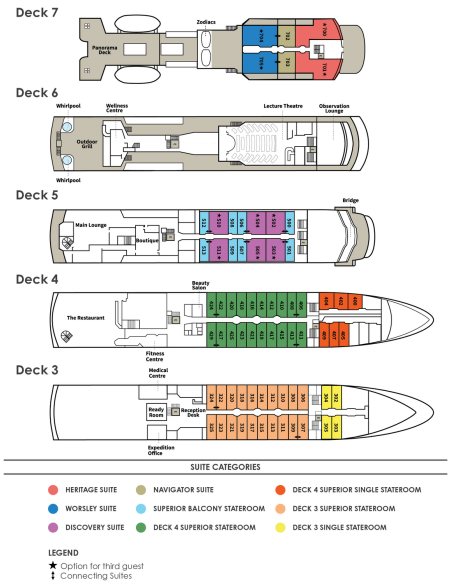
BUILT/REFURBISHED:



Heritage Discoverer is a purpose-built expedition ship designed to navigate some of the world's most remote and challenging regions, from Antarctica and the Northwest Passage to tropical islands and remote atolls. With a 1A ice-class rating and a history of exploration, she combines serious expedition capability with refined comfort. Following extensive renovations in 2018 and 2023, the ship offers a fresh and contemporary onboard experience while retaining the strength and functionality required for polar and remote cruising. Accommodating up to 130 guests, Heritage Discoverer features 70 ocean-view accommodations, including spacious suites with private balconies, as well as a range of inviting public spaces designed for relaxation, learning, and scenic viewing. Guests can enjoy gourmet dining across two restaurants, unwind in the Observation Lounge, Bar and Lounge, or Wellness Centre, and take advantage of amenities including a gym, sauna, massage room, and outdoor Jacuzzis. Supported by a 15-member Expedition Team and 14 Zodiacs, the ship delivers an immersive and comfortable expedition experience with personalised service throughout.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Deck 3 Single Stateroom



Deck 3 Superior Stateroom



Deck 4 Superior Single Stateroom



Deck 4 Superior Stateroom



Discovery Suite



Heritage Suite



Navigator Suite



Superior Balcony Stateroom





Worsley Suite





PRICING

01-Jul-2027 to 12-Jul-2027

Superior Balcony Stateroom	£11350 GBP pp
Deck 3 Single Stateroom	£11450 GBP pp
Deck 4 Superior Single Stateroom	£12700 GBP pp
Deck 3 Superior Stateroom	£9400 GBP pp
Deck 4 Superior Stateroom	£9800 GBP pp
Discovery Suite	£13300 GBP pp
Navigator Suite	£13700 GBP pp
Worsley Suite	£16050 GBP pp
Heritage Suite	£16800 GBP pp

11-Jul-2027 to 22-Jul-2027

Deck 3 Single Stateroom	£11450 GBP pp
Deck 4 Superior Single Stateroom	£12700 GBP pp
Deck 3 Superior Stateroom	£9400 GBP pp
Superior Balcony Stateroom	£11350 GBP pp
Deck 4 Superior Stateroom	£9800 GBP pp
Discovery Suite	£13300 GBP pp
Navigator Suite	£13700 GBP pp
Worsley Suite	£16050 GBP pp
Heritage Suite	£16800 GBP pp