

Spitsbergen: Realm of the Ice Bear

Starts and Ends in **Oslo, Norway, Europe** (SPI)

Day 1 Arrive in Oslo

Having made your way to Oslo, check in at our group hotel at Oslo Airport. Please visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk to collect your luggage cabin tags and to speak with our ground operations team, who may have information to share with you about pre-embarkation or to provide you with information about where to dine, withdraw cash or purchase last minute items from a local pharmacy or supermarket. The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense. Accommodation: Radisson Blu Airport Hotel, Oslo Gardermoen



Day 2 Fly to Longyearbyen, embarkation

This morning, please make sure your cabin luggage has cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel and take some time to relax before your afternoon charter flight. After check-out, walk the short distance to the airport for our flight to Longyearbyen, where embarkation begins. Upon arrival, you will be transferred directly to the pier to board the ship in the late afternoon. Settle into your cabin, attend essential safety briefings, and experience the excitement as we cast off and set sail.

Days 3–7 Spitsbergen

The island of Spitsbergen is the largest in the Svalbard Archipelago and offers Arctic wilderness at its best. The members of our experienced

Expedition Team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to tailor our day-to-day itinerary, choosing the best options, based on the prevailing weather, sea-ice conditions and the possibility of encounters with wildlife. Phenomenal fjords, magnificent mountain ranges, and a polar desert rich in fossils, set the stage for heroic tales of early exploration. See walrus hauled-out on sea ice or on beaches. On land, we stretch our legs on walks across tundra carpeted in brightly coloured wildflowers. We visit towering cliffs noisy with nesting guillemots and puffins, and scree slopes that hold Svalbard's largest little auk colonies. Most memorable will be the chance encounters with the majestic polar bear on pack ice. If you have chosen an optional activity such as kayaking, you will have an opportunity to enjoy that activity when conditions allow. For those who are enthusiastic to participate in a polar plunge, as soon as conditions are suitable, you will hear the announcement to prepare for an exhilarating dip – a memory you will savour for years to come.

Day 8 Disembark in Longyearbyen, fly to Oslo

During the early morning, we cruise into Longyearbyen and disembark at approximately 8.00 am. Farewell your Expedition Team and enjoy some free time before transferring to the airport for your return charter flight to Oslo to continue your journey. Note: the arrival time in Oslo is contingent on the approved allocated flight slot of our charter flight to Longyearbyen, which we expect to receive in February 2025.