

## FOUR ARCTIC ISLANDS : THE SOUTHBOUND JOURNEY

13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS ON BOARD

LONGYEARBYEN TO REYKJAVIK

**Experience the diversity of the Arctic in Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Greenland and Iceland.** Experience the vast wilderness and diversity of the Arctic on this thrilling voyage to four Arctic islands. We begin in the bustling city of Longyearbyen, from where we will explore the majestic high Arctic islands of Svalbard, home to an extraordinary diversity of Arctic wildlife, from walrus and reindeer to puffins and polar bears. Marvel at the pioneering history of this archipelago, where scientists work hard to conserve this natural paradise.

From Svalbard, we sail toward Jan Mayen, an isolated island crowned by Mt Beerenburg, the world's northernmost volcano, where fulmars, kittiwakes, and gulls throng the black volcanic cliffs. Ocean Albatros then continues to East Greenland, visiting the fascinating and friendly settlement of Ittoqqortoormiit before heading into Scoresbysund – Earth's largest fjord system. With immense glaciers, blooming tundra, and mountains rising straight out of the icy sea, Scoresbysund is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular locations anywhere in the Arctic.

Crossing the Denmark Strait, we arrive in Reykjavík, the vibrant capital of Iceland – the ideal gateway to explore the land of ice and fire.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience four vastly different Arctic islands
- Visit Ittoqqortoormiit, remote Inuit town in East Greenland
- Far into Scoresbysund, world's greatest fjord system
- Zodiac cruises in the fiords and nature walks on the tundra

### EXPEDITION DATES ABOARD OCEAN ALBATROS

| Board              | Disembark          |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| August 29, 2027    | September 10, 2027 |
| August 21, 2028    | September 2, 2028  |
| September 14, 2028 | September 26, 2028 |

#### Day 1, All aboard in Longyearbyen!

Arrive in Longyearbyen, Svalbard—the northernmost town on Earth. Despite its remote Arctic location, Longyearbyen offers warm Nordic hospitality. Upon arrival, you're greeted by crisp polar air, dramatic mountain views, and a polar bear warning sign reminding visitors of their wild new location. Your



expedition ship Ocean Albatros awaits you in the harbor; toast your departure from civilization as you sail into the Arctic wilderness, on course for adventure!

#### Day 2, Kongsfjorden Area

During the Arctic "night," we sail past Prins Karls Forland to the stunning Kongsfjord, framed by glaciers and the dramatic Three Crowns mountains. The first stop is Ny-Ålesund, Earth's northernmost settlement, known for its scientific stations and historic role as a base for legendary polar explorers like Amundsen and Nansen. This remote outpost continues to support vital research amid its breathtaking surroundings.

#### Day 3, Expedition Northwest Spitzbergen

Northwest Svalbard, a National Park since 1973, preserves a rich history of early Arctic exploration and whaling. First visited by William Barents in 1596, the area became a hub for Dutch and English whalers, whose haunting remnants, such as the blubber ovens and graves of young sailors at Smeerenburg, remain visible. Now heavily protected, the region has been reclaimed by nature, hosting Arctic flowers, seabirds, walrus, and polar bears, making it once again a pristine wilderness and haven for wildlife.

#### Day 4, Expedition South Svalbard

On our final day on Svalbard, our expedition enters the greener, warmer fjords of Bellsund and Hornsund, nourished by Atlantic currents. These fertile valleys support reindeer, Arctic foxes, nesting seabirds, and drifting icebergs from nearby glaciers. Rich in wildlife and history, the area offers highlights like Alkhjornet's bird cliffs and the historic sites of Calypsobyen and Bamsebu, making it one of Svalbard's most diverse and captivating regions.

#### Days 5-6, At Sea, en Route to Jan Mayen

Departing Svalbard, Ocean Albatros heads southwest across the Greenland Sea towards Jan Mayen. Cold currents drifting down from the Arctic Ocean mix with the last gasp of the Gulf Stream, creating vast biological productivity. During sea days, guests can enjoy fascinating lectures, indulgent spa treatments, or simply relax and watch seabirds from the ship's hot tubs.

**Day 7, Jan Mayen**

The active volcanic island of Jan Mayen is on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the 'spine' of the Atlantic Ocean. This enigmatic and isolated island is the only active volcano in Norway, and the northernmost active volcano on Earth. Jan Mayen is inhabited by only around 18 people, a mixture of scientists and Norwegian troops. The volcanic origin is visible all over with cinder cones, lava flows, and the Fuji-esque peak of Beerenberg looming above, while creeping tundra plants and squabbling seabirds eek out a living in the rugged cliffs.

**Day 8, At sea, en route to Scoresbysund**

From Jan Mayen, Ocean Albatros will sail on towards the coast of the largest island on Earth. The sea ice in East Greenland is some of the most persistent in the Arctic; even in midsummer, the coast can be icebound, creating the perfect habitat for ice-loving species such as polar bears and belugas. If we are lucky, we will catch a glimpse of this vast icy wilderness during our passage towards Scoresbysund.

**Day 9, Ittoqqortoormiit**

The only settlement in this region, Ittoqqortoormiit is among the most remote communities on Earth. While the establishment of the town by Danish authorities in 1925 was challenging, residents continue a subsistence hunting lifestyle, essential when supply ships arrive only once or twice per year. Ittoqqortoormiit is a town with a strong sense of community and traditional culture, hosting an excellent museum, a beautiful traditional church, and locals often welcome visitors wearing colourful traditional costumes. Ittoqqortoormiit is the perfect introduction to the culture and lifestyle of Greenland.

**Day 10, Expedition Scoresbysund**

Venturing deep into the maze of fjords and islands

that comprises Scoresbysund, it is easy to see why this region is spoken of with awe by even experienced explorers! The exact locations we visit in Scoresbysund will be dictated by Mother Nature - this far north, all human activity is subject to wind, sea and ice conditions. Options include the Bjørne Islands, a labyrinth of skerries which trap vast icebergs in their rocky net, the sweeping basalt mountains of Cape Brewster, and the abandoned remains of European and Inuit settlements. Wherever we visit in the depths of Scoresbysund, adventure is guaranteed!

**Day 11, Blosseville Coast**

The Ocean Albatros will sail south along Greenland's Blosseville Coast, a rugged landscape shaped by volcanic activity around 50 million years ago. First surveyed by explorer Ejnar Mikkelsen, this area has long been navigated by the Inuit. If conditions allow, we may land in this now-uninhabited region of breathtaking beauty.

**Day 12, At sea, en route to Reykjavik, Iceland**

During our time at sea approaching Reykjavik, relax and reflect on your thrilling Arctic adventure. Attend final lectures from the Expedition Team, relive your adventure at the voyage slideshow, and celebrate your voyage with new friends at the Captain's Farewell Cocktail Party.

**Day 13, Reykjavik, Iceland**

Hallgrímskirkja Church towers over Reykjavik, a vibrant city known for Nordic cuisine, unique museums, and excellent shopping. Such a bustling capital may feel strange after the remote wilderness of the Arctic! After a hearty breakfast, it is time to bid a fond farewell to the Crew and Expedition Team and descend the gangway back to dry land with memories of the voyage of a lifetime.

