

NORWAY'S WILD NORTH: LOFOTEN TO SVALBARD

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS ON BOARD

BODØ TO LONGYEARBYEN

Embark on a thrilling voyage through the wilds of Norway and Svalbard—the wildlife paradise of the High Arctic. This carefully crafted voyage begins in the bustling Arctic city of Bodø before entering the legendary Lofoten Archipelago, after which we will sail through the magnificent fjords of Norway to arrive at Tromsø, capital of the Arctic. Next, we explore the incredible bird colonies of Gjesværstappan before visiting legendary Nordkapp from the charming village of Skarsvåg. Our adventure continues as we strike out into the Arctic Ocean, exploring the wildlife-rich cliffs of Bear Island before arriving on Svalbard, Norway's High Arctic nature paradise. Our voyage concludes with four full, jaw-dropping days exploring this Arctic jewel before finishing in Longyearbyen, one of Earth's northernmost communities. From the fjords and fells of Norway to the glaciers and tundra of Svalbard, this is our most comprehensive Scandinavian itinerary ever!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Embark your expedition vessel and sail through the breathtaking fjords of Lofoten
- Stand at the edge of Europe at legendary Nordkapp
- Experience the birding paradise of Bear Island
- Explore the Arctic pack ice, an icy wildlife paradise at the top of the world
- Watch for wildlife, take the polar plunge, and uncover fascinating history on the icebound shores of Svalbard

EXPEDITION DATES ABOARD OCEAN ALBATROS

Board	Disembark
May 10, 2028	May 19, 2028

Day 1, Bodø, Norway: Embarkation

Gateway to the Arctic and surrounded by dramatic peaks, Bodø is a lively coastal city where modern Norwegian life meets the edge of the wilderness. Just outside town lies Saltstraumen, one of the strongest tidal currents in the world, drawing seabirds and marine life to its churning waters.

Your expedition vessel awaits in the harbor. After embarkation and a mandatory safety briefing and drill, join your Expedition Team on deck as we set sail north toward Norway's legendary Lofoten Archipelago, where your Arctic adventure begins.



Day 2, Lofoten (Reine & Leknes), Norway

Wake to the dramatic landscapes of Norway's legendary Lofoten Archipelago, where towering granite peaks rise straight from crystal-clear fjords and colorful fishing villages cling to the shoreline. Our first stop is Reine, often regarded as one of the most beautiful villages in Norway, its postcard-perfect setting framed by jagged mountains and tranquil water. We continue to Leknes, the vibrant heart of the archipelago, offering a taste of local culture and coastal tradition, with white-sand beaches and incredible hiking waiting to be explored beyond the edge of town.

Day 3, Tromsø

The largest city in the Scandinavian Arctic, Tromsø is the unofficial capital of North Norway and a hub for transport, education, and tourism. Built on an island and surrounded by dramatic mountains and fjords, the city is home to attractions such as the Fjellheisen Cable Car, the Arctic Cathedral, and the Polar Museum, which celebrates its rich expedition heritage. With vast wilderness just beyond the city limits, Tromsø offers endless opportunities for adventure.

Day 4, Gjesværstappan and Skarsvåg

Near the fishing village of Gjesvær is a collection of rocky skerries and islets famed throughout the world for their incredible birdlife. Grab your binoculars and join local boat captains to explore these incredible islands, home to everything from guillemots to white-tailed eagles. In the afternoon, we will come ashore at the tiny fishing village of Skarsvåg, the northernmost fishing village on Earth and gateway to the world-famous Nordkapp plateau—next stop, Svalbard!

Day 5, Bjørnøya/Bear Island

Despite its name, polar bears are only rare visitors to Bear Island (Bjørnøya in Norwegian)—but don't let that put you off! The precipitous sea cliffs on the island are home to enormous colonies of seabirds, especially fulmars, kittiwakes, and guillemots. Prowling Arctic foxes patrol the flatter areas of the island, so these birds cluster on the rocky cliffs, carefully tending their precious eggs and jostling for space. Join your Expedition Team aboard the *Zodiacs* to explore this magnificent sight from the water.

Day 6, South Svalbard

Our first landing in the magnificent Svalbard archipelago takes us into the lush green fjords of the south. Rich in wildlife and history, this region is home to sites such as Bamsebu and Calypsobyen, while grassy tundra meadows like Vårsolbukta provide grazing for Svalbard reindeer and barnacle geese. With a variety of possible landing sites, your Expedition Leader and Captain will choose the destination that offers the best introduction to the breathtaking High Arctic.

Day 7, Northwest Svalbard

Comprising the rugged northwestern coast of Spitsbergen, along with countless fjords, islands, and skerries, this region is made for exploration. Once one of the most heavily exploited environments on Earth, it was the hunting ground of English and Dutch whalers and Russian and Norwegian trappers, who decimated whales, walruses, bears, and foxes in pursuit of fortune. Today, nature has made a remarkable recovery, and the entire area is protected as Northwest Spitsbergen National Park—one of the Arctic's most spectacular and wildlife-rich regions.

Day 8, Into the Ice

North of Svalbard lies the vast, ever-shifting Arctic sea ice, one of Earth's largest habitats, stretching from Svalbard to Siberia and Alaska. At first glance it may seem barren, but look closer and this frozen seascape comes alive—from tiny cod-like fish beneath the ice, flocks of fulmars, eiders, and guillemots to resting seals and, if we're lucky, the legendary polar bear. Bundle up, grab your camera, and join your Expedition Team on deck as we venture into the ice at the top of the world.

Day 9, Kongsfjorden Region

With the midnight sun high in the morning sky, we sail into breathtaking Kongsfjorden, a dramatic fjord backed by the Three Crowns mountains. The only settlement here is Ny-Ålesund, one of the world's northernmost year-round communities. Once a coal-mining town, it later became the base for legendary explorers including Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile. Today, its international research stations play a vital role in advancing our understanding of the rapidly changing polar regions.

Day 10, Longyearbyen, Disembarkation

On the final morning of our expedition, we arrive in the charmingly unusual town of Longyearbyen, one of Earth's northernmost communities. Everything here feels superlative—including the local shops, cafés, and restaurants. After a fond farewell to the Expedition Staff, Officers, and Crew of *Ocean Albatros*, spend some time exploring this remarkable town with your fellow explorers before returning to the airport and the Norwegian mainland with memories of the Arctic adventure of a lifetime.

