

# ULTIMATE ARCTIC ODYSSEY: SVALBARD, LOFOTEN, EAST GREENLAND & ICELAND

18 DAYS / 17 NIGHTS ON BOARD

LONGYEARBYEN TO REYKJAVIK

**Experience Polar Latitudes Expeditions' most comprehensive Arctic expedition ever!** Spanning six Arctic regions across three countries, this is the ultimate Arctic voyage and a must for all those travelers wishing to explore the very best of the Arctic in one swoop. We begin in the high Arctic paradise of Svalbard, exploring pristine National Parks and boundless wilderness, before crossing to Bear Island and on to Lofoten, world-famous for its jaw-dropping fjords, mountains, and golden sands. From there, we sail the wild North Atlantic past Jan Mayen — Earth's northernmost active volcano — to the east coast of Greenland, where we discover the wonders of Northeast Greenland National Park and the hardy Inuit village of Ittoqqortoormiit, before concluding our odyssey in Reykjavik, Scandinavia's quirkiest capital.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Six Arctic destinations, three countries, in one Arctic Odyssey
- Svalbard's polar bears, walrus, and high Arctic wildlife
- Lofoten's dramatic fjords, sawtooth peaks, and fishing villages
- Jan Mayen — Earth's northernmost active volcano
- Northeast Greenland National Park, the world's largest protected wilderness

## EXPEDITION DATES ABOARD DISCOVERER

Board	Disembark
Sep 16, 2027	Oct 3, 2027

### Day 1, All aboard in Longyearbyen!

Arrive in Longyearbyen, Svalbard—the northernmost town on Earth. 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 *Discoverer* awaits you in the harbor; toast your departure from civilization as you sail into the Arctic wilderness, on course for adventure!

### Day 2, Kongsfjorden Region

As the Arctic sun rises, we sail into the Kongsfjord, a vast fjord system framed by the dramatic Three Crowns mountains and their glaciers. Here we visit Ny-Ålesund—Earth's northernmost settlement, once a base for polar explorers like Amundsen and Nansen, and now home to a plethora of international research stations.



### Day 3, Northwest Svalbard

Northwest Svalbard preserves a rich history of early Arctic exploration and whaling, and has been protected as a National Park since 1973. After centuries of whaling and hunting, the region has been reclaimed by nature and is once again a pristine wilderness haven thanks to being heavily protected in law, and holds a rich ecosystem of Arctic flowers, seabirds, walrus and polar bears amongst many other species.

### Days 4, South Svalbard

The green fjords of southwest Svalbard, such as Bellsund and Hornsund, are nourished by mild Atlantic waters, which keep the area mostly ice-free. These fertile valleys backed by creaking glaciers and drifting icebergs support Arctic foxes, nesting seabirds, and herds of tiny Svalbard reindeer. Rich in wildlife and history, highlights include the historic sites of Bamsebu and Calypsobyen, and the bustling bird cliffs of Gnålodden, making it one of Svalbard's most productive and interesting regions.

### Day 5 Bjørnøya/Bear Island

Situated halfway between Svalbard and the Norwegian mainland lies Bjørnøya (Bear Island in English). This lonely outpost ironically holds no polar bear population, but the precipitous cliffs are a haven for bird species, including puffins, guillemots, razorbills, and fulmars. Join your Expedition Team to experience this wildlife paradise from the best vantage point – on the water!

### Day 6, At Sea, en route to Lofoten

As we depart the high Arctic, watch the mercury rise as *Discoverer* sails southwards towards the Lofoten Islands. Days at sea are never dull, and are the perfect opportunity to enrich and refresh the mind and body.

### Day 7, Svølvær, Norway

Strung across bridges between a plethora of tiny islands, Svølvær is a tiny Arctic Venice. This delightful little town is the largest in Lofoten and offers the

quintessential Lofoten experience: brightly coloured wooden shacks, cod hang to dry on wooden racks, small boats bobbling gently in the harbor, and plenty of hiking opportunities!

#### **Day 8, Reine, Norway**

Few places manage to make a mere road seem like a fairytale, but Reine manages it. This small village, connected by bridges and causeways between the green islands suspended on the glassy ocean, is one of the best hiking spots in the world. So put on your hiking boots, and let's go explore!

#### **Day 9, At sea, en route to Jan Mayen**

Leaving mainland Norway behind, we strike out into the Greenland Sea, en route to Jan Mayen. Here, the mixing of water masses promotes exceptional wildlife activity. Keep your binoculars handy!

#### **Day 10, Jan Mayen**

Creeping tundra plants (many of them hundreds of years old) and flocks of squabbling seabirds eke out a living on the rugged cliffs of the island. Lava flows and cinder cones across the island are testament to the volcano, the Fuji-esque peak of which (Mt Beerenberg) looms above – surely some of the most dramatic scenery anywhere in the Arctic!

#### **Day 11, At sea, en route to Ittoqqortoormit**

Sailing towards East Greenland, we venture into frigid water drifting down from the North Pole. Now at the end of the Arctic summer, sunlight is slipping away and nights are distinctly frosty and, but the return of darkness offers the chance to see the majestic Northern Lights – so be sure to venture outside after dark!

#### **Day 12, Ittoqqortoormiit, Greenland**

Ittoqqortoormiit is the only settlement in this vast region and among the most remote communities on Earth. With an excellent museum, a beautiful traditional church, and locals who often greet visitors in colourful traditional dress, Ittoqqortoormiit is the perfect introduction to Greenlandic culture and community.

#### **Day 13-16, Northeast Greenland National Park**

From Ittoqqortoormiit, we enter the Northeast Greenland National Park — the world's largest protected land area, spanning nearly a million square kilometres and encompassing the northernmost land on Earth. The region was once home to nomadic Inuit hunters, but today is uninhabited save for a few small Danish military bases. Our voyage through the Park will be a true polar expedition: due to the unpredictable Arctic conditions and extreme isolation of the area, our exact destinations are flexible and dictated by weather, wind, sea, and ice.

#### **Day 17, At sea, en route to Reykjavik**

On our final day at sea, take your final opportunities to watch for marine life, or join your Expedition Team in the Theatre and soak up their incredible knowledge.

#### **Day 17, Reykjavik, Iceland: Disembarkation**

Hallgrímskirkja Church towers over Reykjavik, the vibrant Icelandic capital – it may feel strange after so long in the lonely 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.

