

SVALBARD CIRCUMNAVIGATION: THE ULTIMATE ARCTIC QUEST

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS ON BOARD

LONGYEARBYEN TO LONGYEARBYEN

A true Arctic expedition into a land of magnificent extremes. From the mountainous fjords of the south to the north polar pack ice, from the wildlife hotspots of northwest Svalbard to the polar deserts of Hinlopen Strait, this thrilling expedition offers the complete Arctic experience. We will explore this magnificent archipelago by land and by sea, venturing into one of the largest protected areas in the Arctic. How far north we reach, and the exact route of the voyage, will depend on the whims of Mother Nature – as with any true polar expedition!

On board Ocean Albatros, you will experience areas of Svalbard not easily accessible by other means of exploration as we carefully navigate around this breathtaking archipelago.

During the short summer, wildlife such as reindeer, geese, and Arctic foxes are busy amassing energy for the icy polar winter. The cliffs shimmer with life as every surface is populated with countless birds. On shore, walrus enjoy the short Arctic summer as seals, whales, and polar bears forage along the edge of the pack ice. Our fleet of Zodiacs allows us to exploit every opportunity for exploration – from historical sites, to glacier fronts, to remote lonely beaches, no area is off-limits to us!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Our longest and most in-depth Svalbard expedition
- Visit the world's northernmost community, the scientific town of Ny-Ålesund
- See charismatic wildlife including walrus, reindeer, and polar bears
- Venture into the Arctic pack ice – next stop, Alaska!
- Explore on foot, by kayak, and by Zodiac – see Svalbard from every angle!

EXPEDITION DATES ABOARD OCEAN ALBATROS

Board	Disembark
Jun 28, 2026	Jul 7, 2026
Jul 7, 2026	Jul 16, 2026

Day 1, All aboard in Longyearbyen!

Begin your journey in Norway and 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 Region, Northwest Svalbard

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, Northwest Svalbard

North West 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. Their 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, Into the Ice

The Arctic ice pack north of Svalbard is a vast, ever-changing wilderness, shifting seasonally and stretching beyond the North Pole to Alaska and Siberia. Though seemingly barren, this icy habitat supports diverse wildlife, from fish and seabirds, to seals, belugas, and bowhead whales, and is the preferred hunting ground of polar bears. The Ocean Albatros navigates through

ice channels to explore this remote environment, hunting for wildlife, ending the day cruising toward the Hinlopen Strait between the islands of Spitsbergen and Nordaustlandet.

Day 5, Northeast Svalbard

From the Arctic ice, the journey continues into Hinlopen Strait, where towering cliffs host some of the world's largest seabird colonies, crowded with guillemots and fulmars amid predatory skuas and gulls. The unearthly polar deserts of northeast Svalbard are surrounded by iceberg-studded seas, where vibrant marine life thrives. Walrus rest on beaches, belugas frolic in pods, and baleen whales feast offshore, showcasing Svalbard's rich biodiversity despite the harsh Arctic conditions.

Day 6, East Svalbard

In Eastern Svalbard, cold polar waters meet the weak last gasp of the Gulf Stream, and the ocean remains icy even under the midnight sun. On Edgeøya, evidence of past large-scale walrus and beluga hunting contrasts with today's strict wildlife protections and extensive nature reserves. Highlights we may visit include the geological marvels and walrus colonies at Andrétangen and Kapp Lee, or the vast bird colonies at Sundneset, before we return toward the main island of Spitzbergen via Sørkapp.

Days 7-8, South Svalbard

After rounding the southern tip of Spitsbergen, the 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.

Day 9, West/Central Spitzbergen

During the night we will enter Forlandssundet, the strait which separates Prince Karls Forland from Spitsbergen. Our destinations may include Poolepynten (Poole Point), a small headland named after the British whaler Jonas Poole. Today the area is inhabited by herds of walrus who can be seen (and smelled!) from a distance. The large mammals flaunt their tusks and whiskers, as well as their considerable bulk. The remote beaches, rugged mountains, and tundra plains of the region positively beg to be explored! From Forlandssundet, we will return southwards during the afternoon into Isfjorden, all the while on the lookout for wildlife and spectacular views as we return to civilization.

Day 10, Longyearbyen disembarkation

On the final morning of our expedition, we arrive back in Longyearbyen. Even this small town will feel like a metropolis after days of isolation in the wilderness of the Arctic!

After exploring Longyearbyen and biddin a fond farewell to the crew and fellow Arctic explorers, return to Svalbard Airport and join your flight back to the Norwegian mainland- with memories to last a lifetime.

