

# THE ARCTIC - EAST SPITSBERGEN & BEAR ISLAND | ORTELIUS




## INTRODUCTION

### GET A USD\$1,000 DISCOUNT!\*

Spitsbergen's East Coast is a fantastic place to see stunningly rugged landscapes and exotic Arctic wildlife such as minke whales, Arctic foxes, and polar bears. Speaking of bears, this exploratory cruise also includes a stop at Bear Island, a birder's paradise where large colonies of Brännich's guillemots, kittiwakes, and fulmars breed on shoreline cliffs over dazzling drift ice.

*\*Discount of USD\$1,000 is available to new bookings only, on selected departure dates only. Cabins subject to availability at the booking of booking. Discount cannot be combined with other promotions and/or discounts. Not redeemable for cash. Prices may be based on quad share. Please contact us for more details and availability. Offer valid until 31 May 2024 unless withdrawn prior.*

## ITINERARY

<b>TRIP CODE</b>
ACOWOES
<b>DEPARTURE</b>
02/07/2024
<b>DURATION</b>
9 Days
<b>LOCATIONS</b>
The Arctic, Spitsbergen, Bear Island


## THE ARCTIC - EAST SPITSBERGEN & BEAR ISLAND | ORTELIUS

### DAY 1: Embark in Longyearbyen

You touch down in Longyearbyen, the administrative center of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. Enjoy strolling around this former mining town, whose parish church and Svalbard Museum make for fascinating attractions. Though the countryside appears stark, more than a hundred species of plant have been recorded in it. In the early evening, the ship sails out of Isfjorden, where we might spot the first minke whale of the voyage.



### DAY 2: Hornsund - Spitsbergen

We start the day by quietly cruising the side fjords of the spectacular Hornsund area in southern Spitsbergen, enjoying the scenery of towering mountain peaks. The mountain of Hornsundtind rises to 1,431 meters (4,695 feet), while the peak of Bautaen testifies to why early Dutch explorers gave this island the name Spitsbergen, meaning "pointed mountains." There are 14 magnificent glaciers in the area, and we have a fair chance of encountering seals and polar bears. The nearby cliffs of Sofiakammen are also home to thousands of pairs of nesting kittiwakes and little auks, and in the evening, we might see thousands of harp seals rutting on ice floes at Sørkapp.



### DAY 3: Bear Island

We arrive at the southeastern end of Bear Island, a great place for viewing large seabird colonies. The nearby nesting cliffs are part of an extensive nature reserve where large ships are not allowed to bring passengers on shore. Afterward we'll sail northeast into Sorhamna, where we can get closer to the seabird cliffs. Chiefly Brünnichs guillemots, kittiwakes, and fulmars nest here. Just north of this, in Kvalrossbukta, we will land and see the remains of a whaling station from early in the previous century. We might also make a landing in a shallow valley, such as Rendalen, and look for (at a safe distance) great skuas, large seabirds known to be fiercely territorial. As we continue north along the east side of Bear Island, we may still encounter dazzling shoals of drift ice.



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## DAY 4: Hopen Island

On the way to Hopen, we may encounter sea ice with rutting harp seals. We land at the southern end of Hopen Island, at Koefoetodden, where you can see the remains of 17th-century whaling sites. Through nearby Bekkeskaret is an easy route to Kvasstoppen (190 meters, 620 feet) and the remains of a plane from World War II. Hopen Radio station is the most remote manned weather station in all of Svalbard.



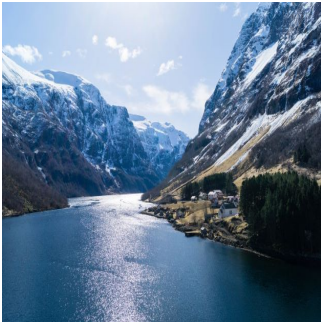
## DAY 5: South Edgeøya-

Sailing along the western side of the Tusenöyane (where we’re not allowed to land in summer), you may see polar bears and walruses as we approach Risetreppen. This beautiful canyon features an accessible kittiwake colony. During our walk, we may encounter reindeer on the lush tundra.



## DAY 6: Russebukta

At Ardalstangen, we go on shore in an area with lakes and different species of waterfowl. Nearby in Habenichtbukta, we can look from some distance to a wintering site of 18th-century Pomor trappers, who often stayed for years in the same place. Later in the afternoon, we land at the south side of Russebukta, near a tundra with reindeer and great walking opportunities.



## DAY 7: Stellingfjellet, & South Spitsbergen

Today we aim to land at the mountain of Stellingfjellet, near the largest colony of Brünnich’s guillemots in Spitsbergen. Later in the day, we will make landings at the rarely visited coast of south Spitsbergen, at the bay of Isbukta.



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## DAY 8: Bell Sund

We continue our voyage in Bell Sund, one of the largest fjord systems in Svalbard. The ocean currents make this area slightly warmer than other areas in the archipelago, which shows in the relatively lush vegetation. Here there are excellent opportunities to enjoy both history and wildlife. One possibility is Ahlstrandhalvøya, at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden, where piles of beluga skeletons can be found. These remains of 19th-century whale slaughter are a haunting reminder of the consequences of rampant exploitation. Fortunately, belugas were not hunted into extinction, and you might even see one here. Alternately, we may land at Millarodden at north side of Bell Sund. Here we can see a walrus haul-out site and possibly make an excursion on the tundra of Ingeborgfjellet, with its thousands of little auks.



## DAY 9: Disembarkation - Longyearbyen

Our adventure comes to an end exactly where it started. Today you disembark in Longyearbyen, taking away memories that will accompany you wherever your next journey lies.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

### Accommodation

Cabin on board ship



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Inclusions	<b>Inclusions</b> Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea. All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac. Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff. Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes. Transfers and baggage handling between the airport, hotels and ship only for those passengers on the group flights to and from Longyearbyen. All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme. AECO fees and governmental taxes. Comprehensive pre-departure material.	<b>TRIP CODE</b>  ACOWOES
	<b>Exclusions</b> Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights other than specified Pre- and post- land arrangements. Passport and visa expenses. Government arrival and departure taxes. Meals ashore unless otherwise specified Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended). Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges. The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided). Additional overnight accommodation Adventure Options other than specified	<b>DEPARTURE</b>  02/07/2024
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Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)	
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.	
Notes	Prices are based on per person, and vary from quad, triple, and twin cabins. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.	
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality and availability at time of booking & currency fluctuation	

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### SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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