

WHALE SAFARI AND BEAR ISLAND



INTRODUCTION

This completely new expedition will introduce you to the wild shores of Northern Norway and the unforgettable arctic sights of Svalbard. Departing from the port town of Vlissingen (Netherlands) you will cruise north as you explore the rugged Norway coast as stay watchful for the spouts of minke, blue or fin whales. From the coast of Norway you will explore the magnificent and rugged Bear Island which is home to massive colonies of seabirds including kittiwakes and Brunnichs guillemots. The remains of former whaling stations can also be found here. As you enter the Svalbard archipelago you will be exposed to immense glaciers, rugged tundra and some of the largest fjord systems in the world.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Vlissingen

We board the vessel at midday in the Dutch port town of Vlissingen, headed north. Far north.

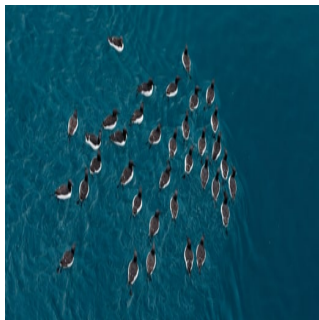


TRIP CODE
ACOWWB
DEPARTURE
26/05/2023
DURATION
12 Days
LOCATIONS
Spitsbergen and Norwegian Coast


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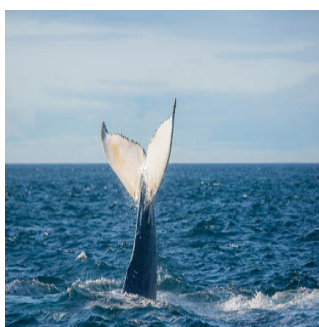
DAY 2: At Sea

Crossing the North Sea and sailing by Dogger Bank, we stand an excellent chance of spotting minke whales, white-beaked dolphins, and harbour porpoises. Several other cetaceans, including orcas (killer whales), might also be seen in these waters.



DAY 3: Norwegian Coast - Day 3 to 4

We continue north along the Norwegian coast, sometimes close to shore and sometimes more distant. During these days at sea, keep a close lookout for spouts of water that may announce the arrival of minke, fin, orca, or blue whales. Especially near the famous fishing grounds of Froya and Sklinna Banken, we have a decent chance of spotting these species. As we progress farther into the northern latitudes, you will notice the daylight lasting longer and longer.



DAY 5: Bodo near Saltstraumen

Passing the Arctic Circle and sailing by Skomvaer and Rost, we may see several species of large bird around the mountains of southern Lofoten. Meanwhile we'll sail among a multitude of small islands in the Norwegian municipality of Bodo, the center of the Nordland province, not far from the famous strait of Saltstraumen. More passengers will join our voyage in Bodo.



DAY 6: Search for Whales at Andoya

Today we sail close to the islands of Andoya and Bleiksoya, where we can see a beautiful seabird colony before positioning our ship. We'll stop at the head of a submarine canyon roughly 10 km (6.2 miles) west of the northern end of Andoya. In this active area, sperm whales are known to emerge from depths of up to 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) after half an hour underwater.



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DAY 7: Barents Sea

As we look for more whales and seabirds, we sail north into the Barents Sea. Here we get into the low Arctic waters, where the weather and sea can sometimes be rough. But the conditions will be worth it, as we should still be able to see many birds on their migration to the islands of Svalbard.



DAY 8: 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 sail. But with our Zodiacs, we might be able to cruise near colonies made up chiefly of Brünnichs guillemots and kittiwakes. Afterward we'll sail northeast into Sorhamna, where we can get even closer to the seabird cliffs. Just north of this, in Kvalrossbukta, we will see the remains of a whaling station from early in the previous century. We might also make a landing in a shallow valley 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 encounter dazzling shoals of drift ice.



DAY 9: Sorkapp

Today we sail along and through sea ice drifting with the east Spitsbergen current. Near Sorkapp we may sail into Storfjorden to the east of Spitsbergen, where we have a good chance of seeing harp seals from the White Sea molting and lounging on the sea ice. Bearded seal sightings are also possible here, and the ice edge is a good area to look for fin whales.



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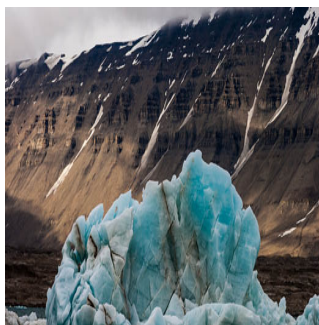
DAY 10: Hornsundtind

If the sea ice is favorable, we'll start the day by cruising the side fjords of the Hornsund area, taking in all the towering peaks: Hornsundtind rises 1,431 meters (4,695 feet), and Bautaen is a perfect illustration of why early Dutch explorers named the island Spitsbergen, meaning "pointed mountains." There are 14 sizable glaciers in this spot as well as opportunities for spotting seals, beluga whales, and polar bears.



DAY 11: Bellsund Fjord

Today we'll continue to 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 leads to relatively lush vegetation. Here there are excellent opportunities to enjoy both history and wildlife. A possibility is Ahlstrandhalvoya, at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden, where piles of beluga skeletons can be found. These remains of 19th-century whale slaughter are a sad reminder of unrestrained exploitation. Fortunately, belugas were not hunted into extinction, and we have a good chance of coming across a pod. As an alternative, we might cruise the side fjords of Bellsund, exploring tundra where reindeer like to feed and rock slopes where little auks often nest.



DAY 12: Disembarkation in Longyearbyen

Every adventure, no matter how great, must eventually come to an end. We disembark in Longyearbyen, taking home memories that will accompany us wherever the next journey lies. But if you're still craving additional chances to spot polar bears, stay on board for our seven-night North Spitsbergen voyage, "in search of polar bears & pack ice."



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

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Inclusions	All cabin accommodation on board vessel All meals whilst on board Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition crew All shore excursions and landings by zodiac 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. Comprehensive pre-departure material EXCLUSIONS Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights Pre and Post land arrangements Transfers to and from the vessel outside of Spitsbergen Passport and visa expenses Travel insurance The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available on request. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather, ice and sea conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability. Please note prices are subject to change at the time of booking.

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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

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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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