Itinerary

9 Day Svalbard in Summer – Under the Midnight Sun

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Oslo ~ Longyearbyen

After your flight from Oslo, your Arctic adventure begins in Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost town. This remote settlement, surrounded by breathtaking wilderness, is a fascinating blend of colourful houses, rich history, and rugged landscapes. With more snowmobiles than people, Longyearbyen offers a glimpse into life on the edge of the Arctic.

If time allows, take a stroll through town to soak in its unique atmosphere, visit local museums, or simply enjoy the crisp Arctic air. In the evening, unwind at your leisure before embarking on your expedition.

MEALS: Nil

OVERNIGHT: 4 Star Hotel, Longyearbyen

Day 2: Longyearbyen - Embark Ship

After breakfast, take the opportunity to explore Longyearbyen, a charming frontier town with a fascinating history and stunning Arctic surroundings. The town is easy to navigate on foot, allowing you to soak in its unique atmosphere at your own pace. As you stroll down the main street, keep an eye out for Svalbard reindeer, which often wander through town. Unlike other wild reindeer, these ones are surprisingly tame and curious.

Before boarding your ship in the afternoon to continue your Arctic journey, you'll join an included excursion that provides insight into this remarkable polar region, known for its rich wildlife and dramatic landscapes. If you'd like to explore even further, consider joining our optional Pre-Programme to discover more of Longyearbyen's stunning surroundings.

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fram

Days 3-4: Hornsund and Bellsund

As your expedition cruise continues south, you'll explore the breathtaking fjords of Hornsund and Bellsund, two of Svalbard's most scenic and wildlife-rich areas.

In Hornsund, vibrant Arctic vegetation gives way to towering mountains and dramatic glaciers. From the deck, keep a lookout for seals and whales swimming in the icy waters, and marvel at the sight of glaciers

calving into the sea. The towering peak of Mount Hornsundtind dominates the landscape, adding to the fjord's stunning beauty.

Next, we head to Bellsund, a region known for its rugged cliffs and abundant birdlife. Large colonies of auks, guillemots, and Northern Fulmars nest along the rocky ledges, while Arctic foxes and Svalbard reindeer roam the tundra below. Here, you'll also find remnants of early mining settlements, offering a glimpse into Svalbard's human history. Learn about Wanny Woldstad, the first female trapper in the region, whose story is one of determination and survival in the harsh Arctic environment.

As always, our activities will depend on the weather and ice conditions. Your Expedition Team will carefully assess the best opportunities for exploration each day, ensuring a memorable and immersive Arctic experience.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fram

Days 5-6: Northwest Spitsbergen National Park

Your Arctic adventure continues as we sail into Northwest Spitsbergen National Park, a remote and pristine wilderness where towering mountains, vast glaciers, and offshore islands create a breathtaking landscape. Under the glow of the Midnight Sun, we'll explore this dramatic region, making our way through Magdalenefjorden and Sørgattet, the southern entrance to Smeerenburgfjord.

Over the next two days, we'll immerse ourselves in the rugged beauty of this national park, where Arctic wildlife thrives. As we navigate through the icy waters, we'll keep watch for seals, walruses, and Svalbard reindeer roaming the tundra. At this time of year, much of the shore ice has melted, allowing us to reach areas that are inaccessible at other times. It's also peak whale season in the archipelago, offering excellent chances of spotting humpback, blue, and sperm whales as they migrate through the region. With luck, we may even catch a glimpse of a polar bear, the elusive ruler of the Arctic, patrolling the sea ice in search of food.

The cliffs above are alive with thousands of Arctic seabirds, including Little Auks, Arctic Terns, skuas, Eider Ducks, and Barnacle Geese. As we explore, you'll also gain insight into the area's historic whaling past, when whalers once sought fortune in these remote waters. Each day will be different, with new opportunities for exploration. Whether it's a landing onshore, kayaking among the ice, or cruising in small expedition boats, your Captain and Expedition Leader will select the best activities based on the day's conditions. Be ready for adventure.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fram

Day 7: Attempting the Ice Edge

Today, if conditions allow, we will sail north beyond the 80th parallel, venturing to the ever-changing ice edge at the boundary of the polar ice cap. This remote and dynamic region, where the frozen Arctic meets the open sea, is a breathtaking landscape of drifting pack ice and floating ice floes.

From the deck, we'll have excellent opportunities to spot seals and walruses resting on the ice, their presence adding to the sense of isolation and wonder. If conditions permit, we'll lower our small expedition boats into the water for an up-close experience, allowing us to explore this pristine environment from a truly unique perspective.

However, reaching the ice edge is never guaranteed, as its position shifts with seasons and weather conditions. During the summer months (May to August), the ice gradually retreats further north, meaning it may be beyond our reach. If this happens, we will instead explore the deep fjords, massive glaciers, and rugged coastline of Svalbard, which offer equally spectacular sights.

For those travelling in late July and August, this is also the season when Arctic wildflowers bloom, transforming the tundra into a vibrant landscape of colour—a striking contrast to the icy surroundings.

No matter the conditions, today promises to be an unforgettable part of your Arctic adventure.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fram

Day 8: Ny-Ålesund

Today, we visit Ny-Ålesund, one of the world's northernmost settlements, surrounded by breathtaking Arctic landscapes. This remote town, once a mining community, played a key role in polar exploration—it was from here that Roald Amundsen launched his historic expedition north in the airship Norge. Today, Ny-Ålesund has transformed into a global research hub, where scientists from around the world study climate change and Arctic ecosystems.

As we explore the area, you'll notice that Wi-Fi and Bluetooth must be switched off due to the nearby Norwegian Mapping Authority's geodetic station. This is the perfect chance to disconnect from technology and fully immerse yourself in the serenity of the Arctic.

Beyond the town, we'll navigate through the stunning Krossfjord and Kongsfjord, where towering glaciers meet rugged coastlines. If conditions allow, we'll launch our small expedition boats for a closer look at the fjords, go ashore for a hike, or cruise past majestic glaciers calving into the sea.

Be ready for adventure, as each moment in this untouched wilderness brings new opportunities for exploration.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fram

Day 9: Longyearbyen – Disembark Ship ~ Oslo

Your Arctic adventure comes to an end today as we return to Longyearbyen, the northernmost town in the world. After an unforgettable journey through Svalbard's breathtaking landscapes, you'll transfer to the airport for your flight to Oslo.

As you depart, you'll take with you a deeper understanding of the Arctic—its wildlife, history, polar ice, and climate change. Most importantly, you'll leave with lasting memories of an incredible expedition filled with remarkable experiences and breathtaking sights.

If you’re not quite ready to say goodbye, consider extending your Arctic adventure with our optional post-programme, offering more time to explore this extraordinary region.

MEALS: Breakfast