

Into the Arctic

78° North with Alan Chambers

Join leading polar explorer Alan Chambers on a tour of remote Spitsbergen, in the Svalbard Archipelago. You will explore this remote Arctic outpost on skis, by dog sled, and by snowmobile, in this 5-day guided tour which includes a two-day expedition onto the Polar ice. Our Into the Arctic itinerary works perfectly as either a precursor to a North Pole expedition or as a standalone adventure.



Day 0	Depart London to Oslo/Longyearbyen	BB
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Depart London Heathrow, either in the morning to arrive Longyearbyen the same day or in the evening with a night in Oslo.

Day 01	Arrive Longyearbyen – Briefing and town visit	HB
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Arrive Longyearbyen, where your driver and transfer car will meet you at the airport for the short drive to the Spitsbergen Guesthouse, on the edge of town. Check-in, rest and have lunch (to your own account) before setting off on an afternoon bus and walking tour of Longyearbyen.

The tour is a chance to gain a greater understanding of life in this most remote northern outpost. You'll visit the town museum and learn about the history and climate of the archipelago. You'll be indoors for much of the tour and the sightseeing around town is by bus, so you needn't get out the polar gear just yet!

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

In the evening, there will be a short briefing about the dog sled expedition scheduled for the next morning. Dinner is to your own account in town.



Day 02 Longyear Glacier, Ice Cave & Dog Sledding

HB

After breakfast, you will be collected from the Spitsbergen Guesthouse and driven to the dog kennels (12km from Longyearbyen). Once there, you'll be fitted for outer thermal clothing before setting off. Each sled will take two guests, allowing you to try riding passenger and mushing.

Late morning, you stop at a beautiful ice cave hidden within a glacier—take an hour to explore the cave whilst the dogs rest. During the summer, the ice cave becomes a bubbling meltwater river, while in the winter it is completely frozen over, revealing beautiful ice formations.

After exploring the cave, enjoy a light lunch. Depending on the weather, lunch may be served inside a heated tent until the dogs are ready to move again. By the time you're finished, they will be well-rested and eager to head back down to the dog yard – and so too, we hope, will you! The return journey is mostly downhill, but you will keep to a steady pace, with time to enjoy the Arctic scenery.

Return to the guesthouse. In the evening, there will be a clothing and kit check with Alan Chambers in preparation for the next day's expedition. Dinner to your own account in town.



Day 03 Depart on Polar Expedition with Alan Chambers

HB

Conveniently located near the guesthouse is Alan's polar store. Before you set off on your two-day expedition onto the ice, you'll need to load and provision the sleds for the adventure ahead. Snacks and dehydrated meals will be provided.



Alan will help you fit your harness and explain the skills of sledge hauling over the ice. Your skis will be lined with skins so that you can travel safely over any slopes. Don't be alarmed by the quantity of provisions that you're expected to carry—with the right equipment, you will be amazed at the load that one person can pull.

Once all of the equipment is loaded, you'll leave town in a jeep and drive east towards Camp Barentz. From there you will ski and sledge haul into the remote Janssondalen, where you set up your Arctic camp under Alan's guidance. For the next two days and one night you will sledge-haul and camp out on the glacier, in the process experiencing the sort of conditions that are to be encountered on our North Pole expeditions.

At the end of the day's trek you'll have a lesson in putting up tents on ice, building snow walls and securing the snow vallances. Then it's time to prepare the evening meal—Alan will show you how to manage the stoves safely and to heat up the rations for your Polar supper! Whern you're ready, it's time for bed—the provided sleeping bags are heavy duty so as to keep you warm even at -50c!



Day 04 Polar Expedition

HB

After a night on the ice, wake to an early breakfast and set off for the return journey to Longyearbyen. The exact time you arrive back at the Spitsbergen Guesthouse will depend on the conditions on the glacier and also on the fitness levels of the group, but expect to arrive late afternoon after a full day on the ice. This evening, a celebratory drink and dinner in town.



Day 05 Snowmobile Expedition, Elveneset; Flight Home

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After an early breakfast, meet with the group and then transfer to the start-point for your snowmobile expedition. Prior to starting there will be a short introduction to snowmobile driving from your chief snowmobile guide.

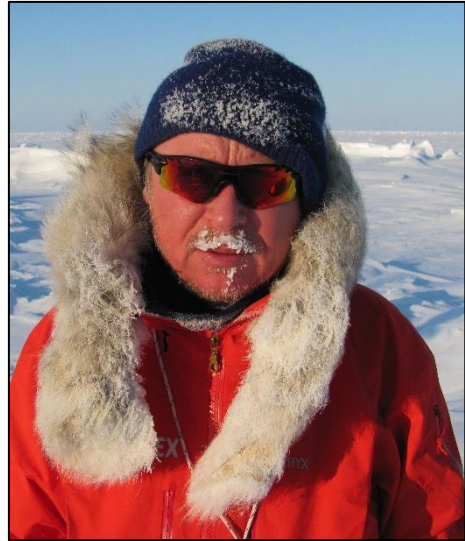
This a fantastic adventure, suitable for those with no previous snowmobile experience. During the expedition you will cover approx. 70km of Arctic terrain all the while enjoying phenomenal views of Tempelfjord and the mighty Tempel Mountain. The tour takes you through varied terrain, but isn't technically demanding. Svalbard's impressive landscapes will be on display throughout, and at the turning point, Elveneset, the guides will offer warm drinks and interesting local stories before you head back towards Longyearbyen. The tour lasts approx. 4 hours in total.

Please note: to drive you should have a valid car or motorcycle driver's licence, and this must be kept on you during the trip. Two persons to each snowmobile.



On your return to Longyearbyen, collect your luggage and continue to the airport to connect with the afternoon flight home via Oslo, arriving London the same evening.

About your guide: Alan Chambers is an acclaimed polar explorer and adventurer. He has led many expeditions to extreme environments, including but not limited to the North and South Poles. Alan led the first successful winter crossing of Iceland, following six failed attempts by different expedition parties, and in 2000 organised and led the first unsupported walk to the North Pole from Canada, for which he was awarded an MBE. Alan has successfully led twelve North Pole expeditions.



Alan has extensive experience of working with groups and as a team leader. He oversees all of our polar tours and also leads the North and South Pole expeditions organised by our partners at Charity Challenge. With this wealth of experience, he's the perfect guide for what will likely be your first adventure into the tough Arctic environment!

Booking information and costs: This programme is available for private, tailor-made groups. Please [contact us](#) for a quotation based on your group size, time of travel, and preferred activities.

The itinerary is inclusive of return flights from London to Spitsbergen, four nights' accommodation (one night on the ice), guiding by Alan Chambers, all activities, and meals as specified in the itinerary. It can also be booked on a ground-only basis.



Location of Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen (Svalbard).