

North Spitsbergen Wildlife Cruise *in the realm of Polar Bear*



Sail to Raudfjord on the northern coast of Spitsbergen, a beautiful fjord dominated by immense glaciers and favoured by winged and bearded seal, on this 8-day Arctic voyage. The cliffs and shoreline of the fjord support thriving seabird colonies and surprisingly rich vegetation, which flourishes in sheltered spots. Sailing along the pack-ice of northern Spitsbergen may also provide you with opportunities to spot the king of the Arctic, the Polar Bear.

Please note that there are several variations on the North Spitsbergen cruise itinerary, ranging in length from 6 to 11 days. For a full list of the available North Spitsbergen cruises, including upcoming departure dates and itinerary variations, please see our [North Spitsbergen overview page](#).

Day 1: Set sail from Longyearbyen

Arrive in Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Svalbard archipelago.

Before boarding your vessel and setting sail there will be an opportunity to explore this former mining town, whose parish church and polar museum are well worth visiting.

In the early evening, the ship will sail out of Isfjorden, where, in the mouth of the fjord, you may be lucky enough to see your first Minke whale.



Day 2: Raudfjord

Today will see you sail to Raudfjord, just off the western coast of Spitsbergen, a beautiful fjord dominated by spectacular glaciers and favoured by ringed and bearded seal.

The cliffs and shoreline of the fjord also support thriving seabird colonies and a surprisingly rich vegetation, which flourishes in sheltered spots. Polar Bear are sometimes seen here.

Highlights of day 2: Stunning Arctic wildlife, including potential polar bear sightings and ringed and bearded seals.



Day 3: Liefdefjorden

Weather-permitting, this morning you'll sail into the mouth of Liefdefjorden and go ashore for a walk on the tundra island of Andøya. Many Common Eider and Pink-footed Goose nest here, and the rarer King Eider may also be seen.

Setting sail once more, you continue to cruise through Liefdefjorden and alongside the 5km-long face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favourite feeding spot for Kittiwake, which occur in their thousands. Polar Bears, too, are sometimes seen on the glacier.

Highlights of day 3: Monaco Glacier, Andøya and its enormous geese colonies

Day 4: Hinlopen Strait

Today you sail into the Hinlopen Strait, where you may be able to spot a Blue Whale. You'll navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya by zodiac and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet, dotted with thousands of Brünnich's Guillemot.

On the east side of Hinlopenstrait, you may attempt a landing at Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet, a nesting ground for Ivory Gulls, and where Reindeer and Walruses are also often sighted.

Highlights of day 4: Bearded Seals, Ringed Seals, Polar Bears and Ivory Gulls



Day 5: Seven Islands

We continue to Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands – 81 degrees north and just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole.

Polar Bears inhabit this region. The ship may sit for several hours in the pack ice in the hope of a good Polar Bear sighting, before turning west again.

Highlights of day 5: Proximity to the geographic North Pole, and its stunning landscape of pack ice and thin ice sheets



Day 6: Retracing your route Westwards

Retracing your route westwards, you journey through and alongside the pack ice, all the while keeping watch for Polar Bears and the elusive Greenland Whale (bowhead).

About 40 nautical miles west of Spitsbergen you sail along the edge of the continental shelf, where Fin Whale forage in summer in the upwellings along the Spitsbergen banks. West of the mouth of the Kongsfjord you have a good chance of seeing the great Humpback Whale.

Highlights of day 6: Whale-watching (with luck!); peacefully sailing along the edge of the continental shelf.

Day 7: Forlandsundet / Isfjorden

Today's stop is at Forlandsundet, which separates Prins Karls Forland, where Dutch navigator William Barentsz is believed to have set foot on Spitsbergen for the first time, and Svalbard. Here seabirds nest on the cliffs, and along the coast you will almost certainly be able to see harbour seal (the only population of them found in Spitsbergen). Forlandsundet is also a haul-out place for a large walrus colony.



Alternatively, if the weather dictates you may instead sail into St. Johns Fjord or south to the mouth of Isfjorden and land at Alkhornet. Seabirds nest on its cliffs and Arctic Fox search the cliff base for fallen eggs and chicks, while Spitsbergen Reindeer graze the relatively luxuriant vegetation.

At night-time, you arrive back in Longyearbyen.

Highlights of day 7: Physical reminders of the era of polar bear hunting, and remarkable wildlife

Day 8: Disembark in Longyearbyen

Disembark in Longyearbyen, the administrative centre of Spitsbergen. A bus transfer will be arranged from the pier to the airport on the day of disembarkation.



Booking Information:

Please see the price guide on our [North Spitsbergen overview page](#) for a list of available departure dates and rates. Alternatively, please contact Sarah@Ganeandmarshall.com for the latest availability, dates and information on any currently-available special offers.

Includes:

- 8-day Arctic cruise in North Spitsbergen
- All meals while aboard the ship
- Lectures by noted naturalists and experienced guides
- All shore excursions and activities by Zodiac
- Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes
- All service taxes and charges

Excludes:

- International flights
- Pre- and post-travel arrangements
- Transfers to / from the vessel
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes
- Meals ashore
- Insurance
- All items of a personal nature
- Tips

This cruise is organised and operated by **Oceanwide Expeditions**, a leading specialist in Arctic and Antarctic cruises. As agents for Oceanwide, Gane and Marshall can help you secure the best rates on all Oceanwide cruises, taking advantage of any special offers available at the time of your booking. We strive to keep our rates as competitive as possible, so if you see this cruise available for a lower rate elsewhere, please let us know and we'll do our best to match or beat the price!