

SMALL-SHIP EXPEDITION CRUISE

## Svalbard: North to the Midnight Sun

May 18 - 25, 2027

Jun 1 - Jun 8, 2027

From **\$7,895** to **\$17,895 USD** per person

Aboard the *Ocean Albatros*

**Starts:** Oslo, Norway

**Ends:** Oslo, Norway

### Charter Flights:

**Northbound Charter Flight:**

\$500 USD Oslo, Norway to Longyearbyen, Svalbard.

**Southbound Charter Flight:**

\$500 USD Longyearbyen, Svalbard to Oslo, Norway.



## Itinerary

Day 1: Longyearbyen, Norway

Day 2-3: Northwest Svalbard National Park

Day 4: Northeast Svalbard

Day 5: North Svalbard

Day 6: Into the Pack Ice

Day 7: Kongsfjorden and Ny-Ålesund

Day 8: Longyearbyen, Norway

### Operated by Polar Latitudes Expeditions, in partnership with Adventure Canada

This expedition is operated by Polar Latitudes Expeditions, a trusted polar operator and partner of Adventure Canada. Together, we offer a High Arctic journey with deep operational expertise in Svalbard, commitment to learning, environmental responsibility, and meaningful engagement with place.

## Expedition Summary

Svalbard lies at the threshold of the High Arctic—where ice sets the pace of travel, wildlife shapes the journey, and human history feels both recent and fragile. This expedition aboard the ice-class *Ocean Albatros* explores one of the planet's most compelling polar regions, moving through glacier-lined fjords, along wildlife-rich coastlines, and into the drifting edge of the Arctic pack ice.

In spring, light returns and the archipelago begins its seasonal transition. Sea ice still defines the landscape, wildlife follows ancient rhythms, and the High Arctic feels poised between winter and summer. Walrus gather along ice edges, seabirds return to coastal cliffs, reindeer move across snow-dusted tundra, and Arctic foxes patrol the shorelines. With patience and care, we look for polar bears moving through their prime spring habitat near the pack ice. Woven through the journey are stories of early exploration, historic whaling, and modern Arctic science—together offering a layered understanding of a region still very much in motion.

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@Marie-Lou Poisson

**Commented [MP2R1]:** @Olivia Clancy we should follow established convention for any trip that requires a mandatory charter flight in our core products. Looking at other departures it seems we do not mention in the day title the location of the charter flight. Please update as per current convention, tks

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**Commented [MP6R1]:** @Olivia Clancy I don't recall the day to day section being so detailed for other product, but this would be an established convention from marketing

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## Highlights

### At the edge of the High Arctic

Svalbard sits where sea ice, ocean, and sky meet in constant motion. Travel through an archipelago shaped by glaciers and drifting pack ice, where weather and wildlife guide each day's experience. This is the High Arctic in its rawest form—dynamic, demanding, and deeply alive.

### Wildlife shaped by ice and season

Spring brings renewal to Svalbard's coasts and ice edges as light returns and life re-emerges. Look for walrus resting along the ice, seabird cliffs stirring back to life, reindeer moving across the tundra, and Arctic foxes tracking the shoreline. With patience and care, we may see polar bears travelling and hunting across the pack ice during this critical time of year.

### Into the Arctic pack ice

North of Svalbard, the frozen ocean becomes a shifting world of leads and floes stretching toward the North Pole. Navigate deep into the pack ice aboard the ice-class *Ocean Albatros*, observing a complex ecosystem that supports seals, seabirds, whales, and the Arctic's apex predator.

### Traces of Arctic history

Explore places where human ambition once pressed hard against Arctic limits. At historic whaling sites such as Smeerenburg, blubber ovens and graves remain as quiet reminders of early European industry and exploration—stories now set within a protected landscape reclaimed by nature.

### Science at the top of the world

Visit Ny-Ålesund, the world's northernmost settlement and an international centre for Arctic research. Learn how scientists study climate, atmosphere, and ecosystems here, connecting Svalbard's glaciers and fjords to global environmental systems.

### A journey shaped by conditions

Every landing and route is guided by sea ice, weather, and wildlife behaviour. Flexibility is essential—and rewarding—allowing the expedition to respond thoughtfully to Arctic conditions as they unfold. This adaptive approach lies at the heart of responsible polar travel.

## Highlights at a Glance

- Travel through the High Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, shaped by glaciers, fjords, and drifting pack ice
- Navigate deep into the Arctic ice north of Svalbard aboard the ice-class *Ocean Albatros*
- Seek iconic Arctic wildlife, including walrus, seabirds, reindeer, Arctic foxes, and polar bears
- Explore historic whaling sites such as Smeerenburg within Northwest Svalbard National Park
- Visit Ny-Ålesund, the world's northernmost settlement and a hub of international Arctic research
- Experience a flexible, expedition-style voyage guided by ice, weather, and wildlife conditions

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Longyearbyen — Gateway to the Arctic

Your journey begins in Oslo, Norway, with a charter flight north to Longyearbyen, Svalbard's main settlement and one of the northernmost communities on Earth. Set between steep mountains and wide valleys, the town offers a striking blend of Arctic wilderness and Nordic culture. Polar bear warning signs serve as a quiet reminder that here, humans are visitors.

After boarding the *Ocean Albatros* in the harbour, we leave the edges of settlement behind and begin our northward voyage—trading roads and routines for ice, weather, and open horizons.

### Days 2–3: Northwest Svalbard National Park — Recovering Ecosystems

Protected since 1973, Northwest Svalbard holds some of the archipelago's richest layers of human history. First recorded by Willem Barentsz in 1596, this coastline later became a centre of Dutch and English whaling. At sites such as Smeerenburg, the remains of blubber ovens and graves speak quietly of ambition, hardship, and the costs of early Arctic enterprise.

Today, the region is largely reclaimed by nature. Arctic flowers push through gravel plains, seabirds crowd the cliffs, walrus haul out along the shore, and polar bears patrol the coastline. Carefully managed landings and cruising allow us to explore both cultural remnants and sensitive ecosystems within this protected landscape.

### Day 4: Northeast Svalbard — Polar Desert Coastlines

As we move into northeastern Svalbard, the influence of the warm Gulf Stream fades. Here, colder waters and heavier ice shape a stark polar desert. Vast glaciers spill into ice-choked seas, and mountains rise sharply from the shore.

Despite the austere appearance, life thrives. Arctic foxes trace the beaches, immense seabird colonies nest on towering cliffs, and walrus gather where cold, nutrient-rich waters support shellfish. Plans remain flexible, guided by shifting ice, wind, and sea conditions—an essential part of travelling responsibly in the High Arctic.

### Day 5: North Svalbard — At the Edge of the Map

Weather and ice permitting, we aim for some of the northernmost land on Earth. This may include Nordaustlandet or the remote islands of Sjuøyane, lying roughly 1,000 kilometres north of mainland Norway's Nordkapp.

These landscapes are spare and elemental: rock, ice, and sky, with only mosses, lichens, and hardy tundra plants clinging to life. Birdlife animates the scene, with terns, skuas, and shorebirds nesting and foraging along the coast. With suitable conditions, we step ashore before turning northward toward the Arctic pack ice.

### Day 6: Into the Pack Ice — A Living System

North of Svalbard, the Arctic Ocean becomes a shifting mosaic of ice, stretching toward the North Pole and connecting ecosystems across Alaska and Siberia. At first glance, the ice appears empty, but beneath and around it thrives a complex web of life: fish, seals, seabirds, belugas, bowhead whales, and polar bears.

The *Ocean Albatros* is designed to navigate narrow leads through the ice, allowing quiet observation of this dynamic environment. Movement here is slow and deliberate, guided by experience, patience, and respect for one of Earth's most sensitive habitats.

### Day 7: Kongsfjorden and Ny-Ålesund — Cutting Edge of Northern Science

We sail into Kongsfjorden, a broad fjord system framed by tidewater glaciers and the dramatic peaks known as the Three Crowns. The area has long been a focal point for Arctic research and exploration.

A visit to Ny-Ålesund—the world's northernmost settlement—offers insight into international scientific collaboration in the High Arctic. Once a base for pioneering explorers such as Roald Amundsen and Fridtjof Nansen, it now hosts research stations studying climate, atmosphere, and ecosystems, linking Svalbard's landscapes to global environmental systems.

### Day 8: Return to Longyearbyen — Journey's End

Our expedition concludes back in Longyearbyen. After days immersed in Arctic wilderness, the town feels unexpectedly busy. Following disembarkation, we say farewell to the ship, crew, and fellow travellers before continuing onward from Svalbard—carrying a deeper understanding of a region shaped by ice, resilience, and change.

From shore, ride to the airport for your charter flight to Oslo, Norway.

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@Dennis Mintz Can yo uplease create

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