

# Spitsbergen Encounter Cruise

## With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

### Photography Symposium

**June 17 – 26, 2020**

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## Tour Summary

10-Day / 9-Night Arctic Cruise

Starting at \$7695

Airport is Longyearbyen (LYR)

## Tour Highlights

- ✓ Set sail into the Greenland Sea, then explore by Zodiac, on foot, and in sea kayaks
- ✓ Look for Beluga and Reindeer and learn whaling history in Bourbonhamna
- ✓ Watch for the rare and beautiful Ivory Gull and endearing Dovekie
- ✓ Explore the sea ice as far north as 81° north latitude; watch for Polar Bears and Walrus—this is the Arctic!
- ✓ Walk the tundra to see playful Arctic Fox
- ✓ Work with expert photographers and learn to perfect the subtle Arctic light
- ✓ Visit fascinating historic locations of early industry and exploration



The Norwegian territory of Svalbard and the islands that make up the archipelago offer a tremendous wildlife and birdlife experience, as well as a fascinating lesson in glaciology. The islands were first

used as a whaling base in the 17th and 18th Centuries and are now celebrated as a breeding ground for many seabirds, along with marine mammals and polar bears.

Our expedition vessel is perfectly suited for remote polar exploration. With her high ice classification, we are able to push further to the north along the edge of the ice pack. It is here we frequently encounter the icon of the Arctic—the Polar Bear—hunting seals and other protein sources to sustain them through the Arctic summer.

Throughout our journey we enjoy a comprehensive series of presentations by polar experts, providing an excellent background to the expedition. Days are busy with shore excursions to places of historic interest, visits to wildlife colonies, viewing the exquisite native flora and soaking up the stunning landscapes. Short or long hikes on shore are another feature, along with regular cruising in the Zodiacs. Sea kayaking is another popular option. Our voyage focuses on the western and northern coast of Spitsbergen, and as far north as the permanent pack ice. This area has the highest concentration of wildlife and places of historic and scenic interest in the archipelago.





## Please Note

*There is significant variability in ice concentration and location from year to year. The itinerary below provides a realistic expectation of places we intend to visit. The day- to-day itinerary will likely change based on the presence/absence of ice and our local knowledge of wildlife hotspots often seasonally dependent on the movement of sea ice.*

## About The Onboard Photography Symposium

An additional highlight of this departure is the shipboard photography symposium, open to all guests. This program runs alongside our regular series of presentations on history, ornithology, geology, and the natural world. The members of the photographic team each have a special area of expertise including wildlife photography, landscape, and composition, along with technical elements including gear and equipment and computer based processing, file management and storage. We make regular use of our ship-board multi-media studio for breakout sessions and to review and critique our images throughout the voyage. Our photographic goals on this departure are formed and led by the light available both onshore and on the water. With a varied and diverse itinerary and flexible plans, we aim to make the most out of the beautiful light, even if outside conventional shore landing times. For the photography buffs, this trip is not to be missed!

## Day-to-Day Itinerary

### Wed., June 17 Longyearbyen, Svalbard

Today we embark our expedition ship, the *Akademik Sergey Vavilov* in Longyearbyen and as we throw the lines, we sail out of Adventfjorden and into Isfjorden during the early evening. With almost 24 hours of daylight at this time of the year, we enjoy the views from the outer decks of the ship as we depart. We meet our fellow passengers and the expedition team during an introductory briefing and enjoy a welcome dinner as we set sail.

### Thurs., June 18 Bourbonhamna

Beluga Whale are frequently seen as they transit the narrow sound near Bourbonhamna. It is estimated there are approximately five to ten thousand Belugas in the Svalbard population. The Beluga has no dorsal fin; a diagnostic feature of whale species that live in the High Arctic such as the Narwhal and Bowhead. It has been postulated that the Beluga's lack of dorsal fin is an adaptation to living in waters that are frequently covered by ice. On our shore excursion, an old hunting cabin and other artefacts are points of interest during our scenic hike to Ingebrigstenbukta. However, it is the huge piles of Beluga whalebones that catch everyone's attention. The bones and all artifacts are protected by the Svalbard Government. While wandering on shore we hope to catch a glimpse of the Reindeer that inhabit the area.



### **Fri., June 19 Lilliehook Glacier & Krossfjorden**

Lilliehook Glacier, at the head of the northwestern arm of Krossfjorden, is an incredible sight. The glacier face stretches almost seven kilometres and has a height of around 80 meters. Viewed from the ship or on a Zodiac cruise, you come to appreciate the enormous scale of our surroundings. The shores of Krossfjorden are home to numerous bird colonies and a variety of different species. We anchor off one small harbor and cruise in the Zodiacs along the bird cliffs near the 14th July Glacier. As we cruise the dark waters, we are always on the lookout for Bearded and Ringed Seals, both species known to frequent this fjord.

### **Sat., June 20 Liefdefjorden & Monacobreen**

No trip along the north coast of Spitsbergen would be complete without a visit to Monacobreen (Monaco Glacier). A wide glacier face at the head of the fjord makes for spectacular kayaking and Zodiac cruising. The coastal plain near the mouth of Liefdefjorden offers superb hiking and is often a great place to spot Polar Bear that come here to hunt for Ringed Seal or feed on bird eggs.

### **Sun., June 21 Phippsøya—Northernmost Point**

At 81° north latitude, Phippsøya is just 540 nautical miles from the North Pole. The high ice classification of our ship (Class 1A) allows us to approach the edge of the pack ice in safety and comfort. Because of its proximity to the permanent Arctic ice pack, Phippsøya offers the potential for great Polar Bear viewings. In recent seasons we have enjoyed excellent encounters with Polar Bear in this vicinity. Be sure to get up to the ship's bridge and take a picture of the GPS showing your latitude or, better yet, take your own handheld GPS with you and mark in the waypoint as we are so close to the North Pole!

### **Mon., June 22 & Tues., June 23 Hinlopen Strait & Nordaustlandet**

From the ice edge we enter the main channel separating Svalbard's two main islands. In Hinlopen Strait the bird cliffs at Alkefjellet are home to more than a hundred thousand breeding Brunnich's Guillemot, as well as thousands of kittiwakes and Black Guillemot. It is a spectacular site and a challenging one for our Zodiacs as the





tidal currents roar through Hinlopen Strait. Nearby Murchison Fjord is a wonderful place to kayak or Zodiac cruise between the islands. There are some excellent hiking routes here, affording us breathtaking views.

### **Wed., June 24 Fuglesangen & Smeerenburg**

As your Zodiac approaches the shore of Fuglesangenoya, it becomes apparent there are thousands of birds nesting on this island. Home to a large Dovekie colony, the formation of the island allows for excellent viewing without impacting the perimeter of the colony. Just a few miles from Fuglesangen is the old whaling station of Smeerenburg, literally translated as “Blubber Town.” As we hike the shoreline of the old station, we learn about the importance of whaling in the discovery and exploration of the Svalbard archipelago. The blubber ovens stand as a reminder to this harsh industry in an equally harsh environment.

### **Thurs., June 25 Poole Pynten, Prins Karls Forland**

The sight and sound of a Walrus haul-out spells Arctic like nothing else can. We visit the Walrus colony on Prince Charles Island and hope to see these odd-looking animals ashore.

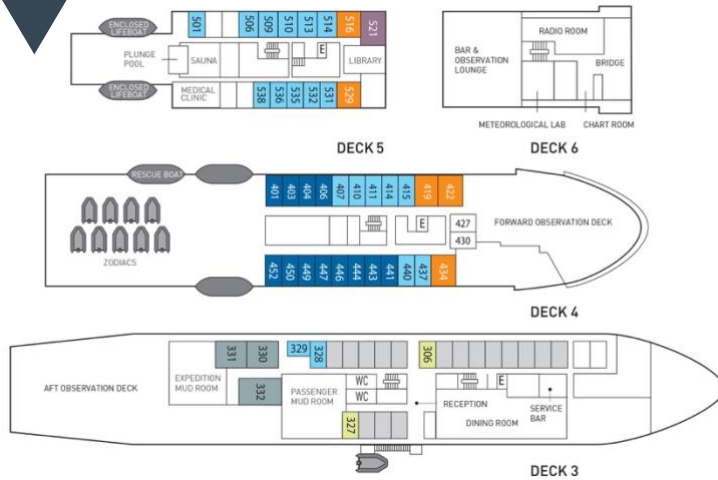
Approaching from downwind can often confirm that Walruses are ashore—the smell of a Walrus-haul out is quite ... unique! Tonight we celebrate our journey with a special dinner attended by the ship’s Captain. It’s a great time to reflect on a wonderful voyage in this wild and remote place.

### **Fri., June 26 Longyearbyen, Svalbard**

Arriving back into Longyearbyen this morning, we disembark after breakfast and say farewell to our expedition team and fellow passengers. A transfer into town is provided for those choosing to stay a few days. If you are departing today, we have a few hours this morning to explore the town, before transferring to the airport for your onward flight to Tromso or Oslo.



## Our Ship: The *Akademik Sergey Vavilov*



The *Akademik Sergey Vavilov* is modern, comfortable, safe, and ice strengthened. From small group sessions to briefings for all passengers, we have public spaces onboard the ship ideally suited for each and every need.

A separate lounge and bar with panoramic views, as well as a library, provide ideal places to sit and relax or catch up on some reading. A selection of movies and documentaries can also be watched in the lounge.

The sumptuous meals prepared for you by the culinary team are enjoyed in our dining room, which can host all passengers in a single seating and keep you feeling healthy and strong for the myriad of activities offered throughout the voyage.

Other facilities include the theatre-style presentation room, gift-shop, fitness room, massage room, Jacuzzi,



sauna, and plunge pool. There's also a dedicated expedition "mud-room" where you prepare for your off-ship excursions.

#### **One Ocean Suite** | \$13,195

Located on deck 5 this cabin is separated into two very spacious rooms. A spacious lounge area is perfect for relaxation and features a sofa (convertible to bed), large table, writing desk, ample storage, plus large picture windows overlooking the bow (forward facing) that can be opened. The separate bedroom features a double bed with upgraded linen/ pillows, night light, and windows over the port side of the ship. The bathroom has a bathtub and shower. There is also a region specific iPad, mini stereo, capsule coffee maker, fully stocked mini bar, iPod alarm clock with audio line and several arm chairs.

#### **Shackleton Suite** | \$11,295

Located on decks 4 and 5 these cabins are separated into two spacious rooms, one that is ideal for relaxation with a sofa (convertible to bed), large table, writing desk, chair, ample storage and a large window that can be opened. A separate private bedroom has a double berth with upgraded linen/pillows, night light, private facilities, a region specific iPad, mini stereo, capsule coffee maker, fully stocked mini bar, iPod alarm clock with audio line.

#### **Superior** | \$10,195

There are three superior cabins, all located on Deck 3. These spacious and well-appointed cabins feature two lower berths, a writing desk and chair and plenty of storage space. Washroom facilities are private and all cabins have a porthole, which opens. These cabins provide great access to the outer decks, the dining room and gangway.

#### **Twin Private** | \$8,795

Located on decks 3, 4 and 5 these spacious, well-appointed cabins feature two lower berths, with private washroom facilities (sink, shower, toilet and bathroom cabinet). There are tall wardrobes with internal shelving for storage, a writing desk, chair, bookshelf, and a window that can be opened. Twin Private cabins on deck 3 feature portholes instead of windows.

#### **Twin Semi-Private** | \$7,695

Located on deck 4 these cabins have two lower berths, one of which can be converted to a sofa during the day. These cabins have tall wardrobes with internal shelving for storage, a writing desk, chair, bookshelf, and a window that can be opened. Facilities are semi-private—you share the washroom with the adjacent cabin.

#### **Triple Share** | \$6,095

Located on deck 3 these cabins feature two lower berths and one upper berth. One lower berth can be converted to a comfortable sofa during the day. Washroom facilities are shared. There is a washbasin in the cabin, a writing desk and chair and ample storage for all cabin occupants. These cabins are efficient and well-appointed with two portholes with the option to open one.



## Cost of the Journey

### Plan Ahead!

Protect yourself with Allianz Travel Insurance. Their website will show a grid of tour cost and your age category for you to make selections. As of January 2017, Naturalist Journeys pays 100% of your flight carbon offset.

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Pricing is by cabin, per person, based on double occupancy, \$6095 - \$13,195 (see cost). Please note that many cabin levels sell quickly—this is a VERY popular cruise. Let us know your preference and we can help you choose. Semi-private rooms are two adjoining rooms that share a bath, a good value. The earlier you sign on, the better the selection. Some categories are limited, and it is first come, first served for selection.

Tour price includes airport transfers to and from the ship, all meals on board the ship with daily afternoon tea and 24-hour tea, coffee, hot chocolate in bar/lounge plus in cabin tea and coffee making facilities, professional guide services, port fees and permits, and miscellaneous program expenses. Kayaking program available (+US\$695pp)—must be reserved at the time of booking your voyage (there are limited spots available) and you must have some prior paddling experience.

Tour cost does not include airfare to and from Longyearbyen, visa and passport expenses, pre- or post-cruise hotel accommodation unless noted in the itinerary, personal expenses such as laundry, telecommunication (ie. email, satellite phone), drinks from the bar, and gratuities for luggage handling or other services, baggage, cancellation or medical travel insurance related expenses (travel insurance is mandatory on all voyages), a voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and ship crew (suggested amount: \$US10 – 15 per day).

### Travel Information

Arrival airport is Longyearbyen (LYR); Longyearbyen is easily accessed with several daily flights from Norway's stylish capital city—Oslo. Flights are also available from Tromso in northern Norway. We recommend you arrive in Longyearbyen no later than June 16. This gives you a buffer in the event of any unexpected travel delays between home and trip departure time. An airport transfer shuttle to your hotel is provided upon arrival. At the conclusion of the trip a transfer to the airport for your onward flight is included or to your local hotel if staying in Longyearbyen. Please book flights out of LYR after 12 PM (we disembark after breakfast) on June 26.

### Photo Credits

Svalbard, Jaime Sharp (JS), courtesy One Ocean Expeditions (OOE); Kayakers, Daisy Gilardini (DG), OOE; Walruses, Peter & Beverly Pickford, OOE; Polar Bear, DG, OOE; Reindeer, DG, OOE; Walrus, DG, OOE; Zodiac Ride, JS, OOE; Atlantic Puffins, DG, OOE; Reindeer, DG, OOE; Dovekies, DG, OOE; Whale, DG, OOE; Polar Bear, Greg Smith; Arctic Foxes, DG, OOE; Vavilov Photos & Deck Plan, OOE; Group Hike, Boomer Jerritt (BJ), OOE; Group, BJ, OOE.



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