

# CROSSING THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

From Scotland to Jan Mayen & Spitsbergen



Departing from beautiful, historic Edinburgh, Scotland this true expedition cruise will visit the Scottish Orkney and Shetland Islands, Danish Faroe Islands and Norwegian Jan Mayen and Spitsbergen. Visit places only accessible by small expedition ship with a team of expedition leaders, naturalists, guest speakers and hosts. Spend four days exploring Svalbard, searching for wildlife such as the majestic polar bear. From Longyearbyen, continue to explore Norway.



**DATES** – May 29 - Jun 10, 2024

**DURATION** - 13 Days/12 Nights

**EMBARK** – Edinburgh, Scotland

**DISEMBARK**– Longyearbyen, Svalbard  
(Spitsbergen)

**SHIP** - M/V Sea Spirit

**From** - \$7,995\* Double

**\*After up to 21% Early Booking  
Savings – BOOK BY 7/31/23**

## ITINERARY:

### Day 1: Arrive Edinburgh, Scotland – Overnight

A pre-cruise hotel night is included. Additional days, and tours, are available to add.

### Day 2: Embarkation in Leith (Edinburgh), UK

Welcome to Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland and starting point of our expedition. The famous Castle rising above the city gives immediate evidence of Edinburgh's rich history. While the Town area boasts medieval architecture, the New Town accommodates newer 18th century buildings. Each corner of Edinburgh's old streets opens beautiful, unexpected vistas of green hills or a blue flash of distant sea. In the afternoon, we welcome you aboard the luxury expedition ship *M/V Sea Spirit*. Explore the ship and get comfortable in your home away from home for the extraordinary adventure to come.

### Day 3: Kirkwall, Orkney Islands

Kirkwall is a small, quiet town, with a gentle pace of life. The town is the capital of the remote and amazing Orkney archipelago. Kirkwall is first mentioned in Orkneyinga saga in 1046. Such a long history has left a rich heritage that we explore today. The most famous are the sandstone St Magnus Cathedral, considered the finest medieval building in the north of Scotland, the Bishop's Palace and the Earl's Palace. Included tour "Ancient treasures of Orkney with St Magnus Cathedral." Depart Kirkwall and head into the west of Mainland, Orkney's largest island. This tour passes through the gentle rolling landscape of Orkney and into the Neolithic Heartland of Orkney; an area designated as a World Heritage Site due to its wealth of pre-historic archaeology. Passing the Standing Stones of Stenness, we will stop at the Ring of Brodgar; a huge ceremonial circle of stones dating back almost 5000 years. We then continue on to the 5000-year-old village of Skara Brae, beautifully interpreted in the visitor center. See the remarkable dwellings revealed from beneath the sand dunes by storms only 150 years ago. Hear some of the stories from your guide today enroute back to Kirkwall. Once back in the island capital we will take a tour of St Magnus Cathedral, built by the Vikings during their 500 year reign over the islands.

### Day 4: Fair Isle, Shetland Islands

Fair Isle is a real paradise for birdwatchers. Huge number of birds inhabits the lush grasslands and spectacular cliffs. Over 345 species have been recorded here – more than anywhere else in Britain. During our walk across the island, we hope to see northern fulmars,

kittiwakes, northern gannets, puffins, and great and arctic skuas.



### Day 5: Torshavn, Faroe Islands, Denmark

*National Geographic Traveler* designated Faroe Islands as "authentic, unspoiled and likely to remain so". It seems that Nature spares no colors in "painting" the islands. Deep-green hills, bright blue sea, colorful houses and boats, orange-red puffins' beaks make the sceneries unforgettable. We stop at the capital of the Faroes – Torshavn.

**Included tour "Kirkjubøur".** During the Middle Ages, Kirkjubøur was the ecclesiastical and cultural center of the Faroes. Here was the Bishop's residence until the Reformation, when the Faroese diocese was abolished. The imposing ruin of Saint Magnus Cathedral still dominates the site. Construction of the Cathedral is thought to have begun in the late-thirteenth century, as the style of the building is from the best period of Gothic architecture, common to West Norwegian church building of that time.

Tradition has it that it was never finished; yet recent research has revealed that it was probably roofed at one time. The Roystovan, standing on the wide, stone foundation of a portion of the Bishop's palace, has been the home of the farmers in Kirkjubøur for centuries and occupied by the same Faroese family for 17 generations. Covered with a traditional turf roof, it is a large building made of logs, which are said to have come drifting all the way from Norway some 700 years ago. The farmhouse interior reflects the lifestyle of a large Faroese farm. On our way to and from Kirkjubøur, we have a magnificent view to the west of the islands of Koltur, Hestur, Sandoy, and Vágar.

### Day 6: At sea

Presentations and workshops by our expert staff, as well as our range of onboard recreation facilities,

ensure that this day at sea is not idly spent. Seabird viewing and whale sightings can be enjoyed from panoramic open decks as well as exterior stateroom windows and balconies.

### **Day 7: Jan Mayen**

Jan Mayen hosts the landscapes of breathtaking beauty and the northernmost subaerial active volcano on the planet – the Beerenberg. The island is wild and uninhabited, not including members of a Norwegian weather station. Northern fulmars, Kittiwakes, and Brünich's guillemots breeding on steep cliffs and slopes represent the birdlife of Jan Mayen.



### **Day 8: At sea**

The lectures of our invited speakers prepare us for meeting with the unique Arctic wildlife and awesome landscapes of Spitsbergen.

### **Days 9-12: Exploring Svalbard**

This is a real expedition in a true High Arctic wilderness. As such, our route and exploration opportunities here are heavily dependent on the weather and sea ice conditions we encounter. Our experienced captain and expedition leader decide the itinerary and continually adjust plans as conditions and opportunities warrant. You can be sure that the best possible advantage will be taken of the circumstances presented to us by Nature in this wild and remote corner of the Arctic. Polar bears and other quintessential Arctic wildlife can be spotted anytime, anywhere in and around Svalbard. We exploit every opportunity to experience excellent wildlife viewing, to discover incredible scenery, and to walk in the footsteps of the historic polar expeditions that came before us. We anticipate exploring the spectacular fjords, coasts, and islands in the western part of Svalbard. This area contains the archipelago's most impressive scenery and some of the Arctic's best

wildlife viewing opportunities. Deep fjords and narrow channels are flanked by jagged snowy mountain peaks. Immense tidewater glaciers calve icebergs into turquoise waters. Fields of flowering tundra are home to grazing reindeer and playful Arctic fox. Bountiful in-shore and offshore waters are home to walrus and a wide variety of whales. The whole area is alive with migratory birds, including numerous rare species, taking advantage of summer's fecundity in 24-hour daylight. To complete the Arctic experience, we also explore places rich with history.

Our area of exploration contains the historical remnants of whaling camps, coal mining operations, trappers' cabins, staging areas for historic attempts to discover the North Pole, and even an abandoned polar research station. The days are filled with memorable excursions, sumptuous meals, presentations by our experts, and enough stunning scenery and wildlife to fill your camera and overwhelm your emotions.



### **Day 13: Disembarkation in Longyearbyen, Svalbard**

After breakfast we say farewell in the town of Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Norwegian territory of Svalbard. We provide a transfer to the airport and a flight to Oslo.

**Continue from Oslo to explore more of Norway – we can arrange all programs for you.**



Date \ Suite	TRIPLE CLASSIC	MAIN DECK	CLASSIC	SUPERIOR	DELUXE BALCONY	PREMIUM BALCONY	OWNER SUITE
Rates are per person							
May 29-Jun 10, 2024	\$6,895	\$9,495	\$10,095	\$10,295	\$11,595	\$12,695	\$16,295
<b>BOOK EARLY* - SAVE 16-21%</b>	<b>-\$1,100</b>	<b>-\$1,500</b>	<b>-\$1,700</b>	<b>-\$1,800</b>	<b>-\$2,400</b>	<b>-\$2,600</b>	<b>-\$3,300</b>
EXPLOR CLUB RATES	\$5,795	\$7,995	\$8,395	\$8,495	\$9,195	\$10,095	\$12,995

**\*BOOK BY JULY 31, 2023**

**RATES INCLUDE:**

Pre-Cruise hotel; Group transfer to the ship on day of embarkation; flight from Longyearbyen to Oslo; Shipboard accommodation; All meals on board throughout the voyage; Tea and coffee station 24 hours daily; All scheduled landings/excursions (subject to weather and ice conditions); Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader & Expedition Team; Branded Poseidon Expeditions parka; Rubber boots for shore landings for the time of the cruise; Welcome and Farewell cocktails; All port fees; Group transfer to airport or central location upon disembarkation; Pre-departure materials; Digital Voyage Log.

**RATES DO NOT INCLUDE**

Visa and passport fees (if applicable); Luggage and trip cancellation insurance; Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages other than those for special events and celebrations; Personal expenses such as laundry and telecommunication charges; Emergency Evacuation Insurance to a maximum benefit of US\$200,000 per person; Staff gratuities.



**Reservations & Information**  
**1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)**  
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