

# NORTHEAST PASSAGE

NOME, ALASKA to TROMSØ, NORWAY



Remote, extreme and starkly beautiful, join us on our second historic voyage across the Northeast Passage. Few people have even heard of this isolated part of the world let alone say that they have experienced it for themselves – the fascinating local culture, the unbelievable plethora of wildlife, the sheer magnitude of nature. Get set for encounters with whales, polar bears, walrus and Snowy Owls to name just a few.



**DATE:** 2020 -  
*August 22-September 17*

**DURATION:** 26 DAYS

**EMBARK:** NOME, ALASKA

**DISEMBARK:** TROMSØ, NORWAY

**SHIP:** *Silver Explorer*

**FROM:** \$33,660\*

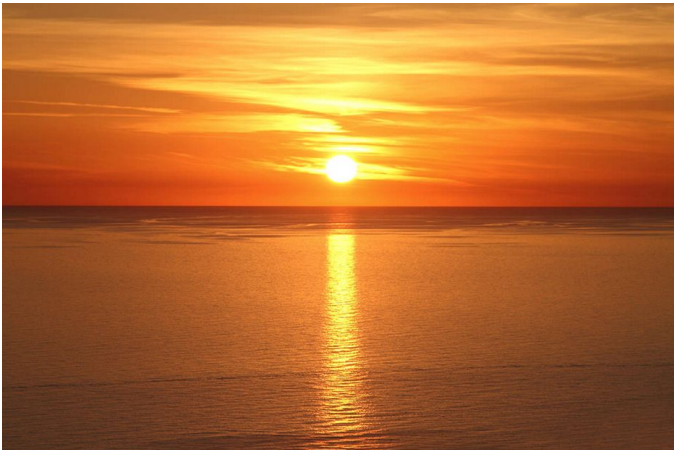
*\*After 10% Early Payment  
Savings Plus Free Air  
Book by AUG 30*

## ITINERARY - 2020

### DAY 1 – SAT – AUG 22 – NOME, AK - EMBARK

Nome is located on the edge of the Bering Sea, on the southwest side of the Seward Peninsula. The area has an amazing history dating back 10,000 years of Inupiaq Eskimo use for subsistence living. Modern history started in 1898 when "Three Lucky Swedes", Jafet Lindberg, Erik Lindblom and John Brynteson, discovered gold in Anvil Creek...the rush was on! In 1899 the population of Nome swelled from a handful to 28,000. Today the population is just over 3,500.

Plan to arrive in Nome, or Anchorage, a day or more early.



### DAY 2 – SUN – AUG 23 – CROSS DATELINE – LOSE A DAY.

### DAY 3 – MON – AUG 24 – PROVIDENYA, RUSSIA

Provideniya is a former Soviet military port at the southern limit of the Arctic ice pack. With slightly less than 2000 inhabitants, many of whom are Yupik, it is the largest town and administrative center of the Providensky District. Started as a depot for the Northeast Passage traffic, it now is a port of entry to the Russian Far East and since the decline of the Soviet Union eco-tourism has boosted the local economy.

### DAY 4 – TUE – AUG 25 – CAPE DEZHNEV – UELEN, RUSSIA

Located north of Cape Dezhnev in Chukotka along the Bering Strait, the small coastal village of Uelen is the furthest east settlement in all of Eurasia (and is also the closest Russian settlement to the United States). The village has a population of around 700 inhabitants. When during soviet times it had been decided to abandon many of the smaller settlements in favor of larger consolidated ones, Uelen was chosen as one of the four villages to take in the inhabitants of other settlements.

### DAY 5 – WED – AUG 26 – KOLYUCHIN ISLAND, RUSSIA

Kolyuchin Island is a small island in the Chukchi Sea that is uninhabited and covered with tundra vegetation. The island has steep, dramatic bird cliffs teeming with Pelagic Cormorants, Thick-billed Murres and kittiwakes. Horned and Tufted Puffins might be another highlight for birders and

photographers. Visitors may also see the walrus herds that frequent the shore and water surrounding Kolyuchin.

### DAY 6 – THU – AUG 27 – KRASIN BAY (WRANGEL ISLAND), RUSSIA

Krasin Bay is one of several landing points to explore Wrangel Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site rich with Arctic vistas and wildlife. Most noteworthy that can be seen from Krasin Bay are the remains of ancient inhabitants of Wrangel Island, a 3,400 year old Paleo-Eskimo camp. Wildlife sightings may include walrus, musk oxen, and possibly polar bears.

### DAY 7 – FRI – AUG 28 – CAPE WARING (WRANGEL ISLAND) - OSTROV GERALD, RUSSIA

Cape Waring is a dramatic approach to Wrangel Island, an important nature reserve on the Chukchi Sea.

Ostrov Gerald is a small, isolated granitic island in the Chukchi Sea, less than 40 nautical miles to the east of Wrangel Island. Steep cliffs ring the island in all but one slim area of accessible shoreline at the northwestern point of the island. Here the cliffs have eroded into piles of rock and one can find the only possible landing spot on this unglaciated, remote, and uninhabited island. Since 1976, both Herald and Wrangel Islands belong to the Russian's Wrangel Island Wildlife Preserve. In 2004, Herald Island, Wrangel Island, and the waters surrounding them were added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

### DAY 8 – SAT – AUG 29 – WRANGEL ISLAND (USHAKOVA CAPE) - CAPE FLORENS

Located in the Arctic Ocean between the Chukchi Sea and East Siberian Sea, Wrangel Island is worth a longer visit to experience the Arctic wildlife that resides here. This protected nature area and UNESCO World Heritage Site has the largest number of polar bears and was the last place where woolly mammoth roamed. The waters surrounding the island are fertile ground for possible whale sightings, including gray whales, bowhead whales and beluga whales. The island is an important breeding ground for polar bears and walrus. Also roaming the tundra are reindeer, musk oxen and lemmings.





Cape Florens is located on the less icy northeast edge of Wrangel Island. This bay offers access to tundra nature walks, where visitors will tread upon permafrost and be able to explore the diverse and beautiful vegetation, including shrubs, sedges, grasses, mosses and lichens.

**DAY 9 – SUN — AUG 30 – DAY AT SEA**

**DAY 10 – MON – AUG 31 – AYON ISLAND, RUSSIA**

Ayon Island is located off the coast of Chukotka at the eastern end of the Kolyma Gulf. The small local Chukchi population herd reindeer. The local population welcomes the rare visitor with warmth and hospitality.



**DAY 11 – TUE — SEP 01 - MEDVEZHIY ISLANDS**

Also known as Bear Islands, the Medvezhyi are an uninhabited group of islands at the western side of the Gulf of Kolyma in the East Siberian Sea. Visitors who alight on Chetyrokstolbovoy (also known as Four-spires Island because of its rock formations) can visit an abandoned weather station or walk to the imposing, naturally occurring rock spires.

**DAY 12 – WED – SEP 02 – DAY AT SEA**

**DAY 13 – THU – SEP 03 - OSTROV BENNETTA, RUSSIA**

Ostrov Bennetta, or Bennett Island as it is known in English, is the largest of the De Long Islands located in the northern East Siberian Sea. Mount De Long dominates Bennett Island and is the highest point in the archipelago topping 426 meters (1,398 feet). The frosty white landscape of Bennett Island is the largest permanent ice cover within the De Long Islands. Together the rivers of ice have a total area over 25 square miles and sit on high, basaltic plateaus fringed by steep cliff-like slopes.

**DAY 14 - FRI – SEP 04 - ICE EDGE CRUISING**

Imagine being surrounded on all sides by glistening sea ice on top of dark, frigid waters. The sound of the ship's bow crunching through the crusty rime carries on the crisp air with a resounding echo. Perhaps in the distance the expedition team spots an inconsistency of color on the ice – a vaguely yellow patch against the bright white of the snow. Excitement on deck grows as the ship draws closer, and it becomes obvious to all aboard that a polar bear is plodding along, jumping from floe to floe, in its eternal quest for the next meal. However, it's not just bears that can be found on and around the ice in these extreme Arctic latitudes. The



expedition team leads our guests in vigilantly scanning the horizon for walrus, seals, and snow-white Ivory Gulls. A day at sea in the Arctic is a day of wonder and unexpected beauty.

**DAY 15 – SAT – SEP 05 – DAY AT SEA**

**DAY 16 – SUN – SEP 06 - AKHMATOV GULF (SEVERNIA ZEMLIA), RUSSIA**

Akhmatov Gulf is a deep, glacially carved arm that runs almost mid-way through the mass of Bolshevik Island, the southernmost island of Severnaya Zemlya in far northern Russia. The fjord has a wide mouth (approx. 9 nautical miles across) on the island's northeastern side and is clogged by ice much of the year. Steep, ice-polished mountain slopes drop into the water on either side of the broad channel. The inner reaches of the fjord are narrower, at less than three nautical miles in width.

**DAY 17 – MON – SEP 07 - OSTROV ISACHENKO**

Isachenko is an island of the Kirov group in the Kara Sea north of Russia. A level beach, under the right conditions, can provide a landing site for access to this remote island. The shoreline is a thriving intertidal zone where clams bury down into the soft sand and sponges thrive on mussel shells next to sea stars, cold-water lobsters and annelid worms.

**DAY 18 – TUE – SEP 08 – OSTROV UYEDINENIYA**

Uyedineniya Island, Lonely Island or Solitude Island, as it is also known, is located in the Kara Sea between Novaya Zemlya and Severnaya Zemlya. The small, relatively flat island's tundra, when free of ice and snow, shows green vegetation in the summer. In addition to tundra, there are



bogs and small lakes on the island. A long spit of land dominates its northeastern side and ice floes are commonly found in the waters here, even in the summer. Uyedineniya was discovered in 1878 by Norwegian explorer Captain Johannesen from Tromsø, who named the island "solitude" in Norwegian, perhaps due to its isolated location in the Arctic.

**DAY 19 – WED – SEP 09 - CAPE ZHELANIYA (NOVO ZEMLYA) - OSTROV ORANSKIYE, RUSSIA**

The Russian word Zhelaniya means 'wish,' and leads one to wonder why such a poetic name was ascribed by Vitus Barentsz to this remote headland on the northern end of Severny Island, part of Novaya Zemlya. The cape is an important geographical landmark although quite a desolate and exposed location, especially in the bitter Arctic winters. It is the physical point of reference that marks the boundary between the Barents Sea and the Kara Sea.

Located a few nautical miles north of Cape Zhelaniya at the northern tip of the massive island of Novaya Zemlya lies tiny Ostrov Oranskiye; one of the Orange Islands. Willem Barentsz, a Dutch navigator sailed this region in the late 1500s on the small ship Mercury. The Mercury was one of three ships attempting to enter the Kara Sea in order to find the Northeast Passage above Siberia. Barentsz was ultimately forced to turn back in the face of massive icebergs obstructing his passage.

**DAY 20 – THU – SEP 10 - CAPE TEGETTHOF (HALL ISLAND)**

Over 190 islands complete the **Franz Josef Land** group, covering an area of more than 16,000 square kilometers. Hall Island is one of many islands in the archipelago that is almost totally covered by glaciers. Cape Tegetthoff is a headland on the south end of Hall Island, one of the larger islands in the Franz Josef Land group. Hall Island was named after American Arctic explorer Charles Francis Hall.

**DAY 21 – FRI – SEP 11 - CHAMP ISLAND - HOOKER ISLAND**

In the Franz Josef Land archipelago, an estimated 85% of the islands are glaciated. Champ Island is ice capped as well, but probably best-known for its rounded stone geodes, an almost unique phenomenon, even on a world-wide scale. At Cape Triest numerous geodes are partly stuck in the crumbling rock faces. A geode is sedimentary in origin and is essentially a

spherical mass of mineral matter that often forms with crystals in the center.

Hooker Island is located in the heart of the Franz Josef Land archipelago, deep in the Arctic Ocean. A small bay provides an anchorage that can be busy with seabirds from nearby bird cliffs. Rubini Rock in Tikhaya Bay is an impressive rock formation with an intricate surface structure of curved basalt columns. On Hooker Island one can encounter dramatic bird cliffs hosting breeding Brunnich's Guillemots and Kittiwakes (in addition to Black Guillemots, Little Auks and Glaucous Gulls).

**DAY 22 – SAT – SEP 12 – BELL ISLAND, RUSSIA**

Sparsely vegetated by lichens, mosses, and a few species of Arctic flowering plants, islands like Bell Island can be home to mammals including polar bears and the Arctic fox, with the potential for numerous seabird species to be nesting on the island. In bays and coves around Bell Island it is possible to find not only walrus and seals, but safe anchorage in the lee of frequent winds. The beautifully stark landscape is dominated by the steeply rising 300-meter table-top Bell mountain.

**DAY 23-24 – SUN-MON – SEP 13-14 – DAYS AT SEA**

**DAY 25 – TUE – SEP 15 – MURMANSK, RUSSIA**

The last city founded by the Russian Empire, Murmansk has long been an important ice-free naval and commercial shipping port. The smoke stacks, port cranes, and Soviet-era architecture are unappealing, but the natural surroundings draw visitors to ski and snowmobile in winter, and in summer to fish the thousands of lakes and rivers, and party away the long, light nights.

**DAY 26 – WED – SEP 16 - GJESVARSTAPPAN ISLANDS, NORWAY**

Almost a hundred islands and rocks make up the Gjesværstappan Nature Reserve, one of Europe's largest and most accessible nesting areas for Atlantic seabirds. Less than 10 nautical miles from Nordkapp more than one million nesting birds have been counted on Storstappen, the largest of the islands, and the minor islands next to it. One of the most significant Atlantic Puffin colonies in North Norway is found in this nature reserve.

**DAY 27 – THU – SEP 17 – TROMSØ, NORWAY**

Tromsø surprised visitors in the 1800s: they thought it very sophisticated and cultured for being so close to the North Pole—hence its nickname, the Paris of the North. It looks the way a polar town should—with ice-capped mountain ridges and jagged architecture that is an echo of the peaks. The midnight sun shines from May 21 to July 21, and it is said that the northern lights decorate the night skies over Tromsø more than over any other city in Norway. Tromsø is home to only 69,000 people, but it's very spread out—the city's total area, 2,558 square km (987 square miles), is the most expansive in Norway. The downtown area is on a small, hilly island connected to the mainland by a slender bridge.

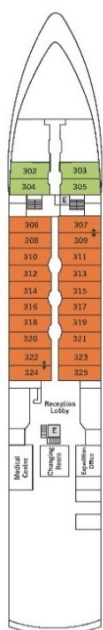
Tours of Norway are available to suit your interests.



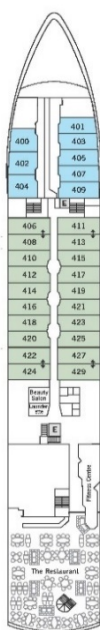




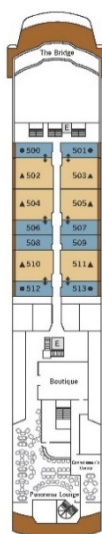
SILVER EXPLORER – Deck Plans



**DECK 3**  
Reception Desk  
Medical Centre  
Changing Room  
Reception Office



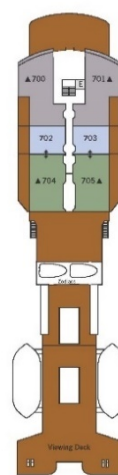
**DECK 4**  
Beauty Salon  
Laundrette  
Fitness Centre  
The Restaurant



**DECK 5**  
The Bridge  
Boutique  
Connoisseur's Corner  
Panorama Lounge



**DECK 6**  
Tor's Observation Library  
Explorer Lounge  
Zagara Spa  
The Grill



**DECK 7**  
Viewing Deck



**SUITE CATEGORIES**

- Owner's Suite
- Grand Suite
- Silver Suite
- Medallion Suite
- Veranda Suite
- Vista Suite
- View Suite
- Explorer Suite
- Adventurer Suite

**SPECIFICATIONS**

- Lloyd's register
- Ice-class rating
- Crew
- Officers
- Guests
- Tonnage
- Length
- Width
- Speed
- Passenger Decks
- 3rd Guest Capacity
- Queen beds
- Connecting suites
- Refurbished
- Registry

Suite diagrams shown are for illustration purposes only and may vary from actual square footage. Please refer to suite specifications for square footage.

SUITE	2020
Adventure – Deck 3	WAITLIST
Explorer – Deck 4	\$33,660
View – Deck 3	\$36,540
Vista – Deck 4	\$38,340
Veranda – Deck 5	WAITLIST
Medallion – Deck 7	\$71,910
Silver – Deck 5	WAITLIST
Grand – Deck 7	WAITLIST
Owner's – Deck 7	WAITLIST



**Reservations & Information**  
**1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)**  
 Email - [info@explorcruises.com](mailto:info@explorcruises.com)  
[www.explorcruises.com](http://www.explorcruises.com)

**2020 RATES: PER PERSON – DOUBLE – ALL INCLUSIVE\* - After 10% EARLY PAYMENT savings – Until August 30, 2019.**  
 \*Port fees and taxes; gratuities to crew; open bar throughout ship; all excursions; team of Expedition leaders and guides.