# REYKJAVIK to SVALBARD

### **Expedition Cruise to the High Arctic**



From the capital of frozen fun to the most inspirational archipelago on earth embark on a voyage that will cover much more than mere miles. Enjoy Icelandic tall tales from its fabled past as you espouse the pretty coasts and give your taste buds a treat with some surprisingly good gastronomy. A day at sea prepares you to enter to realm of the polar bear and placid waters of Svalbard.



**DATE:** JUNE 10-21, 2020 **REVERSE:** JULY 09-20

**DURATION:** 12 DAYS/11 NIGHTS

EMBARK: REYKJAVIK, ICELAND
DISEMBARK: LONGYEARBYEN

SHIP: Silver Cloud Expedition

FROM: \$10,440
After 10% Early Booking Savings

Free Economy Air or reduced Business Class
Pre- and Post-Cruise tour are available.

#### **ITINERARY**

### DAY 1 – RAYKJAVIK, ICELAND - EMBARKATION Depart 4:00 PM

Arrive a day or two early to avoid travel problems and see something Reykjavik and Iceland.



Sprawling Reykjavík, the nation's nerve center and government seat, is home to half the island's population. On a bay overlooked by proud Mt. Esja (pronounced eh-shyuh), with its ever-changing hues, Reykjavík presents a colorful sight, its concrete houses painted in light colors and topped by vibrant red, blue, and green roofs. In contrast to the almost treeless countryside, Reykjavík has many tall, native birches, rowans, and willows, as well as imported aspen, pines, and spruces. Reykjavík's name comes from the Icelandic words for smoke, reykur, and bay, vík. In AD 874, Norseman Ingólfur Arnarson saw Iceland rising out of the misty sea and came ashore at a bay eerily shrouded with plumes of steam from nearby hot springs. Today most of the houses in Reykjavík are heated by nearboiling water from the hot springs. Natural heating avoids air pollution; there's no smoke around.

DAY 2 – LATRABJARG CLIFFS & DYNJANDI WATERFALLS, ICELAND



On Iceland's north coast and close to the westernmost tip of the country are the impressive cliffs of Latrabjarg; Europe's largest bird cliff. Millions of individual seabirds make their home along the promontory safe from the range of scavenging foxes on the steep ledges. Atlantic Puffins, Northern Gannets, Razorbills and guillemots have each selected their preferred areas in and above the cliff in which to roost and nest. The Latrabjarg cliffs reach heights of up to 440 meters along a staggering 14 kilometer stretch of the coast.

Iceland is well-known for its spectacular waterfalls. The iconic Dynjandi waterfall, located in the Westfjords region, is regarded as one of Iceland's most impressive and majestic waterfalls. At the top, the cascading water is roughly 100 feet wide and tumbles down about 330 feet into the fjord. Its name Dynjandi means, "the thundering one" and its vast size, enormous sound, and sheer force is overwhelming. It has also been nicknamed, 'The Bridal Veil' because of the way the water sprays and spreads over the rocks.

DAY 3 - VIGUR ISLAND & HORNBJARG CLIFFS, ICELAND



Vigur Island is a little more than a mile (1.6 km) in length and about 450 yards (412 m) wide. This green oasis punctuates the waters of the Ísafjarðardjúp fjord east of the town of Isafjordur. The island is home to a single farming family and has some meticulously preserved historical landmarks including Iceland's only windmill, built in 1840 and used until 1917 for grinding imported wheat from Denmark; and a 200-year-old rowing boat, which is still in use to ferry sheep to the mainland. Summer is the best time to see large numbers of Atlantic Puffins, Arctic Terns and Black Guillemots. One of the export articles from this small island was eider down and one can see where the eider ducks nest and how the down is collected and cleaned.

The Hornbjarg Cliffs are found in the northernmost part of Iceland's Westfjords and are considered to be among Iceland's most spectacular bird cliffs. As part of the Hornstrandir Nature Reserve the cliffs rise to 537 meters in height on the seaside to then slope down on the landward side as green lush hills. Thousands of Northern Fulmars, Common and Brünnich's Guillemots, Atlantic Puffins and gulls can be seen in the cliffs or soaring in the updrafts.

#### DAY 4 - AKUREYRI, ICELAND

Iceland's Capital of the North is the gateway to a thrilling land of roaring waterfalls, soaring volcanoes and glorious wildlife. It may lie a mere 60 miles from the Arctic Circle, but Akureyi blossoms with a bright, cosmopolitan feel, and explodes into life during the summer months, when its outdoor cafes and open-air bathing spots fill up with visitors ready to immerse themselves in Iceland's cinematic scenery. Feel the thundering impact of Iceland's celebrated natural wonders shaking your bones at Godafoss Waterfalls, known as the 'Waterfalls of the Gods'. Here, the Skjálfandafljót river unleashes a colossal torrent of water over charcoal-black rocks below. Or, find some peace at the Botanical Gardens, which opened in 1957 and offer space for contemplation - amid plants that bloom with unexpected vibrancy, even at this northerly latitude.



#### DAY 5 - DAY AT SEA

#### DAY 6 – JAN MAYEN ISLAND, NORWAY

Humpback and minke whales cavort and feed in the waters around the impressive volcanic island of Jan Mayen with its towering ebony peaks and broad black lava beaches. The primordial landscape is dominated to the north by the 7,500 feet high (2,300 meters) Mt. Beerenberg, an active volcano covered in glacial ice that last erupted in 1985. With permission from the Norwegian authorities, a landing is possible at this rarely visited outpost. Visitors may walk to the research and weather station, or beyond, for birds-eye views of the meteorological station and the long black sandy

eastern shore of the island. Birds to be seen here may include Atlantic Puffins, Northern Fulmars, and Snow Buntings.

#### DAY 7 - DAY AT SEA



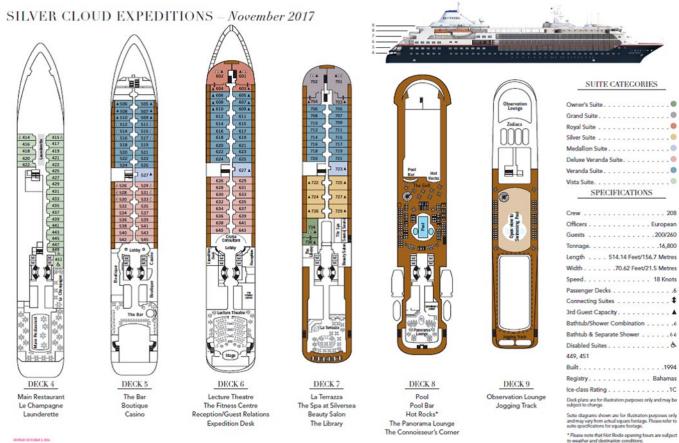
DAYS 8-11 – SVALBARD NORTHERN REGION, NORWAY There are several deep fjords and prominent glaciers in the northern reaches of Svalbard, as well as the northern hemisphere's widest glacier front. Ice conditions will dictate how much can be accessed in terms of cruising bird islets like the Andøyane Islets or approaching glaciers like Monaco Glacier and Seliger Glacier. The Northern Region is also known to have several walrus haul-outs and areas defined as "Arctic Desert". Walks and hikes ashore to have a closer look at flora and wildlife are a possibility in the spectacular Northern Region of Svalbard.

#### DAY 12 - LONGYEARBYEN - DISEMBARK

Longyearbyen is the biggest settlement in Svalbard. Seat of the Norwegian administration, it also has the best services and infrastructure in the archipelago. Located deep in the Adventfjord, a sidearm of the Isfjorden (Icefjord), Longyearbyen's airport can be used all-year round, but its harbor is blocked by ice in winter. Most shops, hotels, restaurants and a hospital are within easy walking distance of the port. One of the most prominent buildings in town is the UNIS center, where several Norwegian universities have joined forces to operate and offer the northernmost higher education to both Norwegian and international students. Adjacent to UNIS, and well worth a visit, is the Svalbard Museum, covering the natural history and exploitation of Svalbard. Remnants of the former mining activity can be seen all around Longyearbyen and even in town. Arrive 07:00 AM.

Tours of Norway are available after your cruise.







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

Email - info@explorcruises.com

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Pre- and Post-Cruise tours are available to suit your interests.