

## Climate

Spitsbergen has a somewhat windy and changeable climate and you should be prepared for cold and wet weather at all times. Spitsbergen's summer temperatures can range from minus 5°C right up to a balmy 21°C. Heading north the temperatures become noticeably cooler, especially at night and in the polar regions the average is 0°C. There will be daylight for 24 hours during our voyage and a cold wind can be expected.

## Visas

British citizens do not require a visa to enter Norway. The majority of other visitors can enter without a visa if their stay is for less than three months but you should check with your local embassy or consulate to confirm this. This information is correct at the time of going to print, it is however the responsibility of passengers to ensure that they comply with the passport and visa requirements applicable at the time of travel.

## Luggage

The luggage allowance on flights is usually 44lbs / 20kgs per person. In addition you may take one piece of hand luggage weighing less than 5kg. Please check with your airline for details. It is advisable to bring a small waterproof rucksack for excursions.

## Clothing

A good wind and water-proof jacket and trousers are essential as are long/thermal underwear, a warm hat and woollen socks. We also recommend that you bring warm gloves, several fleeces or woollen sweaters and comfortable sturdy hiking boots for excursions. If you travel in June, we also recommend you bring a pair of rubber boots since there will be a lot of snow around and the ground can be very wet. Life on board the ship is a fairly relaxed affair, so there is no need to pack anything formal. Comfortable clothing is more important for relaxing in, although you may wish to pack a smart set of clothes for the final meal (note that this is in no way compulsory). During the day and for our on-shore excursions, clothing which can be layered is best.

## Equipment

A good set of binoculars is essential, as is sufficient film/memory cards for your camera and spare batteries (as a general rule of thumb, bring double what you think you will need). Continental two pin plugs are used on board, please bring an adaptor. Remember to bring sun-cream



and good quality sunglasses, as even in the cooler northern climates the sun can still be a major factor in your trip. An alarm clock may also be useful, as will waterproof bags to protect your camera equipment and binoculars.

Also remember to pack adequate supplies of any prescription medicine you may need in your hand luggage. Should you feel it necessary you may also want to bring something for seasickness.

## Entertainment/Lectures on board

The emphasis is on relaxation and on getting close to the nature and wildlife of the areas visited. That being the case, there is little or no entertainment on board. Our experienced guides will organise talks and information briefings on subjects such as wildlife, geology, local history and environmental aspects of the areas visited.

## Excursions by Zodiac

These sturdy inflatable boats enable both water based exploration and safe landings in otherwise inaccessible areas. You will need to be fairly agile to board these but there is otherwise no need to worry about travelling in them. The crew will show you what to do and as long as you follow their instructions, after a few days it will become second nature.

## Safety

The ship is fitted with the necessary safety equipment and passengers are required to take part in safety briefings when scheduled. In order to comply with maritime security requirements that apply to all ships and ports worldwide, passengers, crew and visitors to the ship may be subject to security screening. We appreciate your patience and understanding whenever such screenings are required.

## Smoking

Smoking is only allowed in designated outside areas.

## Valuables

The ship is not equipped with safety deposit boxes. We recommend that you leave jewellery and other valuables at home. Accordingly Hurtigruten Ltd cannot accept custody of or responsibility for guests' money or other valuables while on board.

## Recommended Reading

Franz Josef Land & Jan Mayen: Spitsbergen: Svalbard

Andreas Umbreit:  
Bradt guide to Spitsbergen

Bjorn Gulliksen & Erling Svensen:  
Svalbard and life in the Polar Oceans

## Environmental Matters

We are proud to announce that for every passenger travelling with us, we will make a monetary contribution towards the UK's national charity dedicated to the protection of the marine environment and its



wildlife – the Marine Conservation Society ([www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)). Founded in 1977, the organisation aims to highlight threats to marine wildlife and the wider marine environment, bringing them to the attention of the public, media, politicians and Government agencies alike.

One of the major environmental drawbacks of international travel is the greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere from air travel. Emissions from flights are widely recognised as a contributing factor to increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which is a key cause of climate change.

We would like to invite you to contribute a small amount per passenger, which will be used by Climate Care on projects designed to offset emissions generated by your air travel.

Spitsbergen ..... £ 5.00

## 2009 Departures

Prices: Please refer to our main Hurtigruten 2009 brochure and Ireland Edition for voyage and flight package prices.

Wednesday dep. Longyearbyen	arr. Longyearbyen
10 June	15 June
17 June	22 June
24 June	29 June
1 July	6 July
8 July	13 July
15 July	20 July
22 July	27 July
29 July	3 August
5 August	10 August
12 August	17 August
19 August	24 August

Hurtigruten group flights depart from London Heathrow one day earlier with an overnight at Oslo airport before the onward flight to Longyearbyen. Arrival at London Heathrow as per dates shown above.

Sunday dep. Longyearbyen	arr. Longyearbyen
14 June	19 June
21 June	26 June
28 June	3 July
5 July	10 July
12 July	17 July
19 July	24 July
26 July	31 July
2 August	7 August
9 August	14 August
16 August	21 August
23 August	28 August

Hurtigruten group flights depart from and arrive at London Heathrow on the same dates as above.

Departures from other airports are available, please contact for us details and applicable supplements  
This dossier is correct at the time of going to print but may be subject to change without notice.  
Hurtigruten Ltd 2009 brochure terms and conditions apply.

# POLAR ENCOUNTERS

SPITSBERGEN ADVENTURE CRUISE 6 days / 5 nights



Pristine nature, polar bears and puffins in Spitsbergen's northwest corner

This adventurous voyage in the Svalbard archipelago takes you from Longyearbyen to the remote Moffen Island, taking in fjords, glaciers and Arctic settlements along the way. Rich in wildlife and dramatic scenery, Svalbard is one of the planet's last great frontiers, where foxes, reindeer, seals and walrus abound, and there is an excellent chance of spotting whales, as well as the solitary overlord of these Arctic regions, the polar bear. Your journey begins in Spitsbergen's capital, Longyearbyen, once a coal mining settlement but now a major centre for polar research. Sailing to the Russian settlement of Barentsburg, you then proceed through the Icefjord and along the coast of Prins Karl's Forland, before reaching the northwest corner of Spitsbergen. Passing magnificent glaciers, including the stunning Monaco Glacier and the 'seven icebergs,' we sail beyond 80° north and enter a world of ice sculptures and towering granite mountains, where the polar bear reigns supreme. Your on board team of experts will doubtless be able to ensure that you get the best out of wildlife viewing, both from the deck of MS Expedition and from your daily shore visits by Zodiac. Continuing south you enter the Smeerenburgfjord, passing Magdalenefjord and the Wagonway Glacier en route to Moffen Island, where you enter the domain of the walrus. At the Krossfjord birdcliffs you will stand beneath swirling, teeming flocks of guillemot and puffin and maybe a razorbill or two. You will also explore the glacier walls, towering ramparts of blues and turquoise that constantly roar as they calve into the frozen waters below. Finally we head to Ny-Ålesund, the most northerly, permanently inhabited settlement on the planet, with a rich history in polar

## Voyage Highlights

- Cruising through the magnificent polar regions of the Svalbard Archipelago
- Unparalleled wildlife viewing including polar bears (they have been sighted on almost every departure in the last three years)
- On board experts and lectures
- Visits to Barentsburg, Ny-Ålesund and Longyearbyen

## NEW – MS EXPEDITION

All Polar Encounters departures in 2009 will take place on board the newly refurbished MS Expedition. The ship features spacious and comfortable public areas, a panorama lounge, bar, fitness room and sauna. All cabins are outside cabins with a porthole or window and all have private facilities. Please see further details inside this dossier.



Valid from May 2009 to August 2009.

Reservations 020 8846 2666 or see your local travel agent • Visit [www.hurtigruten.co.uk](http://www.hurtigruten.co.uk)

exploration and the world's most northerly post office.

Informal lectures and briefings by expert guides will complement shore visits, most of which will be by Zodiac. If conditions permit there will be one or two landings each day. In Longyearbyen the history of the area and the rigours of daily life in this challenging environment will be examined.

#### VOYAGE ITINERARY

**This voyage itinerary is offered on two departure days per week**

#### SUNDAY DEPARTURES

6 days / 5 nights

#### WEDNESDAY DEPARTURES

6 days / 5 nights

To take account of the changing weather, sea and ice conditions all our itineraries are flexible and can vary from voyage to voyage. This enables us to make the most of any opportunities that present themselves, as well as to react to the local conditions. Any adjustments will be decided locally by the Captain - if necessary in consultation with the appropriate authorities – with safety being a prime concern.

#### SUNDAY DEPARTURES

##### DAY 1

##### Fly to Longyearbyen

Flying into Longyearbyen and stay at the Spitsbergen Hotel.

##### DAY 2

##### Embark MS Expedition

After breakfast there is an information and familiarisation meeting to prepare for the adventure ahead. Joining MS Expedition around midday you embark on your voyage, gliding out into the Icefjord and on to the Russian (although named after a Dutch explorer) settlement of Barentsburg, the last mining town still operating in this region. On arrival there will be a short tour of the town and options to visit the museum (NOK 40) and the folklore show (included), before we leave. Sailing back out of the Icefjord at night we follow the coast of Prins Karl's Forland before reaching the northwest corner of Spitsbergen.

##### DAY 3

##### Sail north towards Moffen Island

Now entering 'the Realm of the Polar Bear' everyone on board will be alert to the possibility of a sighting. With an estimated 3,000 polar bears in Svalbard, Spitsbergen is the only place in Europe where these formidable and magnificent beasts can be seen in their natural habitat. Now a protected species, after years of falling victim to hunters, they roam the pack ice, solitary figures in search of food and mates, covering vast distances of this frozen wilderness. There is a very good chance you will see large males, as well as mothers and their cubs, either on the hill-sides or on the many spits and fjords that lie round the islands. A truly memorable sight

and one that will live with you long after you return home. In true expedition style, our exact schedule will depend very much on the wind, weather and ice conditions that we encounter.

The planned itinerary is to explore the Woodfjord area, sighting the front of the impressive Monaco glacier, named after Prince Louis of Monaco who led an expedition here in the Liefdefjord and then to cross the 80th parallel to Moffen Island, home to the region's largest population of walrus. A protected area now, on account of the excessive hunting of the past, Moffen Island has around 1,000 of these sea mammals and you may be lucky enough to sight whales in the area. After a landing in the afternoon you will continue south, into the Smeerenburgfjord, the poetically named 'Blubber town', doubtless on account of the whaling station set beneath the barren mountains. Passing breathtaking fjords and majestic glaciers you continue to glide through the icy dark waters, hopefully catching a glimpse of one of these ice giants calving great chunks of ice into the pristine waters below. During the night you pass Magdalenefjord and the Wagonway glacier.

##### DAY 4

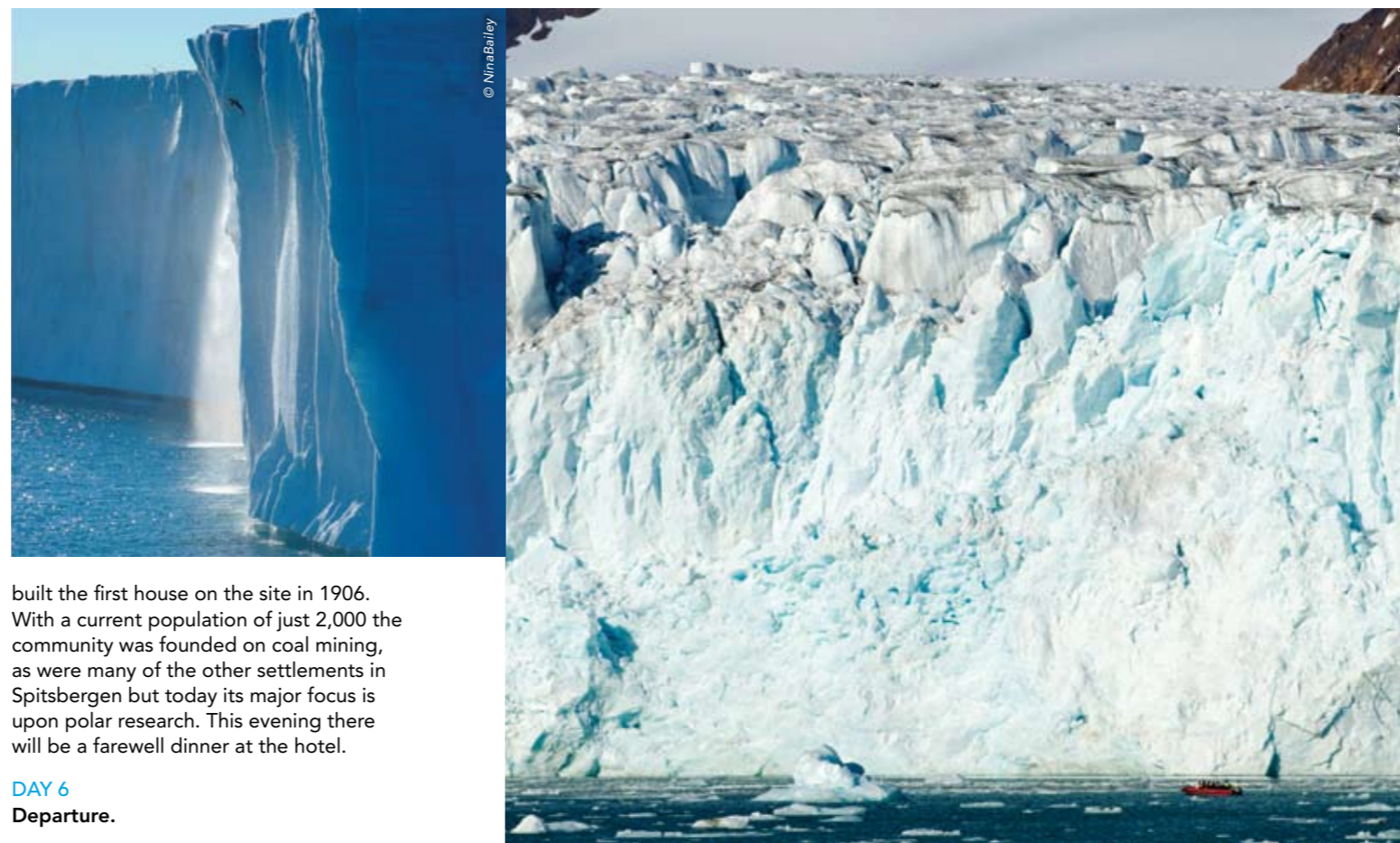
##### The remote north and Ny-Ålesund

The day is spent in Krossfjord making several landings and visiting bird cliffs and glacier fronts. Our on board experts will be able to answer any questions you might have about the wildlife and landscapes we pass. The beautiful Svalbard Archipelago is host to over 170 species of plants, 110 types of migratory birds and a mammal population that includes reindeer, walrus, seal, Arctic fox, whale and the majestic polar bear. The Gulf Stream has allowed the island's 400 km long western coastline to become incredibly rich in animal and plant life, while the remote east is forever under the grips of the Arctic winter environment. In the evening there will be time in Ny-Ålesund for a guided walk. Once the base for polar expeditions and now a centre for scientific research, Ny-Ålesund is a tiny coastal settlement, the most northerly permanently inhabited settlement on Earth. Learning a little more about the pioneering settlers of these northern reaches it is possible to appreciate the courage and perseverance of the earlier explorers in this outpost of scientific research.

##### DAY 5

##### Return to Longyearbyen

Sailing back into Longyearbyen this morning you disembark MS Expedition. After a sightseeing tour of Longyearbyen with visits to the Svalbard Museum, the Svalbard Gallery and a light lunch, you check in at Spitsbergen Hotel for an overnight stay. The afternoon is free to explore the town at leisure. The largest settlement in the Svalbard Peninsula, Longyearbyen was named after John Munro Longyear, an American who founded a mining company here and



built the first house on the site in 1906. With a current population of just 2,000 the community was founded on coal mining, as were many of the other settlements in Spitsbergen but today its major focus is upon polar research. This evening there will be a farewell dinner at the hotel.

##### DAY 6

##### Departure.

#### WEDNESDAY DEPARTURES

These follow a similar itinerary as the Sunday departures, please see outline below.

##### DAY 1

##### Fly to Longyearbyen

Fly to Longyearbyen where you will stay at the Spitsbergen Hotel. After tour briefing in the afternoon there will be free time before dinner.

##### DAY 2

##### Embark MS Expedition

The morning is free to explore the town. After lunch, you will go on a sightseeing



tour of Longyearbyen, including visits to the new museum and gallery. It ends at the pier where you embark MS Expedition. Set sail in the early evening for the Russian settlement of Barentsburg for a visit. Later that evening you sail out of the Icefjord, along the coast of Prins Karl's Forland and past the Kongsfjord heading north.

##### DAY 3

##### Sail north

You will pass "the seven icebergs" early in the morning before reaching the northwest corner of Spitsbergen and arriving at Magdalenefjord. You continue further north during the afternoon and make several landings and a stop at Raudfjord.

##### DAY 4

##### The remote north and Moffen Island

Weather and conditions permitting, sail into the Woodfjord area and visit the front of the Monaco glacier. Cross the 80° parallel and sail up to Moffen Island before returning south during the night.

##### DAY 5

##### Sail south, via Ny-Ålesund

Arrive in Ny-Ålesund this evening. Visit the town before the southbound journey to the Icefjord.

##### DAY 6

##### Disembark MS Expedition

Early morning arrival in Longyearbyen, disembarkation.

#### SPITSBERGEN EXTENSION

If you would like to extend your stay on Spitsbergen and experience more of Longyearbyen and its surroundings, we are pleased to introduce this 2 day pre-voyage extension.

#### ITINERARY

##### DAY 1

Arrive Longyearbyen, transfer to Spitsbergen Hotel by airport bus. 1 night BB

##### DAY 2

After breakfast transfer to Endalen for a walk to explore the local Arctic flora and fauna. The walk lasts approximately 3 hours and is suitable for all age groups.

You have the afternoon free to explore Longyearbyen before you are picked up late afternoon (approximately 18.30 hrs) for an Arctic evening. Whilst you are enjoying an Arctic barbecue, you will learn about dog sledging which has a long tradition in Spitsbergen and also hear stories about dog sledge races. (3 hrs approx, return transfer to the hotel afterwards).

This programme operates Saturday to Sunday to connect to weekend departures and Tuesday to Wednesday for the midweek departures.

*NB: We recommend you bring sturdy hiking boots as part of the walk is over uneven off road terrain.*

Price: £265pp/Twin room  
£65pp/Single supplement

#### MS EXPEDITION

MS Expedition has been chartered by Hurtigruten for summer 2009 voyages. Built in 1972, MS Expedition has recently undergone major modernisation and rebuilding. The ship has spacious and comfortable public rooms including a panorama lounge, an expedition lounge, restaurant, library, bar, fitness room and sauna. All cabins feature a window or porthole and come with private facilities. A fleet of ten Zodiacs is available for landings and excursions and stabilisers ensure a smooth journey.

#### Technical Specifications

Flag..... Liberia  
Built..... 1972  
Converted..... 2008/9  
No of cabins ..... 58  
No of berths ..... 120  
Gross tonnage ..... 6336 grt  
Length..... 105 m  
Width..... 18.63 m  
Draft..... 4.71 m  
Speed ..... 16 knots  
Ice class..... 1 B

*Please see our website for the deckplan.*

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

##### Transfers

Transfers in Longyearbyen between the ship and hotel as per itinerary are included in the voyage price. If booking Hurtigruten group flights, transfers to and from Longyearbyen airport are also included.

##### Tipping

There is a non-tipping policy operating on MS Expedition. However, if you feel that individual crew members should be rewarded for providing exceptional service, this is entirely at your discretion and by no means obligatory.

##### Money

Norwegian currency is used. Visa, American Express, Master Card and Diners Card are all accepted as means of payment.

##### On Board Prices

The voyage includes breakfast, lunch and dinner, with coffee/tea after lunch and dinner. Beverages and other refreshments during the day are not included. Below you will find a list of sample prices of some items available. Please note that the prices shown are approximate only and based on the latest information available to us.

##### Café

Tea ..... Free  
Coffee..... Free  
Bottled Water ..... £1.60  
Soft drinks ..... £3.00

##### Bar/Dining room

Draught beer (0,4liters) ..... £3.50  
Glass of wine ..... £3.90  
Bottle of wine ..... from £15  
Spirit ..... from £5.00