

SPITSBERGEN - SPECTACULAR SVALBARD & GREENLAND | VENTURE



INTRODUCTION

This 14-day journey highlights the most beautiful parts of the amazing Svalbard archipelago before cruising along Greenland before making your way to the island of Jan Mayen. The rugged landscape of Jan Mayen and its active Beerenberg volcano, make it popular with birdwatchers since so many different seabirds nest on the island's cliffs. Whale watching is also excellent in Jan Mayen because of the abundance of marine life in the surrounding waters. This journey offers a very unique and remarkable travel experience, making it a hidden jewel in the Arctic. Discover hidden jewels, visit isolated communities, and take in breath-taking views of fjords and craggy coasts as you finish the cruise by exploring some of the unique highlights of Iceland.

Travel in luxury aboard the Venture, a modern ship featuring luxurious suites, exclusive balconies, complimentary cocktails, and exquisite cuisine.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ACSBSG13

DEPARTURE

06/06/2025

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic, Svalbard, Jan Mayen & Iceland



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DAY 1: Edinburgh, Scotland

Embark on your Arctic adventure, commencing with a captivating stop in Edinburgh, Scotland's capital. Here, ancient history blends seamlessly with modern vibrancy. Explore UNESCO-recognized sites, from the cobblestones of the Old Town to the Georgian avenues of the New Town. Visit Edinburgh Castle, a majestic fortress atop volcanic rock, and stroll along the Royal Mile to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Delve into world-class art at the Scottish National Gallery and seek serenity in Princes Street Gardens. Admire the contemporary Scottish Parliament building and tour the decommissioned Royal Yacht Britannia. As night falls, indulge in Edinburgh's rich cultural offerings before continuing your Arctic expedition.



DAY 2: Fly to Longyearbyen & Embarkation

Today, your journey unfolds with a flight to Longyearbyen, the administrative hub of Svalbard, nestled in a narrow valley along the shores of Adventfjorden—a small tributary of Isfjord, the largest fjord system in Svalbard. This fjord, extending 100 kilometers (60 miles) into the island of Spitsbergen, boasts nine significant tidewater glaciers and numerous hanging glaciers. Longyearbyen derives its name from American industrialist John Longyear, whose Arctic Coal Company initiated mining operations here in 1906. With a population of 2,100 inhabitants, Longyearbyen ranks among the northernmost settlements on Earth, sustaining itself through coal mining, education, and tourism. The town's extreme isolation, proximity to wildlife, and the pristine environment of Svalbard necessitate distinctive laws, including mandatory rifle-carrying for protection against polar bears, prohibition of cat ownership, and strict alcohol purchase restrictions. Later in the afternoon, you'll embark on your Arctic expedition as you board the ship and set sail at 5 pm, continuing your journey amidst the Arctic landscapes.



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DAY 3: Svalbard Experience - Days 3 to 7

In the upcoming days, you will explore the remote and expansive landscapes of Svalbard, a wilderness largely untouched by human presence. Our plans and itinerary remain flexible, allowing the ever-changing weather, conditions, and wildlife to shape each day's adventure. If a polar bear appears on the horizon, we might pause the ship or Zodiacs to observe it. If ice obstructs our path, we might slow down, exploring the edge of the ice while searching for wildlife or opt for an alternative destination. In the face of storms, we may seek shelter in a more protected bay, discovering a different and equally captivating spot. Svalbard, with its myriad beauties, mysteries, and exciting discoveries, awaits those with open eyes and hearts. Highlights of this expedition include traversing Tundra landscapes, hiking across seemingly barren terrains alongside Expedition Staff who unveil the charm of small plants and flowers thriving in this harsh environment. Marvel at rock formations shaped by frost and water over time, with opportunities to encounter arctic foxes, reindeer, and various bird species during tundra explorations. Polar bears, the majestic rulers of the Arctic, are a magical sight to behold. Whether a distant white speck or strolling along a shoreline, encountering this iconic species is always awe-inspiring. We prioritize responsible wildlife viewing, ensuring our activities have no adverse impacts on these creatures. Onshore walks are closely monitored by our Bear Guards to ensure the safety of both visitors and bears. Delve into Svalbard's minimal human history by exploring historic remains, including huts from whaling eras and trappers' shelters. These silent structures stand as reminders of the resilient individuals who once eked out a living in this harsh land. For an up-close view of icebergs and glacier fronts, Zodiac cruises provide an ideal vantage point. The mesmerizing blue hues of the ice and captivating formations add to the experience. While aboard the Zodiacs, keep an eye out for fascinating marine life such as beluga whales, humpback whales, and elusive seals and walrus.



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DAY 8: At Sea - Days 8 to 9

Make the most of the upcoming two days at sea while en route to Jan Mayen Island by indulging in the ship's facilities. Take in the vast expanse of the ocean and get to know your fellow travelers.



DAY 10: Jan Mayen Island, Norway

Today, your journey brings you to Jan Mayen Island, where you'll arrive at noon. This remote and isolated island is dominated by the towering Beerenberg Volcano, soaring 2,277 meters (7,470 feet) high, along with its expansive ice cap. Jan Mayen comprises two parts: the larger northeast Nord-Jan and the smaller southwest Sør-Jan, connected by a 2.5-kilometer (1.6-mile) wide isthmus. Jurisdiction of Jan Mayen was granted to the Kingdom of Norway by the League of Nations in 1921. Aside from its use as a meteorological, radio, and navigation aid for Atlantic shipping, the island remains virtually untouched, inhabited only by 18 military personnel. In 2010, Jan Mayen was designated as a nature reserve to safeguard its wildlife, recognized as a vital breeding site for over 250,000 seabirds in the North Atlantic. It hosts significant colonies of northern fulmars, little auks, and thick-billed guillemots. Notably, the polar bears found here are genetically distinct from those found elsewhere. While officially credited to Dutch whaling captain Fopp Gerritsz in 1614, Jan Mayen may have been sighted by Irish monks exploring as early as A.D. 400.



DAY 11: At Sea

Seize another day at sea to marvel at the endless expanse of the ocean, all while taking advantage of the onboard facilities.



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DAY 12: Akureyri, Iceland

Early in the morning, you'll reach Akureyri, Iceland's second-largest urban area, boasting a population of approximately 18,000 residents. Known as 'The Capital of the North,' Akureyri is nestled at the head of Eyjafjörður, Iceland's longest fjord, just 62 miles (100 km) from the Arctic Circle. Encircled by snow-capped mountains, the Akureyri hills burst into a colorful display of arctic wildflowers during the summer months. Mt. Kerling, towering at 5,064 feet (1,538 m), stands as the highest peak visible from the town. Despite its frequent cloud cover, Akureyri enjoys a mild climate with significantly less precipitation than its southern counterpart, Reykjavik. The city boasts a rich cultural scene, housing a university, numerous galleries, museums, art exhibitions, and live theater performances. Close by lies Hrísey Island, often referred to as 'The Pearl of Eyjafjörður,' a haven of breathtaking beauty and serene tranquility. This picturesque island is renowned for its peaceful atmosphere, with numerous Atlantic puffins soaring overhead and occasional whale sightings in the surrounding fjord.



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DAY 13: Flatey, Iceland

Today's itinerary takes you to Flatey, the largest among the approximately 40 Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar) scattered throughout Breidafjordur Bay in northwestern Iceland. Despite its designation as the largest, Flatey is remarkably petite, stretching just over a mile in length and half a mile in width, aptly earning its name due to its flat terrain. This island holds historical significance as it was home to a former monastery established in 1172, which flourished as a center of learning during the Middle Ages. The monks of this monastery produced the renowned Book of Flatey, considered one of Iceland's most important artifacts and the finest of the Icelandic saga manuscripts. A copy of this manuscript resides in Flatey's library, which holds the distinction of being the world's smallest and is located within the island's sole settlement, fondly referred to by locals as the "old village." Traverse the island by following its sole road from the ferry dock, leading to a charming collection of brightly colored houses. Many of these structures date back to the 19th century when Flatey served as the primary commercial hub for Breidafjordur. Each summer, bird enthusiasts flock to Flatey to witness its thriving population of breeding puffins, alongside arctic terns, eider ducks, and numerous other migrating bird species.



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DAY 14: Disembarkation & Reykjavik, Iceland

Today marks the conclusion of your Arctic expedition as you disembark in Reykjavík, the Icelandic capital with a rich history dating back to its establishment by Viking settler Ingólfur Arnarson around 870 C.E. Initially a humble settlement recorded with just 69 residents and a farm, Reykjavík has since grown into a thriving city of approximately 200,000 people, constituting roughly 60% of the country's population. Reykjavík's name, meaning 'smoky bay', nods to the geothermal activity in the area. This vibrant city is renowned for its cleanliness, green spaces, and safety, standing as one of the world's northernmost national capitals. Wander its streets to discover a blend of culture, history, music, and shopping, with a lively nightlife that extends into the late hours. Reykjavík's skyline is punctuated by colorful rooftops and the elegant spire of Hallgrímskirkja Church, a symbol of the city's architectural grandeur. Renowned for its arts scene, Reykjavík hosts several internationally recognized festivals, including the Iceland Air music festival, Reykjavik Arts Festival, and the Reykjavik International Film Festival, adding to the city's dynamic cultural landscape. Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship & hotel

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Inclusions	INCLUSIONS One night pre tour accommodation in Edinburgh, Scotland Accommodation onboard the Venture in booked cabin category Group transfers to/from the airport and to/from the ship* (subject to date/time restrictions*) Charter flight Edinburgh to Longyearbyen in economy class All meals onboard the Venture including snacks and 24/7 in room dining Complimentary spirits and wine available on board at all times - full open bar including premium beverages & in room minibar Inspiring enrichment program and special guest speakers on board All applicable shore excursions and zodiac cruising (except paid adventure options with cost) Digital photography workshops Complimentary expedition-grade parka and day pack All port taxes & landing fees
	EXCLUSIONS International or internal flights unless specified Airport transfers, taxes and excess baggage charges unless specified Meals other than those specified in the pre-departure information Pre or post cruise travel expenses Visa (if applicable) and passport fees Travel insurance (compulsory) Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings Paid adventure options and all personal expenses Miscellaneous extras Laundry and communication charges on board Tipping onboard (optional) - We recommend \$15USD per person per day
	Difficulty Rating 2 (light adventure)
	Single Surcharge Available on request. A Single Supplement may be applied. Subject to availability. Please note 'willing to share' option is not available. Contact us for more details.
	Notes Prices are based on per person, twin share* Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions
Price Dependent upon Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.	

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SUSTAINABILITY

TRIP CODE

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DEPARTURE

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