



Arctic Summer in Svalbard - Land and Sea Adventure



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Norway

BROCHURE CODE: 6050
DURATION: 8 nights

In Brief

Explore the breathtaking west coast of Spitsbergen during this four-night mini cruise adventure. Your remaining time is spent on land in Longyearbyen, where you can tailor your time.



What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Longyearbyen via Oslo (flight routes subject to change)
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers and return port transfers
- **Accommodation:** 4 nights at the Radisson Blu Polar Hotel and 4 nights onboard MS Serenissima
- **Meals:** 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- **The following destinations are included in the holiday:** Longyearbyen, Isfjorden, Magdalenefjorden, North West Corner, Woodfjorden, Liefjorden, Moffen, Kongsfjorden and Ny-Ålesund (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- 24/7 assistance from our UK based operations team and in destination support from our local partners

Trip Overview

Explore the delights of the Svalbard archipelago by land and sea in this 8-night adventure. Your journey begins in Longyearbyen, a tiny, bustling frontier town on the edge of the Arctic, where brightly coloured buildings contrast against rugged mountains. After three nights spent at the delightful Radisson Blu Polar Hotel, you'll board the MS Serenissima that will carry you further north and into a realm that feels otherworldly.

As you glide through the icy waters, fjords reveal themselves like hidden treasures. Steep cliffs rise on either side and glaciers descend from the mountains, frozen rivers that stretch from land to sea. Guided by seasoned experts, you'll have the opportunity to venture out on zodiacs for closer views of sheer glacier faces and drifting icebergs. There's a sense of awe in being so close to landscapes shaped entirely by nature, untouched and immense.

Wildlife encounters are at the heart of this adventure. The chance to see a polar bear in its natural habitat, whether from the comfort of the ship's deck or from a zodiac, is an experience beyond words. Reindeer roam the tundra, serene in such a stark landscape, while colonies of walrus haul themselves onto ice floes, their massive bodies huddled together for warmth. Bird cliffs teem with life, with Arctic terns and puffins dotting the skies.

Evenings bring a quieter magic. Whether it's under the glow of the Midnight Sun or the soft darkness that begins to settle at the end of summer, the Arctic skies add a breathtaking atmosphere to each night onboard. Expert guides gather passengers in the lounge to share stories, illuminating the natural and human history of Svalbard, adding depth to every scene you've experienced throughout the day.

The voyage returns to Longyearbyen, but the memories linger, filled with the pure, untouched beauty of Svalbard. This journey is not just an itinerary; it's an encounter with a place that exists far beyond the ordinary, where the landscapes, wildlife, and history blend into an adventure that will stay with you long after the Arctic waters are behind you.

Please note: The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only. Your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which will be emailed to you around a week prior to departure), or upon arrival.

Photo credits: Hurtigruten Svalbard/Eveline Lunde/Schibsted Partnerstudio/Per Erik Skramstad/Dominic Barrington/Hanne Feyling/Sandra Linnell/Jeppe Kuld//Nina Bailey/Hacon Daae

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAYS
1 TO 3

TAILOR YOUR TIME

We've included free days on either side of the cruise so you can make the most of your Arctic adventure. Get to know Longyearbyen's vibrant centre where you can find a variety of souvenir shops and cosy cafes.

Longyearbyen is the gateway to the wilderness of Spitsbergen, so if you'd like to add some activities, take a look at our 'personalise' tab to see what's on offer.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAYS
4 TO 7

CRUISE ADVENTURE

All aboard the MS Serenissima! After transferring to the port, you'll embark on your 4-night voyage, setting sail at 5pm.

Heading north, the adventure unfolds in Isfjorden, where towering cliffs and serene waters set the stage for what's to come. You'll explore places like Kongsfjorden, home to the stunning Kongsbreen Glacier, and Magdalenefjorden, known for its dramatic mountain peaks and rich history of early Arctic exploration.

As the journey continues, you head toward Liefdefjorden, where the towering Monaco Glacier is a spectacular sight, often accompanied by sightings of polar bears on the ice. In Hinlopen Strait, you might spot walrus colonies and reindeer grazing on the tundra, with cliffs alive with seabirds. Each day, guided zodiac excursions bring you closer to these remarkable locations and offer the chance to experience Svalbard's incredible landscapes and wildlife firsthand.

We also offer a 3-night version of the cruise if this is preferable. Please speak to one of our Travel Experts for full information.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY
8

TAILOR YOUR TIME

Back on land, it's your chance to enjoy a final day in Longyearbyen before catching your flight back home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
9

DEPARTURE

As your time in Svalbard draws to a close, we wish you a safe and pleasant return journey home.

Included Meals: None

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Dog Sledding on Wheels

An exhilarating way to explore the Arctic landscape during the summer season. You'll meet your lively team of eager sled dogs, ready to lead you across the Arctic terrain. Instead of sleds, the dogs pull specially designed carts, allowing you to experience the thrill of mushing even without snow. As you glide along gravel trails framed by sweeping valleys and distant glaciers, the powerful energy and enthusiasm of the dogs make for a truly unforgettable ride. Along the way, knowledgeable guides share stories about the history of dog sledding in the Arctic and introduce you to each dog's unique

personality, making this a hands-on journey into the spirit of Svalbard's wilderness.

Duration: 4 hours in total

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Experience a Miner's Life

Add this activity to your itinerary for a subterranean contrast to the outdoor Spitsbergen environment, taking you into the island's mining past.

A guide in a bus will collect you from your hotel, just as miners were picked up from stops many years ago. Reaching the Gruve 3 shaft, you will don typical working clothes and a helmet before stamping yourself in for a shift. You will then be led through part of the mine by your guide, where equipment can still be seen in position, illuminated by the light of your head torches.

Hear stories about the people who worked here and admire their endurance and dedication. On finishing the mine tour, you will sign out and return to your normal clothes, going back to the world on the surface. It is worth wearing warm clothes for the visit.

Duration: 3 hours in total



Evening Dinner Cruise

All aboard MS Bard again for this optional evening cruise. The midnight sun allows for many extra hours to enjoy the spectacular nature, and what better vantage from the beautiful Isfjorden, with breathtaking views of the island?

The cruise includes a mouth-watering three-course meal on board and drinks are available to purchase.

Duration: 3 hours in total



Sea to Summit Hike

The tour takes you up through the valley of Louisedalen towards Carolinedalen. At the end of the valley, head up onto Forkastningsfjellet, where you can enjoy the incredible views over the whole Isfjord. See the glaciers which lay like pearls on a string, from Nordenskiöldbreen in the north to the western bays ending with Trygghamna. The midnight sun colours the mountains in beautiful, warm tones so be sure to take your camera.

This is a reasonably demanding hike which covers about 10 kilometres with about 400 metres of elevation. On

Forkastningsfjellet you will traverse a lofty shoulder, but the terrain is generally easy. A light lunch and warm drinks are included.

Duration: 7 hours in total



Wildlife Glacier Cruise

Voyage into the pristine Arctic, where towering glaciers meet the icy sea and wildlife thrives in its natural splendor. Setting out from Longyearbyen, you sail through the silent fjords, passing glistening icebergs and cliffs home to nesting seabirds. As you draw closer to the glacier's edge, you may spot polar bears roaming along the shore, walrus basking on drifting ice, and seals peeking up from the water. Each sighting is a rare glimpse into an untouched ecosystem, where Arctic foxes and even whales make appearances against a backdrop of ancient blue ice.

Duration: 6.5 hours in total



Walrus Safari

Encounter one of the Arctic's most iconic creatures in its rugged natural habitat. Setting out from Longyearbyen by boat, you'll travel through fjords framed by dramatic cliffs and glacial views, immersing yourself in the remote beauty of Svalbard's coastline. As you approach favored walrus gathering spots, these enormous, whiskered animals come into view—lounging on ice floes or gathered along rocky shores. Their sheer size and curious nature create an awe-inspiring sight, while guides share

fascinating insights into the walrus's role in the Arctic ecosystem. The adventure is complemented by other potential wildlife encounters, from Arctic seabirds to the occasional polar bear, making this safari an unforgettable window into the wild heart of Svalbard.

Duration: 4 hours in total



Longyearbyen in a Nutshell

This is a perfect introduction to the charm and extremes of life in the world's northernmost town. This guided tour weaves through Longyearbyen's colorful streets and surroundings, offering a close-up look at a place shaped by polar history and resilient community. You'll visit key sites, from the historic coal mining landmarks that founded the town to the modern Svalbard Museum, which showcases the area's unique wildlife, climate, and early explorers. With dramatic mountains as a backdrop, guides bring local stories to life, sharing what it's like to live in this isolated yet thriving Arctic hub. Through tales

of polar bears, long winters, and midnight sun, this tour captures the spirit of Svalbard and its people, offering a warm welcome to the very edge of the world.

Duration: 2 hours in total

LITTLE EXTRAS



Champagne or Wine Tasting

Sample champagne or wine in the cellar of Funken Lodge, each drink chosen by your specialist sommelier and expertly paired with complementary canapés.

The atmosphere is intimate and you have the opportunity to ask questions and get recommendations from the sommelier, who also will be happy to share some unique stories about life on Svalbard.



Taste of Svalbard at Huset

Choose to add a 6-course tasting menu at the renowned Huset Restaurant for an extra special evening of culinary delight. Huset proudly presents dishes characterised by Nordic techniques and tasting combinations, with ingredients coming mainly from Svalbard and the arctic region, in collaboration with trappers and hunters in the area.

This experience can also be paired with wine for an additional cost.



Tasting Menu at Funken Lodge

Choose to add either a 4-course or 7-course tasting menu for a culinary journey of delicious food at Funken restaurant. The restaurant was originally the dining hall for the sophisticated officials of the coal mining company. Today it is a favourite among many locals and an attractive place for visitors with impressive views over Longyearbyen.

This experience can also be paired with wine for an additional cost.



Beer Tasting at Svalbard Brewery

Visit the brewery at the top of the world, situated on the outskirts of Longyearbyen. Visionaries and founders, Robert and Anne, made their concept a reality and opened the doors of Svalbard Brewery in 2012. Ever since their beer has been enjoyed by explorers from all over the world. During the tour, you will learn about the brewing process and of course, enjoy tasters of the world's only Arctic beer.

Included Accommodation

Radisson Blu Polar Hotel Spitsbergen (Nights: 1-3,8)



Located in the centre of Longyearbyen, the Radisson Blu is surrounded by mountains and lies close to the beautiful, wintery ocean. An ideal base for exploration, it provides the perfect place to retreat to after a day of fun and discovery.

Hotel facilities

- There are 95 rooms, all designed to a high standard, offering warmth and comfort following your activities in the snow
- The hotel has its own restaurant, Nansen, which serves authentic Arctic cuisine, as well as a variety of international specialities
- The Barentz Pub & Spiseri is filled with a range of beer, wine and spirits and it is a wonderful place to unwind
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel
- Outdoor hot tubs and a sauna are available and payable locally

Guest room types

Hotel rooms

The standard rooms each include either a double or twin beds, with room to accommodate an extra bed if required. Each room includes an en-suite bathroom with bathtub, mini bar, TV and Wi-Fi.

Guests can upgrade to a suite for a supplement.

Phot credits: Hurtigruten Svalbard/Schibsted Partnerstudio/Ragnhild Utne/Evaline Lunde

MS Serenissima (Nights: 4-7)



Rich in history, the MS Serenissima is a classic, small expedition cruise ship. Originally built in 1960 for Norwegian coastal voyages, the ship was later refurbished and transformed into the boutique cruise vessel it is known as today. The ship has retained its traditional charm, with cosy interiors that evoke a classic maritime atmosphere.

For moments of quiet relaxation, the ship's lounge and bar offer a cosy retreat with large windows framing the stunning views outside. Here, guests can unwind with a favourite cocktail or local specialty, sharing stories of the day's adventures. The observation lounge, perched on an upper deck, is a sanctuary for scenic viewing, wildlife spotting, and photography, with panoramic windows that bring the beauty of the Arctic into full view.

Equipped for expedition cruising and guided by expert expedition leaders, the ship has a fleet of zodiac boats for close-up exploration, shore landings, and wildlife viewing.

Facilities

- There are 53 guest cabins, all designed to a high standard, offering a comfortable retreat after a day of exploration.
- Venice Restaurant onboard focuses on great flavours and fresh ingredients, with great views from all tables in the dining room
- Enjoy 360° views of the ocean and surrounding landscapes from the observation deck
- Located at the front and back, the two lounges are a perfect spot to relax and unwind after a day of adventure

Please note that there is no Wi-Fi, internet access or mobile signal during the voyage.

Photo credits: Hurtigruten Svalbard/Paulina Hinz

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Approximately 2 - 92 people.

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum Numbers Required For A Holiday To Operate

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions>