



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Norway

Spitsbergen Highlights

22nd June to 28th June 2022 (7 days)



Polar Bear by Adam Riley

Pack in all the excitement of an epic long arctic cruise into only seven days with the Spitsbergen Highlights: Expedition in Brief itinerary. In just a week, you'll cruise through the pack ice up to 80°N along the west coast of Spitsbergen like an explorer of long ago, on a constant search for wildlife. Though this rocky island is covered in mountains and glaciers, the towering cliffs and fjords play host to a surprisingly thriving and varied ecosystem. Exploring as much of the area as possible will provide optimal opportunities to spot the most iconic of arctic wildlife, the polar bear.

The Arctic has been inspiring explorers for centuries, and our expeditions offer the chance for you to discover why. We're excited to host you on your unforgettable adventure!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

THE ITINERARY

Day 1	Arrive in Oslo, Norway
Day 2	Embarkation Day in Longyearbyen, Svalbard
Days 3 to 6	Exploring Spitsbergen
Day 7	Disembark in Longyearbyen & fly to Oslo

ROUTE MAP



THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

Day 1. Arrive in Oslo, Norway. Your Arctic voyage begins in Oslo, Norway's vibrant capital city. If you arrive early, there are many museums, restaurants and green spaces to keep you busy before retiring at your included airport hotel.

Day 2. Embarkation Day in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. This morning, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen's largest settlement, where you'll have some time to explore before embarkation. As your ship sets sail, enjoy great vistas of the mountainous landscape that serves as a backdrop for this historic town.



Reindeer by Adam Riley

Days 3 to 6. Exploring Spitsbergen. You'll sail around the shores of this magical island, constantly searching for polar bears and other natural wonders. Covering western Spitsbergen, your expedition will afford ample opportunities to view immense glaciers, deep fjords, soaring mountains and unique flora and fauna. Careful scanning of the surrounding waters may produce sighting of Humpback, Fin, Minke and Beluga Whales, as well as rarer inhabitants such as White-beaked Dolphin and Bowhead or Greenland Whale. The great Bowhead was previously thought to be extinct in these waters, but now that relentless whaling is over, small numbers are making a return. The most numerous of Arctic mammals, Ringed Seals are the favoured food of Polar Bears; and these, along with Bearded Seals, cruise the fjord, whilst we also hope to find scarce Harp and Hooded Seals.

Sailing north into Krossfjord, have your camera handy, ready to capture some of the best glacier calving in Spitsbergen. Deep in the fjord, the highly active Lilliehöök Glacier awaits. The face stretches almost seven kilometres across, and is around 80 meters high. Listen in awe to the growling as big chunks break off into the icy waters below. Nearby, countless Black-legged Kittiwakes and Brünnich's Guillemot (Thick-billed Murre) breed on the huge rock faces; while Atlantic Puffin is a further possibility. Arctic Fox patrol the bases of these cliffs, ever watchful for any hapless chick that may fall from its nest.



Walrus by Adam Riley

A Zodiac excursion to nearby Ny London, an abandoned mining settlement, provides an ideal place for a guided walk. Encounters with wildlife, such as the indigenous Svalbard Reindeer, are possible here. After cruising overnight, wake up to the stunning sight of the magnificent Monaco Glacier, another prolific iceberg producer.



The coastal plain, shorelines and ice edges often hold a number of marine mammals, whilst a good number of birds may include Common Eider, Pink-footed Goose and the rare King Eider; while this is also a feeding spot for thousands of Black-legged Kittiwake, Atlantic Puffin and Black Guillemot.

Possible landing sites include Texas Bar, Worsleyneiset and the Andoyane Islands (where polar bears have been known to roam). At 80°N, you'll reach a Walrus sanctuary on the tiny, crescent-shaped Moffen Island. Watching from the water as large groups of these lumbering giants jockey for space is an unforgettable experience, so be ready with your binoculars.



Brünnich's Guillemot by James Wakelin

At Smeerenburg you can see the remains of an abandoned settlement that was established by Dutch whalers nearly 400 years ago. Here, at one of Europe's most northerly outposts, you'll have time to explore ashore and learn about Spitsbergen's whaling history. Afterwards, cruising to Magdalenafjord rewards you with panoramic vistas of snow-capped mountains and massive glaciers reflected in the crystal-clear waters.

During your last full day of your arctic adventure, you may visit the Russian mining town of Barentsburg, home of the world's northernmost brewery. We hope to round out the day in Alkehornet, taking in the towering cliffs teeming with nesting seabirds, such as Northern Fulmar and Brünnich's Guillemot (Thick-billed Murres). Encounters with reindeer might be possible here too. Later, in the evening, swap stories with your shipmates and crew one last time, at the captain's dinner.



Ivory Gull by James Wakelin

Day 7. Disembark in Longyearbyen & fly to Oslo. The time to say goodbye has come. Your adventure ends as it began, in the frontier-style settlement of Longyearbyen. From here, we'll transfer you to the airport for your return group charter flight to Oslo.



FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, cabin prices, single supplement rates, relevant flight costs and spaces available for this cruise are displayed on our website. Please note that cabins have variable prices depending on type and size. Please see under IMPORTANT INFORMATION below.

You are welcome to contact the Rockjumper office for further information and specifics on the cabins variations and booking conditions for this tour.

Please note: The cruise costs are subject to major foreign exchange fluctuations and unforeseen increases in tour related costs (especially the price of fuel) and may have to be adjusted as a result. You will be notified by email if fuel surcharges or other price adjustments need to be implemented. Furthermore, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances, but please be aware that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible.

This includes:

- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping;
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board;
- Beer and house wine during dinner;
- All shore landings per the daily program;
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader;
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program;
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled;
- Photographic journal documenting the expedition;
- Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings;
- Official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep;
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock;
- Complimentary reusable water bottle;
- Hair dryer and bathrobe in every cabin;
- Comprehensive onboard materials, including a map and an informative Arctic Reader;
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program;
- All luggage handling aboard the ship;
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US\$500,000 per person;
- Transfers between Longyearbyen town centre and port on embarkation and disembarkation day.

The tour fee does not include:

- **Any airfares;**
- Mandatory Transfer Package*;
- Arrival and departure transfers in Oslo;
- Passport and visa expenses;
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above;
- Meals ashore unless otherwise specified;
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance - **strongly recommended;**
- Excess-baggage fees on international flights;
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned;
- Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified;
- Phone and Internet charges;
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew;



- Additional overnight accommodation;
- Any Adventure Options;

***MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- One night's pre-expedition hotel night at Oslo airport hotel, with breakfast;
- Charter flight from Oslo to Longyearbyen;
- Arrival and departure transfers in Longyearbyen;
- Charter flight from Longyearbyen to Oslo;

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we now quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour).

b) Please also note that a Rockjumper leader may not accompany the expedition unless a minimum of 12 participants are signed up through Rockjumper. In the case that a Rockjumper leader is not on board, the professional expedition staff will take care of all participants signed up through Rockjumper.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs (especially fuel) and may have to be adjusted as a result. You will be notified by email if fuel surcharges or other price adjustments need to be implemented.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Important Reminder

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must allow the sea, the ice and the weather to guide route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you'll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife encounters as described are expected but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not a guarantee.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:**Arriving in Oslo**

You may arrive at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Upon your arrival in Oslo, you will make your way to the included group hotel. Check in time is 15:00. Early the following morning, on Day 2, your group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen. The scheduled flight time will be communicated in your final documents.

Longyearbyen and embarkation

Upon arrival in Longyearbyen (Day 2 of your itinerary), you will be transferred from the airport to a downtown location to have some free time to explore this historic town. Your luggage will be taken directly to the ship, and later you will be transferred from the designated meeting point to the pier. Details of ship transfer times will be provided during your arrival transfer. Due to port logistics, it is possible that you may need to board the vessel by Zodiac, rather than from the pier.



Final Day and Departure

Your ship is scheduled to arrive back in Longyearbyen between 7am and 8am local time. After breakfast, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour and, due to port logistics, may involve one last Zodiac ride to the pier. After disembarkation, you'll be transferred to the central downtown shopping area in Longyearbyen, and if you've chosen to continue your time in Svalbard, you will be dropped off at your hotel. If you've purchased the Oslo hotel and transfer package, your luggage will be transferred to the airport while you enjoy some free time in town. Later you will be transferred to the airport to pick up your luggage and check in for our return charter flight.

Departing from Oslo

Upon arrival in Oslo, you may connect directly with your onward flight. Scheduled charter flight times will appear in your final documents, and any additional updates will be communicated on board prior to disembarkation.

Hotel Accommodations

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated in your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day and would like help booking a pre- or post-stay, please do let us know. As accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

Arrival and departure transfers in Oslo are not included in the expedition. Your first night's included accommodation will be provided at the airport hotel, so please make your way to the lobby for check-in when you arrive. The voyage concludes on arrival at the Oslo airport. If you are flying home right away, you will most likely be able to board on the same day. Please be sure to allow three hours between our charter arrival and your international departure.

FLIGHTS:

Oslo Airport, Norway (IATA: OSL), is the main port of entry for international flights for this tour and is well serviced by most international airlines. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

