

Arctic 2027

# Scotland to Spitsbergen: Puffins, Sea Ice and Wildlife

Onboard *Ultramarine*



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# Expedition Overview

Scotland to Spitsbergen: Puffins, Sea Ice and Wildlife

Few itineraries feature such contrasting destinations in a single trip—but our 17-day *Scotland to Spitsbergen: Puffins, Sea Ice and Wildlife* voyage does just that. You'll start in Scotland, exploring the Shetland and Orkney Islands—visiting impressive bird colonies and Scottish Neolithic historical sites—then cross the Norwegian Sea to the seldom-visited Bear Island, which sits alone and isolated between mainland Norway and Svalbard. Because you're traveling in May, you'll encounter plenty of ice in the many fjords we'll visit, such as Storfjorden. These ice-covered expanses increase our chances of seeing walrus, polar bears, seals and other wildlife. In addition to our seasoned Expedition Team, you'll also learn from our special guest ornithologist and historian, who will join us for the entire voyage.

## Highlights



Explore two Scottish archipelagos: Shetland and Orkney



Learn from experts in Scottish Neolithic and Norwegian history, ornithology and glaciology



Rare visit to Bear Island



Photograph massive bird colonies in Scotland and Svalbard



Visit Scottish Neolithic sites and Norse ruins



Encounter sea ice, the foundation of polar life



View iconic wildlife of the Arctic and North Atlantic





# Itinerary

## DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND

Arrive any time on Day 1 and make your way to the group hotel, which is included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. The Scottish city of Aberdeen, your gateway for this adventure, is known as the Granite City, as it was once the granite capital of the world. You'll understand as soon as you see the grey Victorian buildings—that sparkle in the sunlight. A bustling cultural hub, Aberdeen also offers a range of museums, galleries, theaters, shops, cafés and restaurants to explore.

## DAY 2 | EMBARK ON ULTRAMARINE

Today you will have free time before being transferred to the port to board your ship. Upon boarding the ship, you will be welcomed by the expedition team and crew who will provide ship orientation and an introductory briefing of the voyage to come.

## DAY 3 | ORKNEY: NEOLITHIC SITES, BIRDS AND CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITIES

Situated just north of mainland Scotland, Orkney is an archipelago of islands steeped in history. Some of Europe's most intact Neolithic ruins are found



**SCOTLAND TO SPITSBERGEN:**  
Puffins, Sea Ice and Wildlife

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here, dating back 5,000 to 8,000 years. Chief among them is Skara Brae, a small community of ten stone homes, situated within earthen dams, that dates to 3180 BCE. Skara Brae is part of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site, and is considered one of the most important Neolithic sites in all of Europe. Walking among these ancient homes and looking out toward the sea in the Bay of Skail provides a sense of connection to humans who lived before the Egyptian pyramids were constructed.

Papa Westray, a more remote island just north of Skara Brae—and more difficult to access—is also home to an ancient farmstead dating back to 3700 BCE. The surrounding farmlands are peaceful and quiet. The sounds of summer and migratory birds, combined with waves from the North Atlantic Ocean crashing against the shoreline below, seem to transcend time—offering a fleeting glimpse into what life may have looked and sounded like thousands of years ago.

Home to more than 70 islands, 20 of

which are inhabited, Orkney is a unique region with strong connections to the polar regions. Dr. John Rae, the famous Arctic explorer who helped map the Northwest Passage in the 1830s and 1840s, was Orcadian, and a monument to his achievements stands in the village of Stromness. Several Orcadian place names can be found in the Antarctic, including the South Orkney Islands and the Stromness whaling station in South Georgia.

The region is a network of pastoral green islands framed by rugged coastlines and occasional white sandy beaches. These islands—with cliffs ideal for nesting seabirds—are perfectly situated for both seasonal bird colonies and migratory species en route to the Arctic. Birders will find Orkney an excellent place to spot species like Atlantic puffins, northern gannets, razorbills, kittiwakes, Arctic terns, Arctic skuas, and many others.

Guests can explore off-ship—as conditions allow—by joining Zodiac,

kayak, and paddling excursions, as well as guided and self-guided walks.

#### **DAY 4 | SHETLAND: SHEER CLIFFS, WHITE SANDY BEACHES, AND 5,000-YEAR-OLD RUINS**

Further north, Shetland is another archipelago with a truly unique culture and feel. A fusion of Norse and Scottish history and culture—and a visceral connection to the wind, weather, and sea—Shetland feels like no other place in the UK. Here, we intend to explore the bird colonies of Sumburgh Head, 100-meter (328 feet) cliffs that descend into the rich marine environment below, framed by jagged rocky outcroppings that pierce through the sea. Common species spotted here include Atlantic puffins, guillemots, razorbills, and kittiwakes. Additional marine wildlife in the vicinity includes white-beaked dolphins, minke whales, and occasionally orca and humpback whales. The cliffs themselves are impressive in their rugged beauty, marked by a picturesque lighthouse that serves as an important beacon for mariners transiting the area.





Not far from Sumburgh Head, and deeper into the West Voe of Sumburgh, is the world-famous Jarlshof—an archaeological site considered to be among Europe’s most important. Situated among soft green pastoral farmland, and just above a beautiful sandy Scottish beach, the area showcases thousands of years of human history, with Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Viking sites all immediately visible and within close proximity to one another. Roundhouses from the Iron Age, circa 400–800 BCE, are well-excavated, as are longhouses and stone walls from the Viking Age. Additionally, the Old House of Sumburgh—dating to the 15th century, when Shetland passed from Norse to Scottish control—stands among ruins that are thousands of years older. Jarlshof is a true tapestry of history, with many layers and eras woven together.

There are plenty of opportunities to be active on this journey. We’ll take to the Zodiacs to explore the coastal shorelines for cruising as well as shore landings. If weather permits, we’ll deploy our sea kayak and paddle programs. And

whenever you’re back on the ship, head to the outer decks—especially as we approach our excursion sites—for birds and marine mammals.

#### **DAYS 5-7 | AT SEA: SAILING TOWARD THE NORWEGIAN HIGH ARCTIC**

While at sea, be sure to spend time on the outer decks to watch for resident seabirds and migrating birds, or enjoy the views through the floor-to-ceiling windows. We will ride the relatively warm current north—the same current that helps keep the Norwegian coast and west coast of Svalbard relatively temperate. While onboard, your Expedition Team will share their knowledge and expertise through scheduled presentations on ornithology, biology, history, and geology, as well as through informal interactions throughout the voyage.

Your at-sea days provide ample opportunity to enjoy the amenities onboard *Ultramarine*: the Tundra Spa & Sauna, the fitness centre, the library, or one of several lounges where you can enjoy a drink with fellow travelers.

#### **DAY 8 | BEAR ISLAND: SPECTACULAR SEABIRD HABITAT**

Situated more than 400 kilometers north of mainland Norway, where the Greenland, Norwegian, and Barents sea converge, Bear Island is the gateway to Svalbard—and home to prolific bird populations. Visiting is a special privilege, as the island is rarely accessed due to its isolation. But it’s well worth the effort. More than 1.5 million birds flock to Bear Island each year. Hundreds of thousands nest on its near-vertical cliffs, where they can forage in the rich marine environment. If wind and waves allow, it’s possible we’ll offer a Zodiac cruise here along cliffs teeming with birds, with a constant procession coming and going from their nest sites. Little auks, Brünnich’s guillemots, common guillemots, kittiwakes, and northern fulmars are found in prolific numbers, alongside smaller colonies of Atlantic puffins. Many more migratory birds use the island as a critical stopover on their annual journey to the Arctic.



#### **EXPEDITION SPIRIT**

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you may experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife sightings 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 guaranteed.

On a map, Bear Island appears small. But by Zodiac, its cliff walls—some rising more than 400 meters (1,310 feet) from the sea—feel colossal. Shorelines are fully exposed to the open ocean, with waves crashing in an astounding display of nature's power. A few sheltered coves—used by whalers, sealers, explorers, and researchers from the 16th to 21st centuries—may offer us a chance to explore this wild outpost at the gates of Svalbard.

In early May, we may see hints of green emerging from an otherwise snowy landscape. Arctic foxes may be spotted on shore, eagerly awaiting the return of birds and their eggs. If conditions allow, we'll make landfall, walking where few humans ever do. Remnants of whaling history from the early 17th century, along with more recent traces of meteorological and military activity, can be found here. Still, despite any human presence, the island retains a powerful sense of wilderness.

#### **DAYS 9 & 10 | STORFJORDEN: INTO THE REALM OF ICE**

Our introduction to Svalbard begins in Storfjorden, a wide fjord in southern Svalbard that is often dense with sea ice in May. How far we travel will depend on current ice conditions. Sea ice is dynamic, capable of shifting dozens of kilometers in a day, and we'll adapt accordingly to find the best opportunities to explore this keystone feature of the Arctic.

We may spend considerable time here, navigating by ship and Zodiac along the ice edge in search of iconic wildlife such as polar bears and walrus, both drawn to the life-giving sea ice. Wildlife movements are unpredictable, so keep your binoculars close—you never know when something may appear.

Your Expedition Team will share insights into the region's features and history as we explore. If conditions allow, we may even step onto the sea ice itself. Whether on foot or by Zodiac, encountering

sea ice up close is a one-of-a-kind experience. Reading about it or seeing it in documentaries can't compare to hearing it crack with the tide and currents, or breathing in the ocean air as you gaze across this iconic Arctic landscape.

#### **DAY 11 | HORNSUND: MOUNTAINS, GLACIERS AND ICEBERGS**

After excitedly exploring the open sea ice, we'll continue toward Svalbard's west coast for a closer, more intimate encounter with the wilderness of the archipelago. Our first day will be spent in and around Hornsund, a region of striking landscapes, mountains, glaciers and icebergs. Sea ice may still be present, and if so, we'll watch for wildlife whose lives depend on it for food and survival. Our aim is to explore the fjord by Zodiac and on foot, though you should expect plenty of snow underfoot. Hornsund is home to several tidewater glaciers, which we hope to approach by Zodiac. Icebergs mix with brash and sea ice, creating a unique



*Shot with a telephoto lens.*



crackling soundscape that echoes the rhythm of the Arctic.

Surrounding us, 800 to 1,400-meter (2,625 to 4,593 feet) peaks rise beneath Midnight Sun skies, the kind of scene many envision when dreaming of the High Arctic. Watch for Arctic fox, often seen in the area. Seabird colonies thrive here too, a reminder of the epic migrations these species undertake each spring to reach Svalbard—and again each fall as they return south.

#### **DAY 12 | BELLSUND: FJORDS, GLACIERS, BIRDS AND SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS**

Moving north up the coast, we enter another large fjord with many smaller branches, each worth exploring. Bellsund, much like Hornsund, features several tidewater glaciers, which we aim to visit as conditions allow. It's also home to a remarkable little auk colony, which we'll approach by Zodiac to observe the early summer activity. Birder or not, it's hard not to admire these small, resilient birds, perfectly adapted to this seemingly harsh environment. By late spring, skies over the colony are thick with birds, and we hope to witness the start of this seasonal spectacle. Reindeer are often spotted here too, and we'll be watching for them. The

landscape is iconic—snowcapped peaks layered in all directions, jagged rocky outcrops, and soft, snow-covered plains. If conditions allow, we'll go ashore, though even in May, snow is likely.

#### **DAY 13 | KROSSFJORDEN: DRAMATIC TIDEWATER GLACIERS**

Overnight, we'll push far up the coast to Krossfjorden, just 660 nautical miles from the North Pole. We aim to explore as much of the west coast as possible, as this dramatic fjord lies along a stretch of coastline shaped by a relatively warm current flowing from south to north—creating a surprisingly temperate environment compared to the harsher conditions farther north and east. Depending on ice and weather conditions, we hope to venture deep into the fjord to iconic sites such as Lilliehookbreen—a stunning tidewater glacier where seals often haul out on floating ice.

The landscapes here blend the gentle and the dramatic—a picture-perfect scene of northern wilderness. To add variety to your photographs, consider experimenting with black and white photography, as the textures of mountains, valleys, snow, ice, and clouds can create striking images. You may also spot Arctic foxes, whether out on the ice

or along the hillsides above, and seabird colonies occupy several of the cliffs deeper in the fjord. Avid birders should keep an eye out for king eiders.

While Longyearbyen holds the title of northernmost city in the world, the northernmost settlement—Ny-Ålesund—lies in Kongsfjorden, a southern offshoot of Krossfjorden. Originally a coal mining outpost over a century ago, it now serves as an important year-round research station. Take a moment to soak in the surroundings and imagine what life must be like when the sun doesn't set for months. Conversely, consider the challenges of staffing a research station through the long polar night, when the sun doesn't rise for months.

#### **DAY 14 | SMEERENBURGFJORDEN: SEA ICE, WALRUSES, AND GHOSTS OF A WHALING PAST**

Today marks the northernmost point of our journey—just over 1300 kilometers (800 miles) from the North Pole. That's comparable to a day-long road trip from St. Louis, Missouri, to Washington, (or Berlin to Milan or Brisbane to Canberra, Australia) yet here, it leads straight into the heart of the Arctic. As we look north from Smeerenburgfjorden, a striking fjord in northwest Svalbard, we can envision a





wilderness covered in sea ice, stretching across the cap of the northern hemisphere all the way to Alaska. It's theoretically possible to travel in a straight line to Greenland, Canada, Siberia or Alaska without encountering any land in between.

Sea ice may lie just north of the coastline—or dozens of nautical miles offshore—depending on the currents and how the ice is moving at the time. Deeper into the fjord, we hope to land at a known walrus haulout: a sandy beach often covered in snow but used by walruses throughout the year. Arctic terns, among the world's most impressive migratory species, nest in the fjord, and we may see them flying overhead as we travel by foot or Zodiac. From the walrus haulout, mountain ranges stretch across the fjord, evoking a sense of standing at—or beyond—the frontier. Evidence of human activity remains: relics of whaling and sealing industries dating back to the 1600s are still visible onshore. Not full-scale factories, but trypots—used to render whale blubber into oil—remain scattered about the area.

#### **DAY 15 | ISFJORDEN: MOUNTAINS, BIRD CLIFFS AND WILDLIFE**

Our final expedition day will likely be spent in or around Isfjorden, the fjord system where Longyearbyen is located. The mountainous, glaciated scenery continues here, and we'll spend much of the day exploring the coastlines—likely among seabirds. Isfjorden can also be an excellent place to spot whales, some of which may have arrived at their summer feeding grounds by now. Spend time on the outer decks taking in the scenery—you may spot various species of marine life. Our main goal today is to visit Alkhornet, the iconic seabird colony and also a good place to look for reindeer and Arctic fox. If conditions allow, we'll make landfall, giving ourselves one last chance to set foot in this far northern wilderness.

As we prepare to leave, we can appreciate the little auks, perfectly at home beneath the horn-shaped mountain overlooking the fjord, and the reindeer patiently awaiting summer's abundant vegetation. They'll remain

here for a while, going about their daily lives in a vast wilderness that stretches in all directions for hundreds—if not thousands—of nautical miles.

#### **DAY 16 | DISEMBARK IN LONGYEARBYEN AND FLY TO HELSINKI**

The moment has come to say farewell. Time permitting, you may be able to explore the frontier-style settlement of Longyearbyen before the group transfer to the airport for the charter flight to Helsinki. Upon arrival in Helsinki, you'll be transferred to your hotel for the night. Both are included in the Charter Flight & Hotel Package.

#### **DAY 17 | DEPART HELSINKI**

After breakfast, make your way independently to the airport for your onward flight home, or stay to explore Finland's culturally-rich capital on your own.





# Science & Discovery

A new initiative designed to foster community, curiosity and education.

Beginning in our Arctic 2027 season on select *Ultramarine* itineraries, Quark Expeditions is collaborating with leading scientists and researchers to enrich guest learning on- and off-ship.

**Guest Engagement:** Through researcher-led sessions, and interactive learning and field experiences with our expedition team, guests will gain a better understanding and appreciation of the polar wilderness.

**This Science & Discovery program will enable guests to:**

- **Interact and connect with scientists and researchers** who are actively collecting data during expeditions.
- **Participate in citizen science programming** to broaden their understanding and knowledge of the incredible polar ecosystem.
- **Work with our expedition team** to help collect and record data, ranging from experiences such as conducting seabird surveys on deck to documenting whale sightings on Zodiac excursions or joining interactive sampling activities to measure water conditions.

## SCIENCE IN THE FIELD

Quark Expeditions supports academic research through partnerships with institutions such as Seabird Watch to deepen our understanding through access to projects that are contributing to published research and projects of high importance.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE

In collaboration with the Polar Citizen Science Collective and Fjord Phyto, guests can engage in meaningful scientific data collection that supports targeted field research for projects like Happywhale.

## QUARK SCIENCE HUB

This designated space on *Ultramarine* enables guests to share knowledge, information and insights with scientists, researchers, and our Expedition Guides.



Gather with scientists, researchers and expedition guides to share findings and insights from the voyage.



Engage with interactive digital displays featuring multimedia content for self-guided discovery even when staff aren't present.



Learn how data collection methods, such as drones, wildlife tags, and biopsy and guano sampling, enable us to study the health, population, and migratory pathways of unique birds, whales, and seals.



Review and discuss observations and explore samples collected during science Zodiac cruises with other participants.

*Note: The Science Hub is open to guests for self-guided exploration when staff are otherwise occupied.*







**THE POLAR COLLECTIVE**  
protect the poles together.








# Arrival and Departure Details, and International Flight Planning

					
DAY 1		DAY 2	EXPEDITION DAYS	DISEMBARKATION DAY	FINAL DAY
					
International flight in* Arrival and hotel night		Embarkation	On ship or landing days	Disembarkation, charter flight and hotel night	Leave hotel International flight onward

\* Arrive anytime on Day 1 or earlier. Day 1 includes an optional briefing.  
 International flights are not included in the cost of the voyage.

## Arrival Day and Embarkation

### DAY 1 — ARRIVING AND HOTEL NIGHT IN ABERDEEN

You may arrive in Aberdeen at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary and make your way to the included hotel, which is included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package.

### DAY 2 — EMBARKATION IN ABERDEEN

On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel, transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin.

Ship embarkation will occur in the afternoon. You will have free time before being transferred to the port to board your ship later in the day. Information about transfer timing will be posted in your Aberdeen hotel.

### PLEASE NOTE

There is a strict luggage weight limit on checked luggage and cabin baggage on the flights between Longyearbyen and Helsinki. There is NO option to pay for additional luggage.

### You will find in your final documents:

- › Luggage weight restrictions on charter flights.
- › Hotel information and check in time
- › Embarkation plan
- › Departure charter flight time

## Final Day and Departure

### DISEMBARKATION IN LONGYEARBYEN AND CHARTER FLIGHT TO HELSINKI

Your ship is scheduled to arrive in Longyearbyen and you will disembark after breakfast. The process takes about an hour and due to port logistics, may involve one last Zodiac ride to the pier. If time allows, you can spend the day exploring Longyearbyen before being transferred to the airport for your charter flight to Helsinki.

### DEPARTING FROM HELSINKI

Arrival times back to Helsinki will not be available until 30 days prior to your voyage. Scheduled charter flight times will appear in your final documents, and any additional updates will be communicated on board prior to disembarkation. Upon arrival in Helsinki, you'll be transferred to your included hotel for the night. In the morning after your included breakfast, make your way to the airport to catch your flight onward.

### PLEASE NOTE

#### Included Hotel Accommodations:

The Charter Flight & Hotel Package for this expedition includes two nights of hotel accommodations: Day 1 (in Aberdeen) and Day 16 (at a hotel attached to Helsinki Airport). The airport is a 40-minute train ride from the city center.

## Arrival and Departure Transfers

### ABERDEEN AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival transfers in Aberdeen are not included in the expedition; If you require a transfer to the city, you will need to arrange your own transportation.

### HELSINKI AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Included hotel accommodations are provided at Helsinki airport. Transfers are not required.







## ULTRAMARINE

The technologically advanced *Ultramarine* is built to go beyond the familiar in polar travel and to immerse guests in the best the region has to offer.

Equipped with two twin-engine helicopters and 20 quick-launching Zodiacs, *Ultramarine* offers the industry's largest portfolio of off-ship adventures. The vessel features the most spacious suites in its category, fine dining, breathtaking public spaces, exceptional wildlife-viewing areas, and sustainability systems that exceed industry standards. *Ultramarine* also features an onboard Science Hub, the centerpiece of our Science & Discovery program.

Wellness amenities include Tundra Spa with VOYA treatments, morning stretch classes, a sauna, a fully equipped fitness center, and health-conscious dining designed to restore balance and vitality at sea.

*Ultramarine* is designed to deliver unforgettable polar memories.

### SHIP SPECIFICATIONS:

Staff and Crew: 140

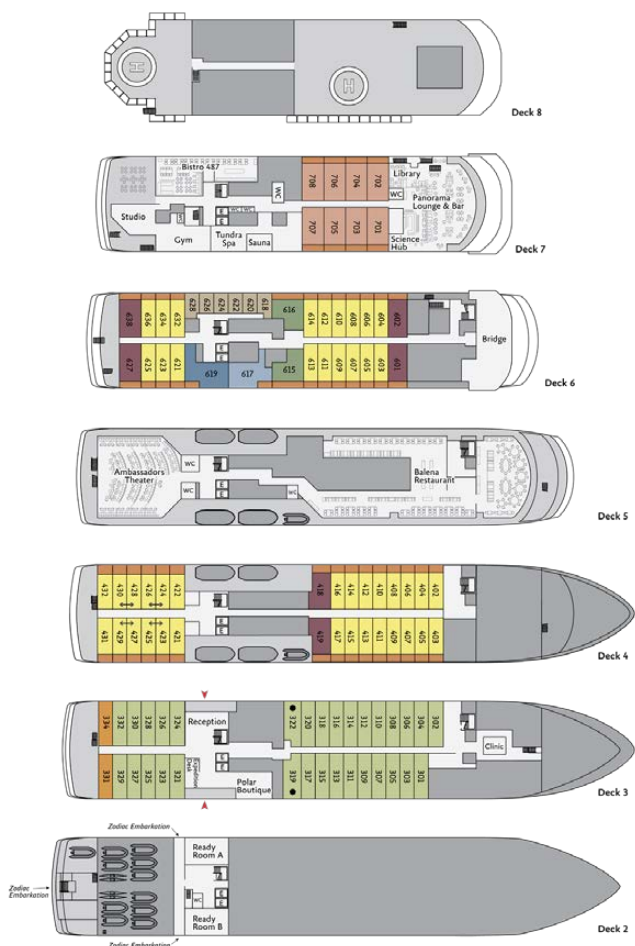
Guests: 199

Lifeboats: 4, fully enclosed

Ice Class: PC6

Visit [QuarkExpeditions.com](https://www.QuarkExpeditions.com) to view deck plan details.

*Ultramarine's* twin-engine helicopters do not operate on this voyage.



- Ultra Suite
- Owner's Suite
- Penthouse Suite
- Terrace Suite
- Deluxe Balcony Suite
- Balcony Suite
- Explorer Suite
- Explorer Triple
- Solo Panorama
- Balcony
- ↔ Interconnecting Suites
- Accessibility modified cabin; please speak to your travel professional for details



# Included Activities

All of these activities are included in the price of your trip.

Ready for a little adventure beyond your ship? Each Quark Expeditions® voyage offers a variety of recreational activities to enhance your polar experience.

## ZODIAC CRUISING

Zodiacs are the workhorses of polar expeditions, taking you to places the ships can't access, allowing you to reach remote shorelines, explore shallow inlets and search for unique wildlife. Expedition staff make stepping in and out of them safe and comfortable, and your Zodiac drivers will provide active interpretation, making the landscape come even more alive.

## HIKING

Led by experienced staff, exploring on foot is one of the best ways to appreciate the polar landscapes. Our guides are able to accommodate a range of skill levels. During early season in Svalbard, extended hiking may be limited due to amount of snow.

## PRESENTATIONS

Enjoy daily chats with and presentations by our world-class onboard polar experts—expedition guides, specialists,

photography guides and other special guests who will introduce you to the fascinating history, biology, ornithology, glaciology and geology of the region, and much, much more.

## POLAR PLUNGE

This rite of passage, scheduled only once per expedition, gives you the chance to jump safely into the bracing Arctic waters under the watchful eye of our staff—and just about every single camera on board.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Documenting your voyage so you can take the memories home is a rewarding experience. Our photography guides will help you hone your skills to capture the beauty of the polar regions.

## SCIENCE & DISCOVERY PROGRAM

Our Science & Discovery program offers guests the unique opportunity to engage directly with scientists and researchers and participate in citizen science activities with the expedition

team to collect and record data.

Activities include conducting seabird surveys on deck, documenting whale sightings, and participating in interactive water sampling activities to measure environmental conditions. This program provides travelers with rare, first-hand experiences that contribute to global scientific research and deepens their understanding of and appreciation for the polar environment.

## COMMUNITY VISITS

Thanks to Quark Expeditions' longstanding partnerships in the Arctic, our expedition team arranges community visits—always coordinated in close collaboration with local partners—and dependent on ice and weather conditions.

*Contact your Polar Travel Adviser or your Travel Professional for more information about your Included Activities.*





# Adventure Options

All of these activities cost extra and should be booked in advance of your trip.



## PLEASE NOTE

Pre-booking is required for all paid activities. We recommend booking early, as spaces fill quickly.

## SEA KAYAKING

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers. Our Sea Kayaking program is a great way to intimately explore your surroundings. A small group of kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage as an alternative to shore landings or Zodiac cruises.

The number of opportunities to kayak is weather dependent, and will be conducted only during calm conditions. Prior kayaking experience is required, and you must be able to do a wet exit to participate. Beginners interested in kayaking should consider participating in the Paddling Excursion.

## PADDLING EXCURSION

If you're interested in kayaking but would like to try something a bit less demanding than Sea Kayaking, you're the perfect candidate to sign up for a one-time paddle on our stable sit-on-top kayaks—perfect for anyone with minimal or no kayaking experience. Small groups of passengers will be taken out on calm days, with our expert guides always present to provide instruction and help you connect with the polar sea. Two groups of 10 will be pre-booked, and once successfully completed, any subsequent outings will be offered via lottery on board.



# Our Commitment to Conservation & Community

We're proud to partner with local communities to create immersive guest experiences that build respect for wildlife, culture and the land, and to work with leading scientists to support the conservation of the Arctic regions.

## Empowering Local Development

We champion Arctic communities' goals for economic development and sustainable tourism through local hiring, infrastructure support, and advance visit planning.

## Investing Directly in Communities

With guest support, we help fund community-led projects—from food banks to cultural and language-based programs.

## Co-creating with Community Partners

By partnering with local groups, we create authentic experiences—such as Tundra to Table, developed with [Igapall](#), which enables Inuit chefs to share Greenlandic cuisine and culture. This program is available on most *Ultramarine* itineraries that operate in Greenland and the Canadian High Arctic.

*To also learn about our conservation efforts, and how we connect guests to the natural world through hands-on experiences and education, visit us online at [Community & Conservation](#).*



## Community

We deliver authentic experiences for our guests that benefit local partners and the communities we visit.





# Departure Date

Scotland to Spitsbergen: Puffins, Sea Ice and Wildlife

## ULTRAMARINE

*Dates*

*Days*

*Start / End*



Paddling Excursion



Sea Kayaking

### ARCTIC 2027

MAY 2 - 18, 2027

17

Aberdeen/Helsinki

\$

\$

## Raise a Glass and Stay Connected

See below for specifics on our complimentary Wi-Fi and bar service.



# Inclusions and Exclusions

## Inclusions

### RATES INCLUDE:

- An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Leadership throughout your voyage by our experienced Expedition Leaders, including shore landings and other activities
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising as per the daily program
- All shore landings as per the daily program
- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage. (Please inform us of any dietary requirements as far in advance as possible.)
- Complimentary select beer, wines and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner
- Complimentary coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled
- A photographic journal documenting the expedition
- A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions
- Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- Complimentary Wi-Fi service on one device permitting basic Internet browsing, email, posting on social media and voice applications. (Premium packages are available for more data-intensive applications.) Note: Internet access in the polar regions is subject to geography, climate, and other factors beyond our control.
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship

### \*CHARTER FLIGHT & HOTEL PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- One pre-expedition hotel night in Aberdeen, and one post-expedition hotel night in Helsinki (breakfast included)
- Group transfer from Aberdeen hotel to ship on embarkation day
- Departure transfer in Longyearbyen on disembarkation day
- Charter flight from Longyearbyen to Helsinki on disembarkation day

## Exclusions

### RATES SPECIFICALLY DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Charter Flight & Hotel Package\*
- International airfare
- Arrival and departure transfers, except where listed in the Charter Flight & Hotel Package
- Passport and applicable visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac landing and cruising excursions, or any other gear not mentioned
- Laundry, bar, spa and other personal charges, unless specified
- Phone charges may vary by location
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and shipboard crew
- Additional overnight accommodation





# Your Expedition Team

Our Expedition Leaders and their teams bring diverse expertise in subjects as varied as polar history, marine biology, glaciology, ornithology and photography. Their knowledge and enthusiasm will greatly enhance your immersion into the polar environment and further deepen your connection to the Arctic.

With over 30 years of experience bringing passengers to remote polar regions and an industry-leading staff-to-guest ratio, we know how to safely handle the unexpected. Ensuring this hard earned experience is passed on, our expedition staff receive comprehensive training in Quark Academy, which provides hands-on polar expedition training prior as part of our onboarding process as well as ongoing training for experienced staff.



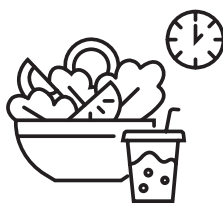


# On-Ship Dining

Every on-board meal is included in the cost of your trip.



**14 BREAKFASTS**



**14 LUNCHES**



**14 DINNERS**

If there's one constant on board, it's incredible food. You enjoy three delicious meals daily—all included. Let us know before your expedition about any dietary restrictions.

Breakfasts and lunches are typically buffet-style, while dinners are plated. À la carte meals are made at the time of your order, ensuring top quality every time.

Coffee, tea, cocoa, and water stations are available—at no charge—24/7.

Complimentary soft drinks and juices are served during meals and when the bar is open. Bonus: enjoy complimentary alcohol throughout your voyage (see "Raise A Glass" sidebar for details).

Premium wines and champagne are available for purchase. Our well-stocked bars are open late morning, afternoon, and evening—hours may shift slightly to accommodate the expedition schedule.

## Raise A Glass

Enjoy complimentary select beer, wines and select cocktails during bar service hours and dinner—throughout your voyage—as part of our "Raise A Glass and Stay Connected" Program.





# Possible Excursions

## Scotland ORKNEY ISLANDS

### KIRKWALL

The town of Kirkwall is the capital of the Orkney Islands, an archipelago of almost 70 islands, with history dating back 8,500 years. Guests can visit the impressive St. Magnus Cathedral cemetery to pay their respects to Scottish explorer Dr. John Rae, the Orkney native who charted parts of the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic in the 1830s and 1840s.

### SKARA BRAE

Also known as the “Scottish Pompeii,” Skara Brae is among Orkney’s most famous sites. It is regarded as the most intact and complete Neolithic village in all of Europe. The ruins date back more than 5,000 years—predating other famous historic sites such as the pyramids at Giza, Egypt.

### PAPA WESTRAY

This island north of Orkney offers excellent opportunities to explore historic ruins and photograph seabirds. Papa Westray is home to the oldest preserved house in Northern Europe, dating back over 5,500 years.

### STROMNESS

Small and picturesque, Stromness (population: 2,500) lies near the famous Ring of Brodgar, a Neolithic stone circle similar to Stonehenge. The name may sound familiar to those who have traveled to Antarctica and visited the Stromness Whaling Station on South Georgia Island, which played a key role in Ernest Shackleton’s legendary journey.





# Shetland Islands

## NOSS

The bird cliffs of Noss are a true highlight of Shetland. Located near the main port town of Lerwick, these towering cliffs are home to thousands of northern gannets—a particularly charismatic species rarely seen farther north. Puffins, razorbills, guillemots, shags, great skuas and seals are also abundant in the area.

## JARLSHOF

The Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement is a well-known prehistoric archeological site in Shetland. It's considered one of Northern Europe's most remarkable archeological sites, spanning human history from the Neolithic period to the Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Norse era.

## SUMBURGH HEAD

This headland at the southern tip of the main island of the Shetland archipelago is a good place to see Atlantic puffins. Visitors can also visit the popular lighthouse museum, or enjoy a scenic coastal walk.

## LERWICK

Shetland's capital (population: 7,500) has a strong fishing heritage, built on the herring trade. On atmospheric Commercial Street you'll find quaint shops, restaurants and pubs, while the busy, splendid natural harbor conveys an authentic maritime feel.

# Svalbard

## BEAR ISLAND

Bear Island lies about 400 km (250 miles) north of mainland Norway and approximately 225 km (140 miles) south of Svalbard—with no nearby settlements. Despite the name, bears are rarely seen in this southernmost island in the Svalbard archipelago. But you will see seabirds—as many as 1.5 million.

## BELLSUND

A 12-mile (20 km) long sound, Bellsund lured miners a century ago to its natural resources. Today, visitors come to Bourbonhamna and Calypsobyen to see historic mining and trapper sites and marvel at the magnificent vistas. It may also be possible to hike along the colorful tundra, dotted with flowers and old whale bones.





## HORNSUND

The most southerly fjord in Svalbard offers some of the most spectacular scenery, with dramatic calving glaciers, drifting pack ice and majestic peaks (the highest of which are often shrouded in mist). A Polish research station has operated on the northern shore of Hornsund since 1957. Part of Sør-Spitsbergen National Park, this pristine area is rich in wildlife—reindeer, Arctic fox and polar bears can be spotted hunting for food, while seals bask on floating ice

## ISFJORDEN

This region features extensive stretches of lush vegetation, home to a wide range of plant species. The broad, flat coastal areas—Bohemannflya, Erdmannflya and Daudmannsøyra—are important biotopes (vital habitats) for wading birds, geese, and ducks. The area also supports several large seabird colonies.

## KROSSFJORDEN

As we sail north into Krossfjorden, have your camera ready to capture some of the best glacier calving in Spitsbergen. Deep in the fjord, we'll encounter the highly active Lilliehöök Glacier. The thunderous rumble of ice breaking from the glacier and plunging into the sea never fails to leave guests awestruck.

## SMEERENBURGFJORDEN

Smeerenburgfjorden, a stunning fjord in northwest Svalbard, is rich in wildlife and polar history. Visitors often see walrus and Arctic terns as they explore the remnants of a 17th-century whaling camp that offer a glimpse into Arctic history.

## STORFJORDEN

Storfjorden, a wide fjord in southern Svalbard, is often dense with sea ice in May—and is rarely featured on our expeditions. We'll take time to search for iconic wildlife who rely on the ice for food and survival. If conditions allow, we may even make landfall or walk on the sea ice itself—a truly unique experience.

## EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you may experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife sightings 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 guaranteed.



# What to pack on your Arctic expedition

## BY SEA

All transfers ship to shore and Zodiac/ship cruising.

- ☐ Waterproof pants (mandatory for every Zodiac ride)
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic top\*
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic bottom\*
- ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece top\*
- ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece bottom\*
- ☐ Warm hat that covers ears (bring an extra)
- ☐ Scarf, buff, or other face protection
- ☐ Warm wool or synthetic socks (keep a dry pair in your bag, and bring extras for layering)
- ☐ Waterproof gloves or mitts (bring an extra, lighter pair for hiking)
- ☐ Glove liners\*
- ☐ Hand and feet warmers\*
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Polarized sunglasses with UV protection (consider bringing an eyewear retainer: string/clip etc.)
- ☐ Ski goggles (for Zodiac cruising on snowy or windy days)
- ☐ Waterproof, lightweight backpack or dry sack and/or rain sleeve for camera or a waterproof phone case (to keep camera & gear dry)

\*recommended layering depending on the conditions of the day and reflecting your personal thermo-regulation comfort levels.

## BY LAND (Shore Excursions and Hiking)

In addition to the gear requirements (as above) mandatory for the transit from ship to shore, it is recommended to bring:

- ☐ Hat, buff or scarf (for wind and weather protection)
- ☐ UV protection (sun hat, polarized sun glasses, sun block, lip balm etc.)
- ☐ Collapsible walking sticks for hikes (if required)  
Quantities are available to borrow on every vessel
- ☐ Additional reusable (thermos-regulating) water bottle (in addition to the reusable collapsible water bottle provided)

**WHAT TO BRING** Packing for the Polar Regions doesn't have to be daunting, and to make it easier for you, all Quark Expeditions voyages include a Quark parka to keep, and a loan of insulated waterproof boots. Additional suggested items include:

## TO WEAR ON BOARD

- ☐ The complimentary Quark 3-in-1 Parka provided on board is designed with a waterproof shell that can be worn out on deck, and a removable liner that you can wear to stay comfortable indoors)
- ☐ Comfortable casual clothing like lighter shirts, pants or jeans, etc. (in case the ship gets warm)
- ☐ Comfortable non-slip closed-toed, heelless shoes (flip flops, sandals or slip-on shoes should not be worn on board due to safety concerns)
- ☐ Workout attire (for the fitness center and other indoor activities)
- ☐ Swimsuit for the Polar Plunge. Some vessels may also have a pool, hot tub, sauna and/or steam room. See your ship book for details.

**Just a reminder:** No formal evening wear required on our voyages but if you would like to bring something a little more dressy for the Captain's welcome and farewell cocktails you may certainly do so.

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Passport, visas, immunization records, travel documents, etc. as required
- ☐ Camera gear—complete with charger, storage medium, transport and cleaning kit (lens cloth etc.) and extra batteries
- ☐ Reusable waterproof bags or plastic bags with zippers (to keep small items organized and cameras dry)
- ☐ Voltage converters and plug adapters (see ship book for details)
- ☐ Seasickness, indigestion, headache, or other medications
- ☐ Earplugs and eye masks for sleeping
- ☐ Moisturizer for face and hands (skin dryness due to wind and temperature changes)
- ☐ Credit card and small amount of local currency (see pre-departure book for more details)

- › To view our packing checklist online, visit: [QuarkExpeditions.com/What-to-Pack/Arctic](https://QuarkExpeditions.com/What-to-Pack/Arctic)
- › Related topics are covered on our Frequently Asked Questions page: [QuarkExpeditions.com/Frequently-Asked-Questions](https://QuarkExpeditions.com/Frequently-Asked-Questions)



Scan this QR code or [click here](#) to watch our video on what to pack before you go.

## WEATHER CONDITIONS & TEMPERATURES

Polar weather is extremely variable; temperatures may hover around the freezing mark and winds can be strong. The extended daylight warms sheltered areas so that you may sometimes find it warm enough for t-shirts. However, you may encounter rain, snow squalls, fog and white-outs during an expedition and should be ready for any conditions.





To book your next adventure  
Contact your Travel Professional  
or a Quark Expeditions®  
Polar Travel Adviser

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[QuarkExpeditions.com](https://www.QuarkExpeditions.com)

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PHOTO CREDITS: (over all Expedition Brochures for the Arctic 2027 season):

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EXPEDITION BROCHURE  
January 26, 2026

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