

Arctic 2027

**Quark  
Expeditions®**  
Polar-Obsessed Since 1991

# Svalbard in Spring: Sea Ice, Pristine Snow and Wildlife

Onboard *Ocean Explorer* and *Ultramarine*



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# Expedition Overview

## Svalbard in Spring: Sea Ice, Pristine Snow and Wildlife

Our 11 (or 12) day *Svalbard in Spring: Sea Ice, Pristine Snow and Wildlife* is a rare opportunity to visit the Norwegian High Arctic when Svalbard is bathed in 24 hours of daylight, yet the landscape remains entrenched in its snow-clad Arctic splendor. Entire mountains are still cloaked in snow, and sea ice, including fast ice, dominates the landscape. You have the unique privilege of witnessing the Arctic “waking up.” Birds arrive, filling the silence with their calls. Meltwater begins to trickle, ice cracks and pops, and the ground starts to thaw. Tiny shoots may appear through the melting snow—a quiet yet grand rebirth unfolding, echoing life’s cycle on an Arctic scale.

### Highlights



Witness the snow-covered landscapes under the Midnight Sun



Photograph sea ice—and the wildlife it attracts



Experience the Arctic as it “wakes up”



Observe the arrival of migratory species



Spot iconic Arctic wildlife—walruses, reindeer, Arctic foxes, and the elusive polar bear



Explore Svalbard on an ice-class polar vessel.



# Itinerary

## DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN HELSINKI, FINLAND

Arrive in the Finnish capital and make your way to the group hotel located right at Helsinki airport, included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. You will have the rest of the day to explore the many museums, galleries and restaurants, relax at a Finnish sauna or wander the vibrant Design District. If you do plan to visit Helsinki city center, take advantage of the convenient 40-minute rail service from the airport.

## DAY 2 | FLY TO LONGYEARBYEN FOR EMBARKATION

After breakfast, the group will transfer to the Helsinki airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen, included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. Our journey to the High Arctic now truly begins. You will see the coastal and birch forests of southern Scandinavia give way to taiga and tundra environments, the

mountains of Norway and northern Sweden, and the convergence of the Norwegian and Barents seas. Approaching Svalbard, you may get your first views of a pure, snow-capped wilderness, complete with ridgelines, glaciers, and perhaps even sea ice in the distance. We land in Longyearbyen, Svalbard's largest settlement, and transfer to the harbor where we will embark on our ship.

## DAYS 3 - 9 | SPRINGTIME IN THE SVALBARD WILDERNESS

*(Days 3 - 10 on the 12-day itinerary)*

Spring in Svalbard is characterized by a beautiful combination of snow, ice and Midnight Sun. A fascinating contrast unfolds with the arrival of spring: majestic polar landscapes illuminated by continuous daylight. Sea ice is at or near its annual maximum, drawing us north.



**SVALBARD IN SPRING:**  
Sea Ice, Pristine Snow and Wildlife

Onboard *Ocean Explorer & Ultramarine* —  
Flights to/from Helsinki —

If experiencing Arctic sea ice is on your bucket list, you have chosen the perfect time to visit. Your Expedition Team and Bridge Officers will consult the latest ice charts daily—sea ice is incredibly dynamic and can drift dozens of kilometers in a day.

Our route will depend on where sea ice offers the best opportunities for exploration and wildlife encounters. Sea ice is the primary hunting, resting, and travelling platform for iconic Arctic species—and spring offers the best chance to see it all.

As we navigate the ice edge—or even through it—spend time on deck with your binoculars at the ready. Somewhere in the maze of marooned icebergs and pressure ridges, wildlife may be present—perhaps even polar bears who are lured to the ice edge by the presence of seals—a primary food source. Watch for clues, shapes, and shadows that could signal something special. And while polar bears may be the main goal, you may also spot walruses, Arctic foxes, and ivory gulls—in addition to ringed and bearded seals.

On shore, spring landscapes remain blanketed in snow, with many bays still filled with ice—habitat crucial to Arctic

wildlife for food and survival. It's the kind of scenery that embodies the word "pristine." On sunny days, snowcapped ridges against cobalt skies are electric in their beauty. On cloudy days, the Arctic's muted palette of whites, greys, and blues creates moody, powerful vistas. Photography tip: try switching your camera to black-and-white mode—textures become dramatic, and light behaves differently. Alongside drifting sea ice, you may see icebergs and bergy bits—fragments of glacial ice whose origins lie deep in mountain valleys.

Spring in the Arctic is also a time of awakening. As we travel, we'll witness this seasonal transformation firsthand. Some slopes, beaches, and valleys begin to melt faster than others, revealing bare ground untouched for months. Grasses and mosses emerge, seizing every opportunity to photosynthesize in the returning sunlight. Meltwater trickles grow into fast-flowing runoff, adding sound and motion to the awakening landscape. Yet spring remains cold. In fact, these areas may go through multiple freeze-thaw cycles, especially farther north and east. In Svalbard, this mesmerizing transition is vivid and inspiring—a reminder to all of us

of the powerful rhythms of Arctic life.

Spring also welcomes migratory birds and whales. As the season unfolds, cliffsides will become busy with seabirds, such as little auks, guillemots and kittiwakes, returning to breed. Each day brings new arrivals. Nest-building, courting, and bird calls fill the air in a sensory-rich spectacle. When we encounter these colonies, take time to pause. Put down your camera. Simply observe the vibrant pulse of life and imagine the sheer abundance of food required to feed so many birds—and the chicks that will soon arrive.

Whales, too, may appear. While sightings can never be guaranteed, some large migrators—such as blue whales—begin arriving in coastal waters by late spring. Others, like belugas, live here year-round and may be spotted threading through sea ice. Each encounter, however brief, reminds us of the interconnectedness of Arctic ecosystems.

With seven full expedition days in Svalbard, we aim to explore a wide range of locations. The order of our journey will be shaped by sea ice conditions, which vary daily. Potential destinations include the spectacular fjord systems of Hornsund,



Bellsund, Isfjorden, Krossfjorden, Smeerenburgfjorden, Raudfjorden, Woodfjorden, Sorgfjorden, and others. These fjords feature dramatic mountains rising directly from the sea, folding into endless layers. Glaciers spill from the highlands, many reaching the water's edge where they calve into the sea.

Throughout Svalbard, we'll look for thriving seabird colonies and hope to make regular landings along the coasts and within fjords. Some outings may take place on exposed rocky terrain, but most will involve walking on snow. And if conditions are safe and suitable, we may even set foot on the sea ice itself—an unforgettable moment that truly feels like walking on water.

## DAY 10 | DISEMBARK IN LONGYEARBYEN AND FLY TO HELSINKI

*(Day 11 on the 12-day itinerary)*

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 Helsinki, and hotel night. Both are included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package.

## DAY 11 | DEPART HELSINKI

*(Day 12 on the 12-day itinerary)*

After breakfast at your included hotel, make your way independently to the airport for your onward flight home, or spend more time exploring the Finnish capital as prearranged.

## EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embrace the true spirit of Arctic exploration as we take you into the remarkable pack-ice habitat. Where the stark beauty of the Arctic surrounds you. This immersive experience offers a deeper connection to the environment, allowing you to witness firsthand the in-motion frozen terrain that Polar Bears, Ivory Gulls and Bearded Seals call home. Your expert Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to spot wildlife in this dynamic habitat where the presence of animals is always opportunistic.





SCIENCE PROGRAM IS ONLY AVAILABLE ON ULTRAMARINE

# 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.

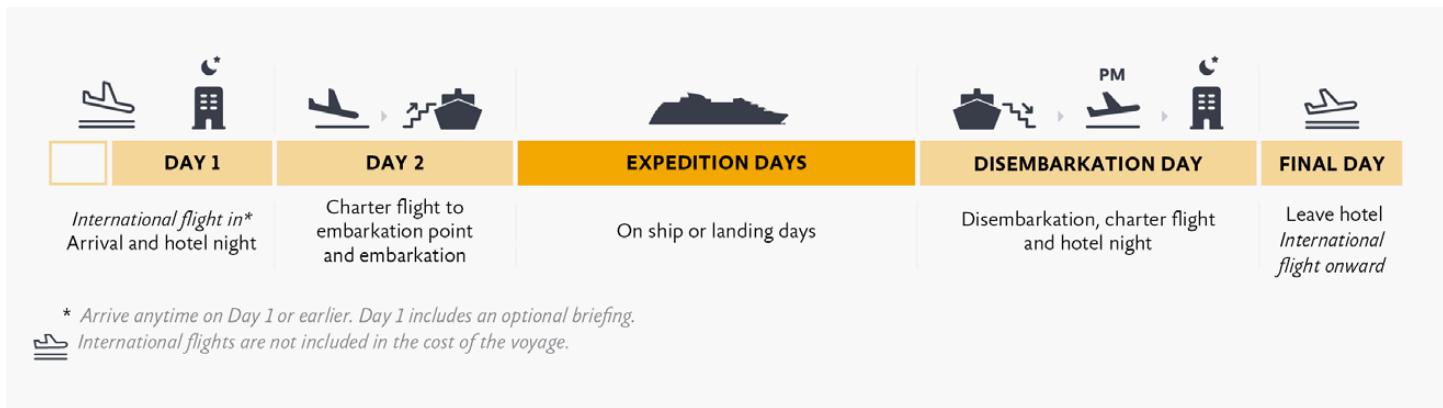
*Note: The Science Hub is open to guests for self-guided exploration when staff are otherwise occupied.*

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





# Arrival and Departure Details, and International Flight Planning



## Arrival Day and Embarkation

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

You may arrive in Helsinki at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary. Your included accommodation will be at the airport hotel, so arrival transfers are not necessary. Upon arrival at the hotel, you will receive a welcome letter outlining the departure information for the following day's charter flight. Please keep in mind that your hotel room may not be ready for check in until 3p m. A Quark Expeditions representative will be available in the lobby of the hotel later in the day to answer any questions.

### DAY 2 — CHARTER FLIGHT AND EMBARKATION IN LONGYEARBYEN

After a restful night at your hotel, you will join your flight to Longyearbyen. Upon arrival in Longyearbyen, you will be transferred from the airport to a drop off point and your luggage will be taken directly to the ship. 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.

### PLEASE NOTE

There is a strict luggage weight limit on checked luggage and cabin baggage on the flights between Helsinki and Longyearbyen. Should you have additional luggage, it can be stored at the hotel in 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
- › Charter flight time to embarkation point
- › Embarkation plan
- › Departure charter flight time

# Final Day and Departure

## DISEMBARKATION IN LONGYEARBYEN AND CHARTER FLIGHT TO HELSINKI

Your voyage is scheduled to end back in Longyearbyen where 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

Upon arrival in Helsinki, you'll be transferred to your included airport hotel for the night. If you wish to explore downtown Helsinki you'll have to travel into the city by taxi or public transit. In the morning, make your way to the airport to catch your flight onward.

# Arrival and Departure Transfers

## HELSINKI AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Our hotel accommodations are provided at Helsinki airport. Transfers should not be required and are not provided.

## PLEASE NOTE

### Helsinki Hotel Accommodations:

The Charter Flight & Hotel Package for this expedition includes two nights of hotel accommodations right at Helsinki airport on Day 1 and Day 10 of your expedition, or Day 1 and Day 11 on the 12-day Itinerary. The airport is a 40 minute train ride from the city center.





## OCEAN EXPLORER

The modern and elegant *Ocean Explorer* is one of the newest additions to our fleet. The 142-passenger vessel features the ULSTEIN X-BOW®—cutting-edge marine engineering that ensures smooth, comfortable sailing.

Spacious cabins feature bespoke Scandinavian design, most with verandas. Located at the bow is the two-story, light-filled library, which introduces a welcome airiness to the ship. *Ocean Explorer* guests have access to ample outdoor viewing areas and multi-height outer decks, ideal for long-view photography and wildlife viewing.

A fleet of 15 Zodiacs ensures guests disembark quickly and safely for unforgettable off-ship adventures. *Ocean Explorer* has an industry leading mix of sustainability systems, including fuel-efficient Rolls Royce engines.

Wellness options on *Ocean Explorer* feature VOYA spa treatments, sauna and Jacuzzi hydrotherapy, morning stretch sessions, a gym, and health-conscious dining—everything you need stay healthy throughout your expedition.

### SHIP SPECIFICATIONS:

Staff and Crew: 105

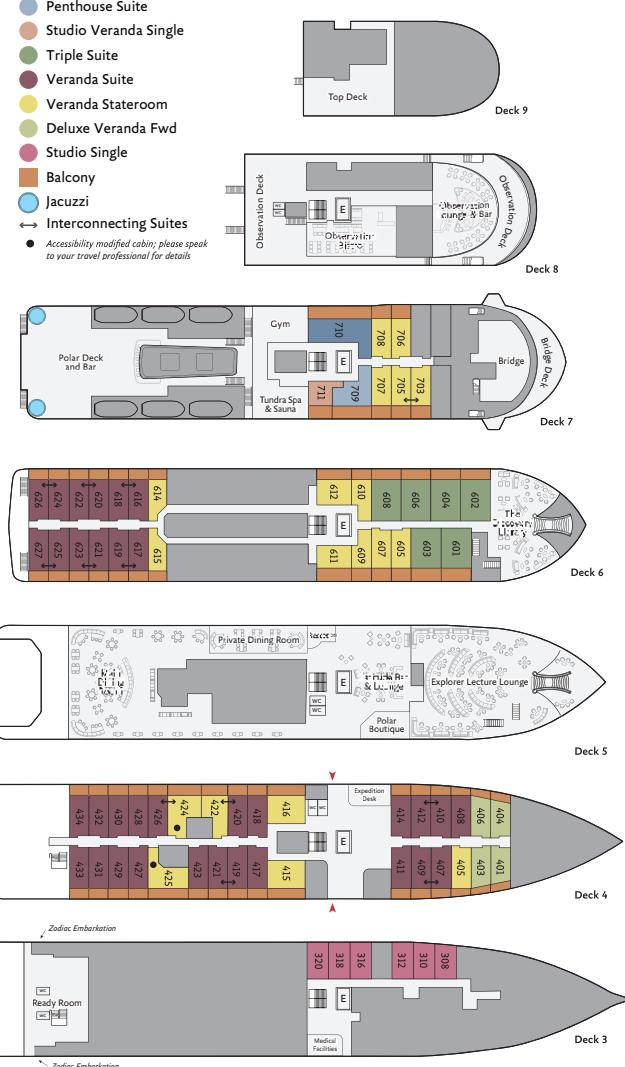
Guests: 142

Lifeboats: 2

Ice Class: 1A, PC6

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

- Owner's Suite
- Penthouse Suite
- Studio Veranda Single
- Triple Suite
- Veranda Suite
- Veranda Stateroom
- Deluxe Veranda Fwd
- Studio Single
- Balcony
- Jacuzzi
- ↔ Interconnecting Suites
- Accessibility modified cabin, please speak to your travel professional for details





## 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

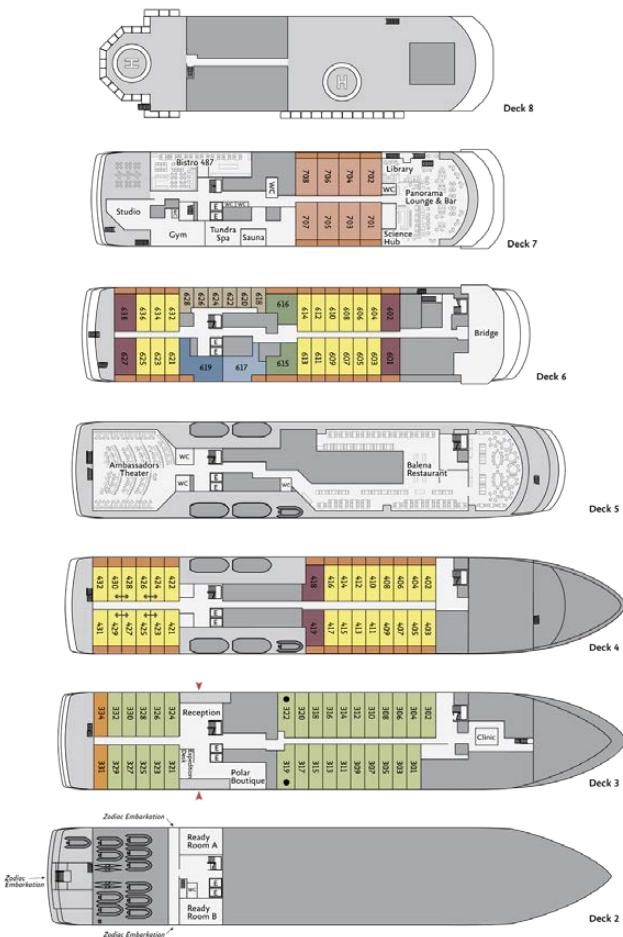
Guests: 199

Lifeboats: 4, fully enclosed

Ice Class: PC6

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

*Ultramarine's* twin-engine helicopters do not operate on our Svalbard voyages.



- Ultra Suite
- Deluxe Balcony Suite
- Solo Panorama
- Owner's Suite
- Balcony Suite
- Balcony
- Penthouse Suite
- Explorer Suite
- Terrace Suite
- Explorer Triple
- ↔ 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 spot 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 the best way to appreciate the polar landscapes. Our guides are able to accommodate a range of skill levels.

## **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.

## **SCIENCE & DISCOVERY**

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.

## **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 guide will help you hone your skills to capture the beauty of the polar regions.

*Contact your Polar Travel Adviser or your Travel Professional for more information about your Included Activities and Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost.*



# 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 guest experiences—such as our two Tundra to Table programs. Tundra to Table: Inuit Culinary Experience, developed with Igapall, enables Inuit chefs to share Greenlandic cuisine and culture. Tundra to Table: Iceland, which takes guests on a culinary journey through Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, is created in partnership with local culinary experts. These programs are available on select *Ultramarine* itineraries that operate in Greenland, the Canadian High Arctic and Iceland.

*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 Dates

Svalbard in Spring: Sea Ice, Pristine Snow and Wildlife

## ULTRAMARINE

Dates	Days	Start / End	Sea Kayaking	Paddling Excursion
<b>ARCTIC 2027</b>				
MAY 16 - 26, 2027	11	Helsinki	\$	\$
MAY 24 - JUNE 3, 2027	11	Helsinki	\$	\$
JUNE 1 - 11, 2027	11	Helsinki	\$	\$

## OCEAN EXPLORER

Dates	Days	Start / End	Sea Kayaking	Paddling Excursion
<b>ARCTIC 2027</b>				
APRIL 30 - MAY 11, 2027	12	Helsinki	\$	\$
MAY 9 - 19, 2027	11	Helsinki	\$	\$
MAY 17 - 27, 2027	11	Helsinki	\$	\$
MAY 25 - JUNE 4, 2027	11	Helsinki	\$	\$

\$ Paid Activities



# 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.)
- Free beer, standard wines, spirits, and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner
- Complimentary select beer, wines and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner
- 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
- Transfers between Longyearbyen town center, port and airport embarkation and disembarkation day.

## Exclusions

### RATES SPECIFICALLY DO NOT INCLUDE:

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

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

- Pre- and post-expedition hotel nights at Helsinki airport hotel, with breakfast
- Charter flight from Helsinki to Longyearbyen
- Arrival and departure transfers in Longyearbyen
- Charter flight from Longyearbyen to Helsinki



## 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 to as part of our onboarding process as well as ongoing training for experienced staff.



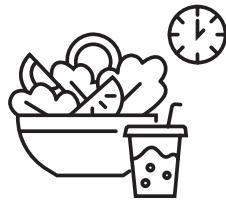


# On-Ship Dining

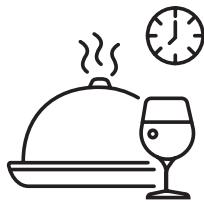
Every on-board meal is included in the cost of your trip.



**8 BREAKFASTS \***



**8 LUNCHES \***



**8 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.

*\*Guests on the 12-day itinerary enjoy 9 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 9 dinners, included in the cost of their trip.\**

## 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

## ALKHORNET

These world-famous bird cliffs, located at the entrance to Isfjorden, not far from Longyearbyen, tower above the rugged shoreline. They are teeming with fulmars, Brünnich's guillemots (thickbilled murres) and other nesting seabirds. Sightings of reindeer are possible here, too.

## LILLIEHOOKBREEN (LILLIEHÖÖK GLACIER)

In 2005, nearly 100 years after his great-great-grandfather conducted scientific investigations here, Prince Albert II of Monaco returned to Lilliehöök Glacier to honor his ancestor's memory. Here, you can take a Zodiac cruise amid labyrinths of sparkling icebergs, and witness breathtaking panoramas of ice. You may even spot bearded seals hauled out on the floes.

## MOFFEN ISAND

This small, low-lying island lies north of 80° and is designated as a protected sanctuary for walruses. As part of

Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park, the island hosts large numbers of breeding Arctic terns and Sabine's gulls, which are rare in Svalbard. Visiting this unique, protected site by ship offers the opportunity to view walruses through both binoculars and scopes from the deck.

## SMEERENBURG

At Smeerenburg you can see the remains of an abandoned settlement that was established by Dutch whalers nearly 400 years ago. Here, at what was once one of Europe's most northerly outposts, you'll have time to explore ashore and learn about Spitsbergen's whaling history.

## VARSOLBUKTA

This remote bay in Bellsund is surrounded by Arctic tundra. It is known for reindeer, birdlife, and remnants of historic mining camps along a rugged, scenic coastline.



# 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 & 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](http://QuarkExpeditions.com/What-to-Pack/Arctic)
- › Related topics are covered on our Frequently Asked Questions page: [QuarkExpeditions.com/Frequently-Asked-Questions](http://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®  
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Photos captured with a telephoto lens from a responsible  
distance, following regulatory/AECO guidelines.

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EXPEDITION BROCHURE  
January 26, 2026

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