

Spitsbergen Circumnavigation

A Rite of Passage

Onboard Ultramarine & Ocean Explorer



Expedition Overview



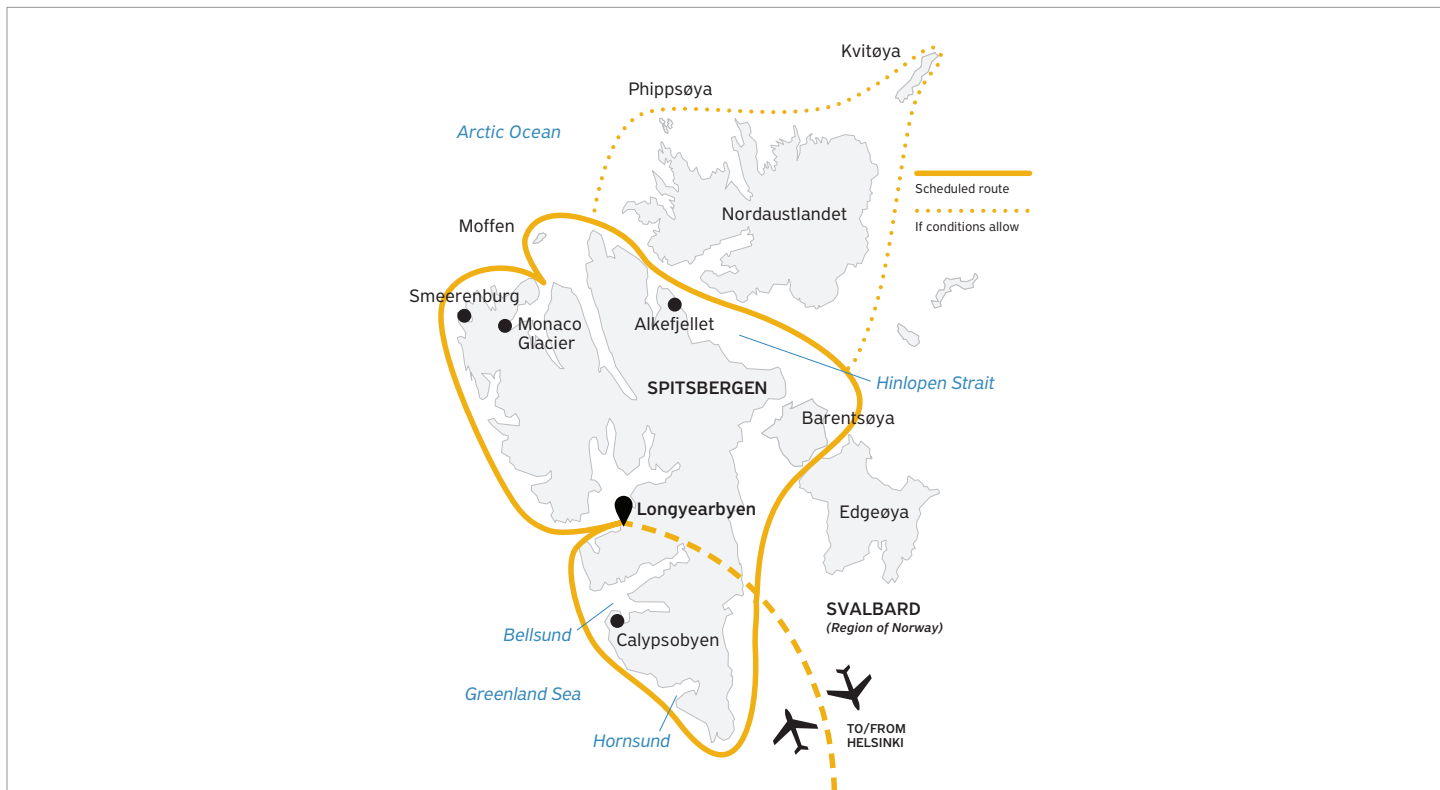
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Circle Spitsbergen in One Epic Journey

This 15-day itinerary is our most comprehensive exploration of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. What makes it truly exceptional is that it's the only expedition where we attempt a full circumnavigation of Spitsbergen—a rare Arctic rite of passage reserved for the boldest travelers. This is an Arctic adventure few will ever experience. Witness iconic wildlife, including walrus, reindeer, and elusive polar bears. Step ashore at secluded landing sites steeped in 16th-century maritime history, and prepare to be awestruck as you visit two of the Arctic's most extraordinary birdwatching havens: 14th of July Glacier and Alkefjellet.

- Spot iconic Arctic wildlife, such as polar bears, walrus and reindeer
- Photograph puffins, terns, purple sandpipers and other Arctic birds
- Anticipate a full circumnavigation of Spitsbergen
- Explore glaciers, fjords and icebergs on a Zodiac cruise
- Immerse yourself in the Arctic with optional kayaking
- Hike the tundra and polar desert.

Day by Day Itinerary



— Onboard *Ultramarine* and *Ocean Explorer*
- - - Flights to/from Helsinki

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, Svalbard, and Embark

After breakfast, the group will transfer to the Helsinki airport and board our private charter flight to Longyearbyen, as part of the 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.

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Days 3–13

Exploring Svalbard

Expect a new adventure every day as we begin our journey by heading north and around the island of Spitsbergen, exploring smaller, outlying islands. We plan to circumnavigate Spitsbergen, but if conditions are favorable, we will also attempt a larger circumnavigation of the archipelago, including many of the outer islands in Svalbard. Every expedition will be different, depending on the weather and ice, but some of the places we may visit include the 14th of July Glacier, Ny-London, Phippsøya, Alkefjellet and the seldom-visited Kvitøya.

These names may seem strange to you, but each site has its own unique appeal. There is no shortage of natural beauty in Svalbard, where colorful tundra meadows are complemented by immense glaciers. For birders, 14th of July Bay is home to puffins, purple sandpipers, black-legged kittiwakes, pink-footed geese, and barnacle geese, while Alkefjellet's cliffs are teeming with nesting Brünnich's guillemots (thick-billed murres).

Always on the lookout for wildlife, be sure to have your camera ready to capture reindeer when we visit sites like Ny-London, Sundneset and Alkhornet. Phippsøya and Isbukta are often home to sea ice, the polar bear's preferred habitat for hunting, which translates into great potential for you to view and capture them in action.

A big part of appreciating Svalbard comes from understanding the history—not just how people live today, but also how this land was first explored. Whaling was a key industry, and you will see remains of outposts from the 16th century, plus other evidence of whaling at landing sites such as Smeerenburg.

Day 14

Disembark in Longyearbyen and Fly to Helsinki

The time to say goodbye has come. Your adventure ends as it began, in the frontier settlement of Longyearbyen. From here, we'll transfer you to the airport for your charter flight to Helsinki, and group hotel night. Both are included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package.

Day 15

Depart Helsinki

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

Arrival & Departure Details



* Arrive at the hotel on Day 1 by 3pm or earlier. Day 1 includes a mandatory briefing.
✈ International flights are not included in the cost of the voyage.



Day 1 Arriving and Hotel night in Helsinki

- Arrive in the Finnish capital of Helsinki
- If you have any questions, a Quark Expeditions representative will be in the lobby later in the day.

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 flight. Please keep in mind that your hotel room may not be ready for check in until 3 p.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

- Today you fly to Longyearbyen, Svalbard
- Embark on your polar expedition

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.



Disembarkation Day Disembarkation in Longyearbyen and Charter flight to Helsinki

- Disembark the ship after breakfast
- Potentially explore Longyearbyen before flying 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. Upon arrival in Helsinki, you will be transferred to your included hotel for the night.

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Final Day

Departing from Helsinki

After breakfast at the hotel (which is included), make your way to the airport to catch your onward flight, or continue exploring locally.

Airport Transfer

Included hotel accommodations are provided at the Helsinki airport; therefore, transfers are not required.

Luggage Restrictions

- Travel with one checked bag and one carry-on only.

This expedition includes charter flights. Your package includes one checked bag and one carry-on bag. Luggage weight restrictions on these flights are typically lower than those on international carriers. There is no option to pay for additional luggage. Specific weight limits will be confirmed in your final travel documents.



Photos captured with a telephoto lens from a responsible distance, following regulatory/AECO guidelines.



Book Your Next Adventure

Contact your travel professional or a Quark Expeditions Polar Travel Advisor.

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