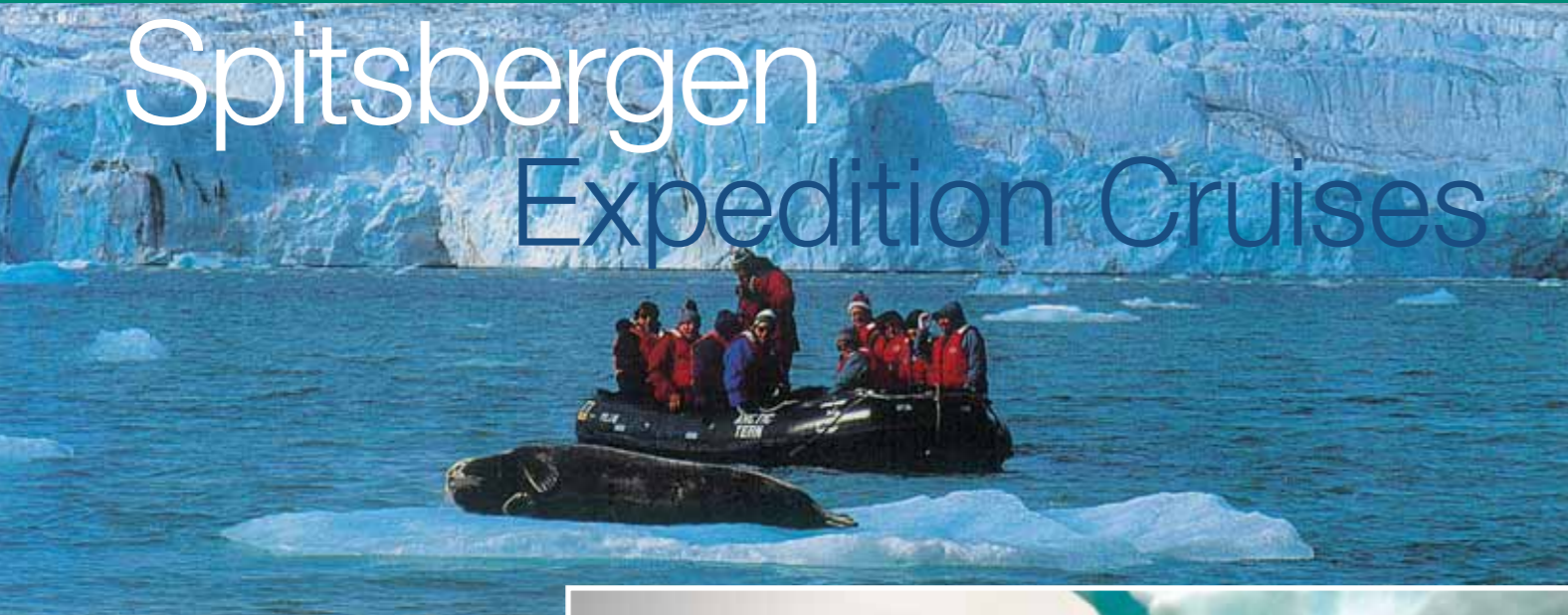


Spitsbergen Expedition Cruises



OUR SHIPS

The Professor Molchanov and Professor Moltanovskiy were both built in Finland as polar research craft for the Hydro-graphic Institute of St Petersburg and later converted to passenger use. Both are crewed by experienced Russian officers and men, the former being widely acknowledged to be experts in polar navigation. Whilst marginally different in date of build, profile and internal layout, all have specially strengthened ice resistant hulls.

The Antarctic Dream was built in Holland as a patrol boat with an ice resistant strengthened hull for the Chilean Navy and subsequently rebuilt and refurbished in 2005. The Plancius was originally built as an oceanographic research vessel for the Dutch Navy and subsequently modified as a polar exploration vessel. Both ships are crewed by Chileans on the bridge, in the engine room and hospitality areas.



OUR EXPEDITION LEADERS

Cruises are led by experienced leaders with a strong and academically based enthusiasm for the Polar regions in general and their specialist subject in particular. As eclectic a group by way of nationality, gender, career path, experience and academic discipline as it is possible to find, they nonetheless find common ground in their love of nature and the environment.



Just some of them who lead and have led our expeditions in recent years are:

Ian Stone, a Polar historian and honorary research associate at the Polar Research Institute at Cambridge.

Morten Jorgensen has worked for the Danish Ornithological Society and as an observer for the Danish Polar Center.

Robin Buzzza moved to Spitsbergen after rowing from England to the North Cape in an open boat. Enough said!

Rolf Strange has recently published *Rocks and Ice*, a book on the geography and geology of Svalbard and has worked as a guide and zodiac driver for Oceanwide Expeditions since 2000.



9 DAY EXPEDITION CRUISE

DAY 1 OSLO Scheduled SAS flight to Oslo. Overnight Clarion Oslo Airport Hotel.

DAY 2 OSLO – LONGYEARBYEN Early morning scheduled SAS flight from Oslo to Longyearbyen. Transfer to your ship. Evening sail north along the west coast.

DAY 3 In Krossfjorden Zodiac along the sculpted front of Glacier. Kittiwakes, Brünnich's Guillemots nest; Arctic Foxes patrol and Bearded Seals cruise the fjord. Later we sail to Ny Ålesund with its Barnacle Geese, Pink-footed Geese and Arctic Terns.

DAY 4 Sail to the mouth of Leifdefjorden and go ashore on the tundra island of Andøya. King and common Eiders and Pink-footed Geese nest here. We might also sail alongside the impressive Monaco glacier. Polar bears can occasionally be seen.

DAY 5 In Hinlopen straits we get a chance to see Bearded and Ringed Seals, Polar Bears and Ivory Gulls. On Lomfjordshalvøya we

Zodiac to the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet. Later we land in Augustbukta. See Spitsbergen Reindeer, Walrus and a rare Ivory Gull colony.

DAY 6 We reach our northernmost point at Phippsøya, at 81 degrees north we will be just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole. Taking our time we might see Polar Bears, Ivory Gulls a possible even a Ross Gull, before it is time for us to journey south again.

DAY 7 Retracing our route westwards, visit Raudfjord, a fjord dominated by spectacular glaciers and Seals. At Ytre Norskøya the bird life is prolific, with colonies of Little Auks, Black Guillemots, Puffins and Arctic Skuas.

DAY 8 Sail south to Alkhorset. Seabirds nest on its cliffs and Arctic Foxes search for fallen eggs and chicks, while Spitsbergen Reindeer graze. Cruise through beautiful Borebukta following a glacier front.

DAY 9 LONGYEARBYEN – UK Dock at Longyearbyen. Return SAS flight(s) to the UK via Oslo.



12 DAY EXPEDITION CRUISE

DAY 1 UK – OSL Scheduled SAS flight to Oslo, self transfer to and overnight at Clarion Oslo Airport Hotel.

DAY 2 OSLO-LONGYEARBYEN Early morning scheduled flight from to Longyearbyen and transfer to the ship. Time for a look around Longyearbyen before early evening sailing.

DAY 3 Sail into Krossfjorden and Zodiac along the sculpted front of the 14th of July Glacier. Nearby cliffs have Kittiwakes and Brünnich's Guillemots nesting whilst Arctic Foxes patrol the base of the cliff in case a hapless chick falls from its nest whilst Bearded Seals cruise this scenic fjord.

DAY 4 In Liefdefjorden go ashore on the tundra island of Andøya. Common Eiders and pink-footed Geese nest here along with rare King Eider which may also be seen. Sail along the sheer face of the Monaco Glacier, where thousands of kittiwakes and occasionally polar bears are seen.

DAY 5 Today we reach our northernmost point at Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet just 545 miles from the

North Pole. Possibly sit in the pack ice, taking in the spectacular surroundings.

DAY 6 Visit Laagöya today, a low island with a big lagoon where a walrus herd tends to congregate; Sabine's gulls nest on the island as well. At Sorg Fjord we may find another herd of walrus not far from the graves of 17th century whalers.

DAY 7 Sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to bearded seals, ringed seals, polar bears, and ivory gulls. Navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in Zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet with thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. Attempt a landing at Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet, home to reindeer, pink-footed geese, breeding ivory gulls, and walrus.

DAY 8 Near Torrelneset, explore the polar desert of Nordaustlandet, next to the world's third largest ice cap. Sailing south of Nordaustlandet there is good chance of seeing Greenland whales.

DAY 9 In Freemansundet to land on Barentsøya to visit an old trapper's hut and then take a brisk walk across the tundra in

CABIN GRADES

TN - Twin bedded cabin with shared facilities
TW - Twin bedded cabin with private wc/shower
SU - Superior cabin with private facilities

Prices are in £ per person

9 DAY EXPEDITION CRUISE SA8101

DATES	CABIN GRADES		
	TN	TW	SU
ALL	3175	3675	3995

DEPARTURE DATES

June 13, 20, 27

12 DAY EXPEDITION CRUISE SA8102

DATES	CABIN GRADES		
	TN	TW	SU
ALL	4220	4995	5495

Prices include return SAS flights from Heathrow to Longyearbyen via Oslo • Passenger service charges and airport departure taxes • Overnight hotel accommodation in twin bedded room(s) as per itinerary either in Oslo and/or Longyearbyen • 7 or 10 nights onboard ship according to selected cruise in chosen cabin category • All meals throughout the voyage on board the ship including snacks, coffee and tea • All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac • Programme of lectures by naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff • Transfers in Longyearbyen • Pre-departure information pack.

DEPARTURE DATES

July 7, 14, 17, 24, 27
August 3, 6, 13, 16

search of Spitsbergen Reindeer and Barnacle Geese. Later cruise south to Diskobukta on the west side of Edgeøya and Zodiac through the shallow bay to land on a beach littered with whale bones and logs carried down from the Barents sea. Climb to the rim of a narrow gully inhabited by thousands of Kittiwakes, Black Guillemots and piratical Glaucous Gulls.

DAY 10 Cruise the side fjords of the Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen enjoying the scenery of towering mountain peaks: Hornsundtind rises to 1431m while Bautaen there are also 14 magnificent glaciers in the area and very good chances of encounters with seals and Polar Bears.

DAY 11 Land on Ahlstrandhalvøya at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden. Here piles of Beluga skeletons (a small white whale), the remains of 19th century slaughter litter the shoreline and there is a good chance we will come across a pod. Cruise into Recherchefjorden during the afternoon and explore an area of tundra at the head of the fjord where many Reindeer feed.

DAY 12 Return to Longyearbyen and disembark for transfer to airport and return flight to the UK via Oslo.