



## Trip Dossier

### 11 Day Svalbard Odyssey Cruise



**Longyearbyen to Longyearbyen**  
22 June - 02 July 2020

**Longyearbyen to Kirkenes**  
02 July - 12 July 2020

#### Itinerary Highlights:

- Sail along Spitsbergen's glacier-filled coastline.
- Almost 24-hours of exquisite Arctic sunlight. Be on the look out to spot wildlife any time of day!
- Spot the magnitude of Arctic wildlife including polar bears, walrus, ringed seals and more.
- Visit long abandoned whaling stations and trapper huts to learn the history of why man first came to the Arctic.
- Enjoy a great variety of diverse terrain; icecaps, tundra, polar desert and rocky hillsides
- Cruise past brilliantly blue glaciers and through stunning fjords

Revel in the diversity of the Svalbard Island and sail into the kingdom of the polar bear. We explore the coastline, with no open sea crossings, against a backdrop of spectacular glacier covered peaks. We discover deep fjords in the west; mysterious, fossil-rich desert plains in the east; and best of all, seals and whales in the Arctic pack ice. This voyage offers the best chance for seeing reindeers and polar bears, and features wildflower walks across sweeping tundra, trapper camps and historic sites.

On foot and by Zodiac, we visit abandoned whaling settlements, search for walrus, Arctic fox and reindeer, observe in millions of migratory birds, including little auks, guillemots and puffins.

The expedition ship is the perfect launch pad to set off from and is so comfortable to return to.

Join us on an unforgettable adventure to places that few are fortunate to visit.



## Itinerary

### **DAY 1 EMBARK LONGYEARBYEN**

Arrive in Longyearbyen, where you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and taken on a sightseeing tour to explore the remote outskirts and 'Capital' of Spitsbergen, including a stop at the local museum. After the tour you will be transferred to the port in the late afternoon to embark the Greg Mortimer. You'll have time to settle into your cabin prior to the important pre-departure briefings. Your voyage commences, cruising out of the beautiful Isfjorden, escorted by gliding fulmars and perhaps the occasional puffin. Find a spot on one of the observation areas watching for seabirds, including graceful ivory gulls, kittiwakes and guillemots. They rise and fall skilfully, using the air currents created by the ship to gain momentum.

NOTE: Sometimes our ship is unable to dock in Longyearbyen port due to space and capacity. In these instances, we reach the ship by Zodiac.

### **DAYS 2-3 NORTHWEST COAST OF SPITSBERGEN**

Cruise northwards along the west coast of Spitsbergen, stopping at intriguing places like Kongsfjorden or Magdalenefjorden. Kongsfjorden (Kings Bay) is incredibly scenic, the fjord is headed by two giant glaciers. There's ample time ashore for hiking on the lush tundra amongst the summer flowers and observing the remarkable bird cliffs near the 14th July Glacier, where even a few puffins nest between the cracks in the cliffs.

We keep watch for polar bears and Arctic fox and feel a sense of history at the 350-year-old remains of a Dutch whaling settlement, Smeerenberg on Amsterdamøya. The name Smeerenberg literally means blubber town in Dutch. It is a place of extraordinary legends, of thousands of men living there during the 1630s, a town complete with shops, gambling dens and the like. In reality, only 400 men and fifteen ships visited Smeerenberg during its peak in the 1630s for whaling purposes.

### **DAYS 4-6 NORTHERN FLANKS OF SPITSBERGEN AND NORDAUSLANDET**

As we work our way along the north coast we explore rarely-visited places such as Woodfjorden and Leifdefjorden in search of the mighty polar bear. From Zodiacs we enjoy magnificent views of sweeping glaciers winding their way into the sea. We may walk on smooth raised beach terraces to a superb viewpoint or hike in the mountains on the tundra where pretty coloured wildflowers and lichen grow and where reindeer graze. We may visit trapper huts of yesteryear where Russians and Pomors would hunt and survive the cold harsh winters, all while remaining alert for wandering polar bears and their cubs. We might come face-to-face with the formidable pack ice of the Arctic Ocean, keeping our eyes peeled for walrus feeding on clams or hauled out on the beach in wallows. We will listen to the cacophony of sea birds and see them feeding. If conditions allow, we may push north into the pack ice in hopes of finding polar bears ranging over the frozen landscape on the hunt for seals. We may also visit Seven Island, the northernmost islands in Svalbard where Polar Bears and walrus are common - if pack ice allows.

### **DAYS 7-9 HINLOPEN STRAIT, EAST COAST OF SPITSBERGEN AND EDGEØYA**

Along the northeast coast of Spitsbergen we enter a different world – a polar desert. If ice conditions allow we will pass south through the narrow Hinlopen Strait. The strait is flanked by creamy coloured slabs of rock that are rich in fossils, as we will discover for ourselves when we go ashore. We may visit Alkefjellet in the Strait, where a series of one-hundred-metre-high dolerite towers are home to nearly a million nesting Brünnich's guillemots – the penguins of the north – that occupy every available nook and cranny. Elsewhere we seek out eider ducks and geese and hope to spot Arctic fox and the beautiful ivory gulls. As the Greg Mortimer passes between Spitsbergen and the smaller islands of Barentsøya and Edgeøya, we cross a major polar bear migration route and the beautiful fertile plains of Sundeneset. The spongy ground is richly covered with bright green mosses, a variety of delicate and colourful flowers, particularly the yellow marsh (bog) saxifrage, various mushrooms, fungi, clear

bubbling streams and small tarns. Tiny (micro) flowers such as Mouse Ears grow in Spitsbergen creating faerie like mossy rock gardens. We explore this beautiful terrain on foot, marvelling at the contrast between the colourful soft ground and the barren, rocky terrain from further north. Reindeer antlers lie scattered along the ground. We will do one last landing around Edgeøya on day 9 before starting the crossing of the Barents Sea, during these last day we may cruise in the pack ice again looking for our last polar bear.

### DAY 10 AT SEA

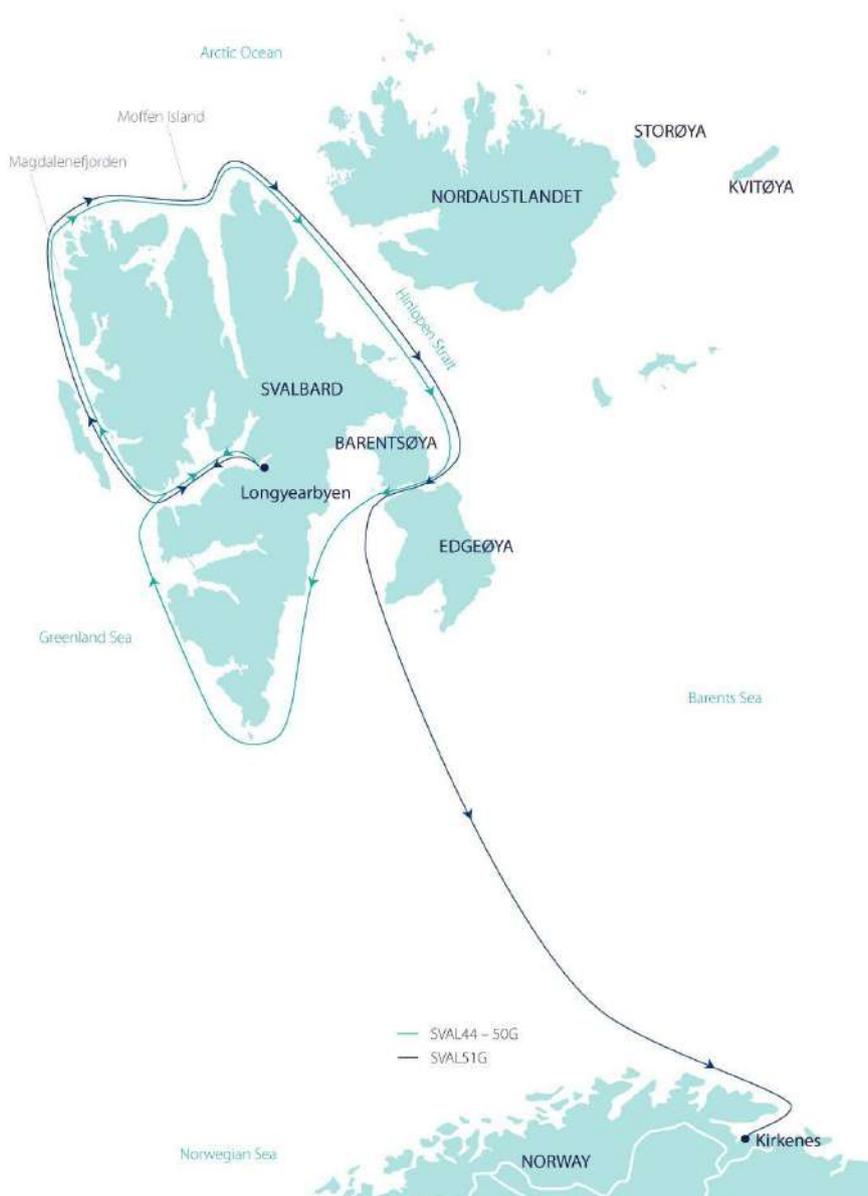
Crossing the Barents Sea to Kirkenes offers some good opportunities to encounter whales and certainly plenty of opportunities to photograph sea birds. You may enjoy final presentations from our team of experts, spend your time editing photos or simply relaxing.

### DAY 11 DISEMBARK KIRKENES

During the early morning we cruise into the Bokfjord towards Kirkenes. Farewell your expedition team and fellow expeditioners as we all continue our onward journeys. A transfer is included to the airport.

Please note that on the Longyearbyen to Kirkenes cruise Days 9 - 11 leave Svalbard on Day 9 before crossing the Barents Sea in to Kirkenes on the morning of Day 11.

*The above itinerary may be varied according to conditions and advice.*



## Cruise Costs Per Person Twin Share

Cost:	\$8,200.00	Twin Aurora Stateroom with private bathroom
	\$9,300.00	Twin Balcony Stateroom with private bathroom
	\$11,400.00	Twin Balcony Suite with private bathroom

Prices quoted are per person and in Australian dollars, based on twin share. Solo Passengers can have sole occupancy of a cabin by paying 25% supplement on top of twin share price for Aurora and balcony staterooms only.

No single travel fees apply if you are willing to share your cabin. Fuel surcharge may apply in the event of significant fuel price increases. No refund for unused services.

Departs:	Longyearbyen, Svalbard	22 June	2020
Finishes:	Longyearbyen, Svalbard	02 July	2020

Departs:	Longyearbyen, Svalbard	02 July	2020
Finishes:	Kirkenes, Norway	12 July	2020

## Tour Payments

Non-refundable deposit: At time of booking \$3,000.00 per person

Non-refundable final payment: Due 90 days prior to departure. of



## Voyage Inclusions

- Group arrival transfer from airport to the Greg Mortimer on Day 1
- Group sightseeing tour of Longyearbyen on arrival pre-voyage
- Group transfer from ship to airport in Longyearbyen on Day 11
- On-board accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team
- Access to our onboard doctor and basic medical services
- A 3-in-1 waterproof polar expedition jacket
- Complimentary use of muck boots during the voyage Comprehensive pre-departure information
- A printed photo book produced with photos from your voyage
- Gratuities for crew will automatically be added to your bill. Please advise at the time of settlement if you would like this to be removed
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees

## Voyage Exclusions

- International or domestic flights, unless specified
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, gratuities, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges.



## Greg Mortimer

Proudly named after Aurora Expeditions adventurous co-founder, the 104-metre Greg Mortimer is their very first, purpose-built expedition vessel. Capable of negotiating the strongest winds and waves, the *Greg Mortimer* is built to world-class polar standards – designed in close consultation with their expedition specialists, taking advantage of our more than 25 years of experience.



Accommodating a maximum of 100 passengers plus kayakers and divers, the *Greg Mortimer* redefines expedition cruising for the future. Not only is the ship bigger to contend with adverse weather conditions, its added creature comforts make for a more enjoyable journey out on the open ocean.

### Accommodation - Balcony Staterooms

The balcony Staterooms all include en-suite bathrooms, floor to ceiling windows and balconies. They have twin or double beds, desk area, closet, room-controlled thermostat, safe and a 42" flat-screen TV

### Features:

X-BOW® - Aurora's expeditions face some of the worst Mother Nature can throw at us. However, this won't be a problem on the *Greg Mortimer* with the introduction of the patented X-BOW®, created by Norwegian ship designer ULSTEIN. As one of the leaders in marine engineering, ULSTEIN's X-BOW® is an inverted bow concept that's been built on over 100 vessels in the shipping industry. They are the first expedition cruise operator to utilise this technology for the challenging open ocean waves!



Hydraulic viewing platforms - We are all here to admire the spectacular landscape and spot the elusive wildlife in their natural habitat. To ensure you get the best views possible, the new ship features unique custom-built viewing platforms. The two platforms fold out hydraulically for unobstructed views of passing marine life and seabirds – make sure your camera is locked and loaded!

Zodiac launching platform - Zodiacs are a vital part of getting up close and personal on your adventure – sneaking into areas that the *Greg Mortimer* can't reach. There are specially designed launching platforms that enables them to load Zodiacs easily and quickly, allowing you to spend more time exploring on the two to three daily landings. There are 15 Zodiacs that are boarded from sea level.

Environmentally friendly - Climate change and carbon emissions continue to be major issues that everyone needs to be aware of and actively managing. Several features on the *Greg Mortimer* include reduced emissions into the air and sea, lower energy consumption, high fuel efficiency, reduced light pollution for minimal wildlife disruption and lower on-board plastic use. It's vital to also mention the state-of-the-art virtual anchoring technology of the X-BOW®, which means the ship can float anchorless while launching Zodiacs, kayaks etc, without disturbing delicate sea floor areas.

Safety features - The *Greg Mortimer* features the most up-to-date and concise safety technology. This starts with the return-to-port equipment – not compulsory on a ship of this size – which duplicates the propulsion system. This enables the ship to maintain operating systems and comfort in the event of engine failure. Furthermore, she is Polar Code 6 compliant, holds BV class and is fully compliant with the latest SOLAS requirements. It's also built with a Rolls Royce stabiliser system. If there's an incident or accident during your adventure, the ship has an onboard, fully-stocked medical centre – where our trained medical team can provide necessary treatment in a timely fashion.

### **Dining**

You're welcome to 24 hours complimentary coffee, tea and snack facilities in addition to the range of different menu options and courses for each meal. Meals are served in large dining room/restaurant. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks included with dinner after a long day in the wild. On the last day of your trip, the team on the *Greg Mortimer* put on a special farewell four-course dinner and cocktails – a perfect way to reflect on your time on the ship and consolidate lifelong friendships.

### **Observation Decks**

There are plenty of dedicated observation spaces – ideal for keen bird spotters, wildlife watchers and those wanting to watch the scenery go past. From the indoor 180-degree lounge and outdoor 360-degree open deck, to the 270-degree open sundeck, there are plenty of observation points to share around the ship! If these are full, then you can take up a spot on one of the two hydraulic viewing platforms. There is also an open bridge policy, which means at any point you can come up to the bridge to watch navigational practices and observe mapping techniques.

### **On-board Entertainment**

On all our expeditions, there are experts who lead presentations in the spacious lecture room. These often include topics as broad as history and culture to biology and climate change, these presentations aim to educate and entertain.

If you're keen to just watch the surroundings and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife, you have access to two bars/lounges where the views are just stunning.

There is a photography/art and library room and a Wellness Centre complete with gym equipment, sauna and spa.

### **Activity options**

There are many optional activities including kayaking and climbing. There is a specially designed launching platform for all activities. This area also includes individual lockers in the expansive mudroom and rapid drying areas for wetsuits so you can quickly get warm after exploring in the elements!

### **Fitness Requirements**

This voyage is suitable for people of most ages and physical abilities. They offer a variety of soft and harder walking options, some of which may be over uneven and/or slippery surfaces. You are free to choose which activities and outings you would like to participate in, and less nimble passengers are given the choice whether to land or not.

To fully enjoy your expedition, we recommend that you are able to walk up and down the ship's gangway (the equivalent to a steep set of stairs), and are able to get in and out of Zodiacs (inflatable rubber boats) with the assistance from the staff.

**To make a booking or further information please contact**

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