North Spitsbergen, Arctic Summer

Trip Code: PSP

Version:

POLAR	GUIDED GROUP	2 LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Get the chance to see arctic wildlife such as walrus, arctic fox and polar bears
- Explore the north of Spitsbergen, and view the impressive Monaco Glacier
- Sail on a 3 mast schooner, the Rembrandt van Rijn - with a maximum of 33 passengers
- Fantastic walks in awe inspiring landscapes with expert expedition staff

AT A GLANCE

- 9 days sailing and walking and snowshoeing
- The SV Rembrandt van Rijn
- Join at Longyearbyen

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Experience this awe-inspiring world from the calm of our sailing ship, the beautiful Rembrandt van Rijn, with a maximum of 33 passengers this really does feel like a more personal experience. The size of our ship allows us to access small remote fjords, rugged peaks and isolated settlements of the Svalbard archipelago. We start in the small town of Longyearbyen, and make our way slowly north, aiming to reach the wild north Spitzbergen and view the breathtaking Monaco Glacier - Stopping along the way to get out into this stunning scenary and truly breath in these incredible surroundings. Always on the lookout for wildlife we will explore Spitzbergen not only by ship but also up close from small Zodiac boats and on foot. Of course, we are also always on the look out, and if lucky we'll see some polar bears, walruses, and seals.

Is this holiday for you?

Each day we will disembark the ship and have excursions which will involve a short walk. These excursions are rarely on paths or tracks as there are simply not enough visitors to most of the locations to form a ‘path’.

There will be options for walks each day in the vicinity of the landing sites. You should bring your own sturdy ankle-high hiking boots and gaiters. Snowshoe walking is easy and does not require any technical skills. The snowshoes will fit all boot sizes.

Although we spend as much time as possible ashore, you are welcome to remain aboard the ship if you like. You must be able to get up and down the gangway from the ship to the water level to board the Zodiacs - effectively a ladder with 4 rungs. Staff will assist you in and out of the boats. Ashore it can be slippery and rocky. Also consider that you are travelling in remote areas without quick access to sophisticated medical facilities.

The Rembrandt van Rijn is a sailing ship, with engines for when the weather is not suitable for sailing (based on open sea, water depth, wind, and time); the captain decides whether to use the sails or the engine. There is no claim to one or the other propulsion method. You will not be expected to ‘help out' with the crew on sailing the boat, however you can participate if you wish and it is always appreciated.

The day to day itinerary is for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. No two voyages are alike and flexibility is paramount on expedition cruises.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Expert expedition staff and sailing staff
- All accommodation as described
- All meals on board the SV Rembrandt Van Rijn
- Snowshoe hire
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tips for staff
- Meals other than those on board the ship
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

You will meet at the ship in Longyearbyen at 4pm on day 1 of the land only itinerary.

On day 1 of the itinerary an airport transfer is provided for flights SK4490 (arriving 12:40) and DY396 (arriving 11:55).

On the return an airport transfer is provided for flights SK4491 (departing 13:25) and DY397 (departing 12:40).

If you are purchasing your own flights you must provide the KE office with full details of their flights. Emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals on board the SV Rembrandt van Rijn are included, from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 11.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

On board the ship a diverse range of international dishes are available. Meals are prepared and catered by professional chefs and all meals are included in the holiday price. Special dietary requirements, including vegetarianism, can be accommodated with advance notice (please advise at the time of booking). Coffee, tea and water are all provided free of charge. All other beverages, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, are not included and can be prurchased in the dining room or the lounge areas.

Accommodation

During this trip the group will spend 10 nights on board the SV Rembrandt van Rijn. This is a 3 mast schooner sailing vessel. It was built as a herring lugger early last century. The vessel was rebuilt as a three-mast passenger sailing schooner in the Netherlands, with final refurbishments completed in 2011. The ship is well suited for expedition cruising among small islands (due to its size) and offers good open deck viewing areas also when under sail. Two zodiacs enable landing and wildlife viewing opportunities. The bow of the vessel is reinforced and is therefore suitable to sail in arctic waters.

The Rembrandt van Rijn measures 49.5m in length, 7m in width and has a draft of 2,5 m. The maximum speed on engines is 9 knots. It has an experienced crew of 12 persons on board including 2 tour guides. The ship can accommodate a maximum of 33 passengers in 16 twin cabins in 1 Triple Private cabin with porthole which has a double and single bed, 6 Twin Private Inside cabins (no porthole), 9 Twin Private cabins with porthole. All cabins have ensuite facilities with a shower & toilet. On board there is also a restaurant and a bar/reading room for use to everyone whilst on board.

Our base price is a cabin with twin berths with no porthole. You can upgrade to a twin with porthole. All cabins and have private en-suite bathrooms.

Group Leader & Support Staff

A carefully chosen professional and qualified team will lead your voyage. Their goal is to provide an informed and balanced interpretation of the destination, accomplished through day-to-day briefings, and informal discussions. The expedition staff will work conscientiously with you, on deck and in the field, to allow you to experience all that the destination has to offer. Their strong sense of ethics and ecological knowledge make for stimulating and mindful conversation whether onshore or at the dinner table.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

It is not practical to set a recommended amount for personal spending money on a holiday like this. All meals while on board and the daily Zodiac excursions, are included in the trip price. The main extra spend on board will be on drinks and this will vary greatly from person to person. On board ship, bar bills can be put on a tab and paid at the end of the cruise by credit or debit card or in cash Euros. You will also need some money for any meals taken in Longyearbyen and for tips.

Please note - You will not be able to exchange your foreign money to Norwegian kroner in Svalbard. Many of Longyearbyen's stores and restaurants will however accept almost any debit or credit card. You will find an ATM in the post and bank building, in the middle of the pedestrian street.

Guidance on Tipping

The customary gratuity to the ship's service personnel is made as a blanket contribution in one envelope at the end of the voyage, which is divided among the crew and staff. You will receive detailed guidelines on board. Tipping is a very personal matter and the amount you wish to give is at your discretion. It is better for the crew and staff, if you can give them cash, either US Dollar or Euro. As a guide, we recommend you allow about $15 per day for tips to your crew and expedition staff.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Your baggage will be kept in your cabin with you and there is a finite amount of space. Please keep the weight of your main luggage to around 15kg. A soft bag is the most suitable as they are easier to store in the cabin - in fact the ship crew discourage the use of hard cases as much as possible, as they simply take up too much space in the cabin.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Group Members

The holiday will be conducted in English. Generally on these trips there will be a mix of nationalities but it is not possible to guarantee this.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in Norway is the Norwegian Krone.

When on the ship everything is priced is Euros. If you are paying in cash you will need Euros, if you are paying by card your bank will use their exchange rate.

Please note - You will not be able to exchange your foreign money to Norwegian kroner in Svalbard. Many of Longyearbyen's stores and restaurants will however accept almost any debit or credit card. You will find an ATM in the post and bank building, in the middle of the pedestrian street.

Climate

Svalbard's location within the Arctic circle is the biggest factor on climate but temperatures especially around the coast are moderated by the influence of the warm North Atlantic Current which keeps the waters navigable for most of the year and average spring / summer temperatures at around 2 to 6°C. However, on deck with a sea breeze, the wind chill can bring the real feel temperature below freezing. Precipitation is most certainly possible at this time of year, although is likely to be in the form of snow.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum. Please restrict your baggage to one main bag and a small daypack.

YOU SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Casual shoes / Trainers or similar for onboard
- * Rubber boots (Wellington boots) for Zodiac landings and for use with snowshoes
- Waterproof jacket with hood
- Waterproof trousers or salopettes
- Trekking trousers
- Windproof soft shell
- Thermal Baselayer top and bottoms
- Casual shirt and/or T-shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Down Jacket
- Underwear
- Socks (Warm, high wool or similar socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet)
- Sunhat
- Warm hat (plus spare)
- Scarf and/or buff
- Sun glasses/glacier glasses with sides (plus spare)
- Waterproof gloves

- Water bottle 1 Litre (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Rucksack 25 litres
- Selection of dry bags (to keep rucksack contents dry)
- Small padlock (to lock trek bag)
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Seasickness remedy
- Plug adapter - On the ship (Rembrandt van Rijn) you will need a plug / adaptor with European 2 pin round holes.
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, and plasters (band-aids).

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OPTIONAL:

- Travel clothes
- Ski goggles
- Camera (in a dry bag)
- Binoculars
- Walking / Trekking poles (highly recommended)
- USB memory stick (in case you want to swap photos with other travellers)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

NOTE: Snowshoes are provided

* Wellington boots should be used instead of walking boots on this holiday to ensure you keep your feet dry, this will be both when hiking with and without the snowshoes. There are several reasons for this: most zodiac landings will be 'wet landings' where it is likely that water depth will be atleast ankle deep / when hiking the snow can be at least ankle deep / when hiking there are often streams to walk through.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Longyearbyen. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Longyearbyen Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel. Please refer to 'Joining Arrangements and Transfers' for further details.

Flights SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London (Heathrow) to Longyearbyen airport with SAS via Oslo. Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the evening arriving in the morning of the following day (day 1 of the itinerary), this requires an overnight in Norway (Oslo) which is included in the flight inclusive price. Return flights will depart Longyearbyen after lunch of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK in the same evening. Due to flight schedules, on certain departures it is also required to overnight in Oslo on the return. Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request. Please note that the Oslo Hotel will be based at the airport. If you want to stay at an alternative hotel in the city, then these arrangements must be made by yourself. Please let our staff know when booking. Please take care to note the correct terminal for your flights in and out of Oslo as the international and domestic terminals are separate.

Please be aware that there are often only a limited number of seats available at the advertised price. To avoid paying flight supplements, we recommend that you book as early as possible, especially during peak times. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures, we will contact you with an alternative quote. Please note that you may be asked to pay for your flights in advance of your final holiday balance. Note that if you book a package including flights with KE you will benefit from full financial protection.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

First hand experience in the KE office - talk to the people that have actually been there and loved it. No surprise costs.All zodiac excursions, landings and all meals on board are included in the price.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 12/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change