In the Realm of the Polar Bear and Ice

Trip Code: PSD

Version:

POLAR	GUIDED GROUP	3 LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Surrounded by an incredible array of Arctic wildlife with chances to spot whales, walruses, seabirds, and hopefully polar bears too
- Opportunities to explore off ship with the Zodiac shore excursion team
- Hiking on and around Svalbard with expert expedition staff
- 24 hours of sunlight in the height of summer, the land of the midnight sun

AT A GLANCE

- 10 days sailing and wildlife viewing aboard the M/Vs Ortelius Plancius or Hondius
- Join at Longyearbyen

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Take a cruise around Spitsbergen and explore the icy waters of the North Atlantic. On this special expedition we will have the chance to spot whales, reindeer, arctic foxes, walruses, seals, and the star attraction, the polar bear.

We'll have the opportunity to visit Ny Alusund, the world's northern-most community, and delve into the history of the whalers and miners of these islands. We'll be able to take shore walks along the coast to spot walruses hauling themselves ashore for a summertime sunbathe, or cast eyes to the skies to watch terns, guillemots and auks pass overhead and out to sea to graze on small fish and krill, the latter returning to vast colonies of nesting birds raising their young on the precipitous clifftops lining Svalbard's rugged coast. The highlight would of course be the potential to see the Arctic's most impressive apex predator, the polar bear. Our expert guides will be on hand with eyes peeled and facts poised to make the most of your wildlife and historical experiences.

Is this holiday for you?

This is principally a touring, sightseeing and wildlife viewing holiday, with minimal exertion required. If you choose to go ashore, you will need to make the transfers from the ship to a Zodiac and onto land. Short walks on the island of Spitsbergen are optional and weather dependent. You should also consider that some of the classes of accommodation involve the use of bunk-beds. Whilst on deck or during excursions, you need to be prepared for cold temperatures. The itinerary remains flexible, according to the variability of the weather and sea conditions and the locations of wildlife, particularly of polar bears. On certain departures you can book kayaking, experience is essential for these kayaking excursions. All equipment is provided. Early booking is essential. Cabin upgrades are also available.

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:

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Sea Kayaking - Arctic

Going eye to eye with an inquisitive whale is a rare and special moment that will carve itself into your memory. Kayaking isn't just an outdoor adventure, it's an opportunity to experience these remote regions from another vantage point. You'll venture out to sheltered bays and areas known for calmer waters and take part in group kayaking trips led by our experienced and skilled leaders. No other activity gets you as close to the natural environment!

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Expert expedition staff and sailing staff
- All accommodation as described
- All meals on board
- 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
- Kayking excursions *select Ortelius/Hondius departures Meals other than those on board the ship
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

A group transfer to/from Longyearbyen Airport is provided: Usually x1 main flight on arrival day, and x2 main flights on departure day.

On arrival day, passengers are transferred from the airport to city center where they can spend some time on their own behalf. Your luggage will be taken to the ship with a separate luggage truck.

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

Meal Plan

All meals on board the ship are included, from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 10.

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 purchased in the dining room or the lounge areas.

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Accommodation

Depending on departure, you will either board the M/V Ortelius, M/V Plancius or M/V Hondius for the duration of your trip. Each are 100+ passenger vessels originally designed as ice-strengthened polar science expedition ships with re-inforced hulls and comfortable living quarters. Standard accommodation is quad berth cabin with porthole. All cabins have en-suite facilities. All accommodation is on a sharing basis. If you are travelling by yourself you will share a cabin with other clients of the same sex. Upgrades are available to triple or twin berth with porthole, twin berth with window, and superior/ suite. Depending on availability, it is also possible to arrange a single cabin. Please contact the office for upgrade and single cabin prices. Please note that if you wish to upgrade ensure that you book early to avoid disappointment.

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 krone 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 aboard. 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 Dollars or Euros. You may give individually and / or communally as a personal 'thank you' to one or more of the ship's personnel. As a guide, we recommend you allow $15 - 20 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, a soft bag is the most suitable as they are easier to store in the cabin. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline. Please note that you should be able to carry your own luggage.

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.

General Information

Passport & Visas

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.

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 to below freezing. Precipitation is most certainly possible at this time of year, and given the air temperature, this 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. Dress on board is informal. Beware of tight clothing that leaves no room for trapped air, which is an excellent insulator. Wool, silk and some of the synthetic fibers, like polar fleece, retain heat better than cotton.

You SHOULD bring the following items:

- Casual shoes / Trainers or similar for onboard
- Rubber boots (Wellington boots)*
- Walking shoes*
- 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)
- Waterproof jacket
- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof pants/trousers
- Thermal baselayer - leggings
- Underwear
- Baselayer shirts / fleece
- Casual shirt and/or T-shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Sunhat

- Warm hat
- Scarf and/or neck gaiter
- Sunglasses
- Gloves or mittens (Thin polypropylene gloves under warm outer gloves is a good combination)
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 Litre x1 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Small towel
- Rucksack 25 litres
- Selection of dry bags (to keep rucksack contents dry)
- Small daypack
- Warm jacket (down)
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, and plasters. Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are also a good idea.

The following items are optional:

- Warm Ski Pants
- Shorts

- Spare gloves
- Ski goggles in case of bad weather
- Travel clothes
- Camera (in a dry bag)
- Binoculars
- Penknife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Seasickness remedy

* **Notes**

Rubber boots / Wellington boots:

Complimentary waterproof boots are supplied for the following sizes: (please confirm your preffered size to KE at least 8 weeks prior to departure)

Men's USA size 8-14 / UK size 7 to 13½ / Europe 41 to 48½

Women's USA size 3 to 9 / UK size 1 to 6½ / Europe 33 to 40

If you have different feet sizes to these you should bring your own rubber boots. These should be rubber, waterproof boots that are just below your knee with a strong, ridged non-skid sole.

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

A polar cruise with the comfort of being aboard a 100+ passenger ice-strengthened vessel. There's no hidden costs on this trip, with all meals included and opportunity to partake in daily excursions on the zodiac boats including shore hiking and boat trips around the coast and its calving glaciers. A truly breath-taking trip from a comfortable base.

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