



Svalbard Expedition 2010

Around Spitsbergen

With Jenny E. Ross

July 15 - 25
July 25 - August 4

Polar bear family on fjord ice, Nordaustlandet, Svalbard - Copyright Jenny E. Ross

Svalbard Expedition 2010 – *Around Spitsbergen* – Itinerary

Day 1 - Longyearbyen

Arrive in Longyearbyen, the administrative capital of the Svalbard Archipelago located on West Spitsbergen, which is the archipelago's largest island. Before embarking there will be an opportunity to stroll around this former mining town. The Polar Museum is well worth visiting. In the early evening, the ship will sail out of Isfjorden.

Day 2 – Krossfjorden/ Ny Ålesund

Heading north along the west coast of Spitsbergen, we will arrive by morning in Krossfjorden. There we'll embark in the Zodiacs for an exhilarating cruise along the sculpted front of the 14th of July Glacier. Large numbers of kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots nest on the nearby cliffs. There is a good chance of spotting opportunistic Arctic foxes patrolling the base of the cliffs in case a hapless chick falls from its nest, and we may see bearded seals cruising the scenic fjord. At this time of year we can also expect to see colorful tundra flowers blooming on the surprisingly green slopes near the glacier. In the afternoon we sail to Ny Ålesund, the world's most northerly settlement. Once a mining village - served by the world's most northerly railway, which can still be seen - Ny Ålesund is now a research center. Close to the village is a breeding ground for barnacle geese, pink-footed geese and Arctic terns. Visitors interested in the history of Arctic exploration can walk to the anchoring mast used by Amundsen and Nobile for the airship Norge in 1926, and by Nobile for the airship Italia in 1928, before their flights to the North Pole.

Day 3 - Liefdefjorden/Monaco Glacier

Near the mouth of Liefdefjorden, we will go ashore for a walk on the tundra island of Andøya. Many common eiders and pink-footed geese nest here, and the more rare king eider may also be seen. Then, sailing into Liefdefjorden, we will cruise near the face of the impressive Monaco Glacier. The waters of the glacier front are a favorite feeding spot for thousands of kittiwakes, and occasionally polar bears are seen at the glacier.

Day 4 - Phippsøya

Today we will reach our northernmost point at Phippsøya, in the Seven Islands north of Nordaustlandet. Here we will be at 81 degrees north, just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole. Polar bears inhabit this region, along with seals and many species of birds including ivory gulls and Ross's gulls. We plan to remain for many hours in the pack ice here, photographing our spectacular surroundings and watching wildlife, before we turn south again.



Atlantic walrus swimming near Laagöya Island, Svalbard - Copyright Jenny E. Ross

Day 5 - Laagöya/ Sorg Fjord

We will visit Laagöya today, a low island with a large lagoon where a big herd of Atlantic walrus tends to congregate. Sabine's gulls nest on the island as well. At Sorg Fjord we may find another walrus herd not far from the graves of 17th century whalers, and we may also encounter families of ptarmigans.

Day 6 - Alkefjellet/Palanderbukta

Today we will sail into Hinlopen Strait, home to bearded seals, ringed seals, polar bears, and ivory gulls. We'll navigate the ice floes of Lomfjordshalvøya in our Zodiacs, and explore the bird cliffs of Alkefjellet where there are thousands of Brünnich's guillemots. On the east side of Hinlopen Strait, we'll attempt a landing at Palanderbukta on Nordaustlandet, home to Spitsbergen reindeer, pink-footed geese, breeding ivory gulls, and walruses.

Day 7 - Torrelneset

Near Torrelneset, we will explore the polar desert of Nordaustlandet next to the world's third largest ice cap, which meets the sea nearby. We will walk along beautiful coastline covered in smooth ancient rocks, sculpted by the pounding surf over the eons, and we may encounter walruses and seals along the way. Then, sailing south of Nordaustlandet, we will have good chance to see Greenland whales.

Day 8 - Barentsøya/ Edgeøya

In Freemansundet we plan to land at Sundneset on the island of Barentsøya, to visit an old trapper's hut and then take a walk across the tundra in search of Spitsbergen reindeer and barnacle geese. Later we continue south to Diskobukta on the west side of Edgeøya. After a Zodiac cruise through the shallow bay, we land on a beach littered with whale bones and tree trunks, which have drifted here from Siberia. We can also climb to the rim of a narrow gully which is inhabited by thousands of Kittiwakes, black guillemots and piratical glaucous gulls. During the summer breeding season, the base of the cliffs is patrolled by Arctic foxes and polar bears, especially females with young cubs, searching for young birds that have fallen from the nesting ledges.

Day 9 - Hornsund Area

We start the day cruising the side fjords of the spectacular Hornsund area of southern Spitsbergen, enjoying the scenery of towering mountain peaks. Hornsundtind rises to 1,431m, while Bautaen reveals why early Dutch explorers gave the name 'Spitsbergen' – meaning pointed mountains - to the island. There are 14 magnificent glaciers in the area, and very good chances of encounters with polar bears and seals. We also may visit the Polish research station where the friendly staff will give us insights into their research projects. The hills behind the research station are home to thousands of pairs of nesting little auks.

Day 10 - Ahlstrandhalvøya/Recherchefjorden

Today we land on Ahlstrandhalvøya at the mouth of Van Keulenfjorden. Here piles of beluga whale skeletons - the remains of 19th century slaughter - are a reminder of the consequences of thoughtless exploitation of wildlife. Fortunately, although belugas were nearly hunted to extinction, the species survived and may still be seen in this region. Indeed, there is a good chance that we will come across a pod. Then, cruising into Recherchefjorden during the afternoon, we can explore an area of tundra at the head of the fjord where reindeer often feed.

Day 11 - Longyearbyen

Return to Longyearbyen and disembark for the transfer to the airport and the flight to Oslo and home.

NOTES REGARDING ITINERARY:

The itinerary described here is for general guidance only. Actual itinerary details may vary depending on local ice conditions and weather, as well as opportunities to see wildlife.

Based on prior experience from 1992 to 2008, the likelihood that we can complete a full Spitsbergen circumnavigation at this time of year, as shown on the map and described in the itinerary, is about 60% to 90%. If we cannot complete a full circumnavigation due to ice conditions and/or weather, adjustments will be made in the itinerary.



VOYAGE OPTIONS

CODE	START Longyearbyen	END Longyearbyen	Nights / Days	Twin Private Inside*	Twin Private	Superior	Suite
ATD09	July 15	July 25	10 / 11	\$5700	\$6850	\$7650	\$8550
ATD10	July 25	August 4	10 / 11	\$5700	\$6850	\$7650	\$8550

GENERAL INFORMATION

Expedition fares:

All rates are per person in US Dollars, based on twin occupancy. US Dollar rates apply for all sales outside Europe. Please inquire regarding rates in Euros.

Discount for two voyages:

There is a 5% discount for booking of two consecutive voyages.

Single occupancy:

The single occupancy rate is 1.7 times the double-occupancy price for all cabin types.

Fares include:

- Voyage as indicated in the itinerary, with any necessary adjustments due to ice conditions and weather.
- All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship plus snacks, coffee and tea.
- All shore excursions and activities by Zodiac throughout the voyage.
- Program of lectures by on-board naturalists, and leadership by experienced expedition staff.
- Personalized photography guidance from Jenny E. Ross throughout the voyage (limited to 8 passengers per voyage who reserve directly with Jenny E. Ross Photography).
- Transfers and baggage handling between the airport and ship prior to and following the voyage for passengers on specific flights to and from Longyearbyen.
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program.
- AECO fees and governmental taxes.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.

Not included:

Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights; pre- and post-voyage land arrangements; transfers and baggage handling outside Spitsbergen; passport and visa expenses; government arrival and departure taxes; meals ashore; baggage insurance, trip cancellation insurance and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended); excess baggage charges; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges; and the customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other voyage personnel (guidelines will be provided).

Important note:

All dates and rates are subject to change by the expedition vendor (Oceanwide Expeditions). All voyages on the Antarctic Dream will operate subject to a minimum of 50 participants. If world fuel prices reach or exceed \$80 US Dollars per barrel 90 days prior to departure, the expedition vendor reserves the right to levy a fuel surcharge of \$25 US Dollars per passenger per night.

For reservations please contact: Jenny E. Ross Photography, info@jennyross.com, 1-530-582-4344.

* Twin Private Inside cabins have no portholes or windows.

* **To join Jenny's group**, there is no additional fee beyond the normal cost of the expedition; however, you must reserve a space by contacting Jenny E. Ross Photography directly. After that, you'll arrange a booking with Oceanwide Expeditions, the trip vendor and ship owner. For Jenny's group, space is limited to 8 passengers per voyage to ensure individualized attention regarding photography and to guarantee the group can do daily excursions together in one Zodiac.

M/v Antarctic Dream



M/v "Antarctic Dream" is a Dutch built ice-reinforced vessel. It previously served under the name Piloto Pardo for the Chilean Navy. The vessel was rebuilt as an unrestricted, worldwide passenger vessel and was completely refurbished in July 2005. M/v "Antarctic Dream" is registered in Panama. The vessel features a spacious dining room / observation lounge, bar, lecture room, fitness room plus sauna, boutique and passenger bridge.

The vessel offers accommodation for a maximum of 84 passengers in 42 twin cabins with private toilet and shower. There are 4 suites, 6 superior cabins and 29 twin private cabins with portholes or windows and either two separate lower beds or queen beds. Three additional twin private cabins have no portholes / windows (inside cabins). All cabins have a desk, closed circuit TV, and inter-cabin phone service. Satellite email and phone service is available on the bridge. The vessel is manned by 18 well-trained Chilean crew members. The on-board staff consists of 1 expedition leader, 4 guides / lecturers, 1 hotel manager, 1 barman, 1 doctor, 4 chefs and 7 waitresses / cabin cleaners.



Photograph of Jenny E. Ross by Anne Chadwick

Jenny E. Ross is an award-winning photographer and writer specializing in wildlife natural history, ecosystems, conservation subjects, environmental issues, and related cultural and policy topics. She has traveled extensively worldwide, striving to create unusual photographs that capture the essence of wild animals and wild places, explain scientific research to non-scientists, inspire concern and action for wildlife conservation and ecosystem protection, and elicit a renewed appreciation of the natural world. Her photographs of wildlife and ecosystems, often accompanied by her essays on natural history and conservation, have been displayed to acclaim in many solo exhibits, and have been published widely. She often collaborates with renowned scientists, and is highly respected for her ability to create compelling editorial work, exhibitions, and lecture/slideshow presentations that combine stunning photographs with scientifically accurate and engaging information. Her honors include the 2008 Nature's Best Award for Wildlife Photography and the 2007 Philip Hyde Award for Environmental Photography.